

View of Halvergate Marshes © Jeremy Halls



Broadland
Futures Initiative

Progress Newsletter

UPDATE TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS

'RECENT FLOOD EVENTS,' 'HAVE YOUR SAY,'
'HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED,' 'NEXT STEPS'

In this edition...

Recent flood events

Welcome to the latest edition of the Broadland Futures Initiative (BFI) newsletter. We must begin by acknowledging the recent flood events that have caused disruption and damage to homes and businesses over the festive period. As you may have seen from the media coverage, heavy and persistent rainfall fell on saturated ground from 23 December, and this resulted in flooding across south Norfolk and north Suffolk in particular.

Flooding can cause all kinds of problems to communities, and these problems can be long-lasting. Our deepest sympathies

go to those impacted by these recent events and we wish those affected a swift recovery.

We would like to remind you that you can check your local flood risk at any time by visiting the Environment Agency website www.gov.uk/floodsdestroy. Here you will find some practical advice and steps that can be taken before, during and after a flood. You can also sign up for free flood warnings either through the above website or by calling Floodline on 0345 988 1188.

In addition to the Environment Agency website, if you were affected by the flooding recently, or know someone that was, useful information is available from the following websites in the event of a flood:

- The British Red Cross – practical advice on how to

prepare for a flood.

<https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/how-to-prepare-for-floods-and-flooding>

- Public Health England – advice and help to manage the mental health impacts of flooding
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flooding-health-advice-mental-health-following-floods>
- Association of British Insurers - helpful advice around property insurance
<https://www.abi.org.uk/products-and-issues/topics-and-issues/flooding/recovering-from-a-flood/>

Across the locations most affected in Norfolk and Suffolk, 2,659 properties received a flood warning, and over 20,000 properties received a Flood Alert across Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk from the Environment Agency. All the incident response partners worked together around the clock with actions including inspecting flood risk management structures and removing blockages from watercourses.

The Environment Agency continues to monitor the situation as rivers return to normal winter levels and are ready to respond if forecasts change.

Whilst the BFI is fundamentally a long term strategy, it is through these difficult events that we are reminded of the challenges we all face through climate change and the high risk of flooding locally.

We believe strongly that having a strategic approach to better manage and improve our collective resilience to these types of events can only happen when we work together, and that is why initiatives such as the BFI are so important for our local communities.

We are determined to work with you to produce a robust flood risk strategy which is needed to help protect and enhance lives, wildlife, homes and businesses in the Broadland Plan Area.

Through the BFI a number of options and techniques will be

considered, and we want to hear about what you feel is a priority when it comes to flood risk management, improving our resilience, and identifying opportunities to do better in a changing climate.

Have your say

Despite the current challenges associated with the Coronavirus pandemic we want to ensure the BFI maintains momentum. We continue to put your views and opinions at the heart of our work.

We want to get your views on how we can all manage future flood risk together. To this effect, we will launch an online survey starting on 18th January through to 11th April.

Using the information you provide through our online engagement, we will begin to confirm our core scope of work, including what will and won't be covered by the Initiative. We will also gain an appreciation of how aware you and others are of our existing flood risk and what additional information may be needed as we look to the future.

Virtual Exhibition:

This year, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, our virtual exhibition has replaced the face to face engagement that we would undertake in normal circumstances.

We will look to resume such engagement in the future, but we need to follow the government guidance to keep us all safe.

Our virtual exhibition hosts a suite of information, from videos and posters, to helpful FAQ's and much more.



*Image of BFI
Virtual Exhibition*

We are also pleased to tell you that the following study reports are also now available on our BFI webpage.

- **Origins of the Plan Area –** Sets out a brief history of the Broadland area and how it has changed and adapted over time.
- **Sources of Flood Risk –** Summarises the sources of flood risk in the Broadland area including key flood events that occurred in the past.
- **Coastal processes –** Describing the evolution and processes of the coast between Cromer and Great Yarmouth, with a focus on the low lying

Eccles to Winterton frontage.

- Current Approaches to Flood Risk Management – Describes current approaches to managing flood risk within the Broadland area including an overview of how flood risk management is funded.
- The Influence of Flood Risk Management- Overview of how the local economy, as well as the social and natural environments, are influenced by current flood risk management.
- The Future Impacts of Climate Change – Summary of the likely changes in climate in the future, potential impacts and potential approaches to adapt to these changes.

We invite you to delve into each of these background documents, as well as our new interactive Story Maps.

How you can be involved

Online Survey:

We would be grateful if you could take the time to fill in our online survey. This will be live until 11th April, allowing you plenty of time to get your views across.

It is important to bear in mind that this is the first phase of the BFI, aimed at defining the challenges we face and agreeing a set of objectives to be met, and we are still at the beginning of our public engagement.

We will be feeding back the results of our survey after April to the public and what this means for our next steps.

This first phase is about hearing from our stakeholders and local communities, regarding their priorities in a world where climate change might affect us in many ways including through the risk of flooding.

We want to build on our initial survey back in 2019, where we re-engaged with the public, to better understand how the Broadland communities feel about the challenge of adapting to climate change and what options they would be open to exploring further so that we and the wider environment can continue to prosper.

The subsequent phases of the project will focus on identifying and testing the full range of strategic options aimed at increasing our resilience to flooding. We will be re-engaging with you again throughout this process, ensuring that the two way dialogue always stays open.

The pandemic is a fast changing situation and the Initiative Project Team are committed to making

sensible and informed decisions around our engagement.

Now more than ever, without the ability to meet face to face, an online survey provides a vital tool for us to hear as many of your views as possible. We recommend that you take a look around our virtual exhibition first, however, this isn't a requirement to complete our survey.

The link to the virtual exhibition available from the 18th January is here:

<https://broadlandfuturesinitiative.virtualeventspace.io/>

A link to the online survey will be available on [Broadland Futures Initiative \(broadland-futures.org.uk\)](https://broadlandfuturesinitiative.gov.uk)

A direct link is also here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BFISurvey2021> (please note this link is live from 18th January to 11th April only)

If for any reason you are unable to access this survey or unable to complete it then please get in touch at: info@broadland-futures.org.uk

Virtual Village Hall Event:

We will be hosting a series of virtual village hall events tailored for anyone to attend and listen to our project team speak about the Broadland Futures Initiative. We will be providing a presentation on the BFI along with an opportunity to submit questions, and share thoughts with the panel.

To book your “virtual seat” at one of these events, please visit our webpage where you can register your attendance and find out more.

Respond by phone:

Whilst we are unable to be side by side with you, due to Coronavirus, we are offering the opportunity to book a slot for a phone call with a member of the project team to ask questions, to go through the survey or just generally speak about the project.

A limited number of slots will be available per week, to book your slot please visit our webpage for more details.

Respond by Post:

Request a postal copy of the survey questionnaire by contacting us by Email: info@broadland-futures.org.uk

You can also download and print a copy of the survey from our webpage and send us your response by post to:

Broadland Futures Initiative
c/o Broads Authority, Yare House,
62-64 Thorpe Road, Norwich,
Norfolk, NR1 1RY.

Next steps:

Looking back on our engagement activity so far, our survey in 2019 was designed to be an awareness raising exercise, following on from the 2016 meeting at Carrow Road,

Norwich that sowed the seed for the BFI.

For the BFI to be a truly collaborative process we wanted to cast the net wide in order to re-engage and, importantly, create interest. It is vital to capture the views of many different stakeholders and this is an ongoing and iterative process.

Our new virtual exhibition and survey is the culmination of the information gathering we have undertaken over the last year.

We see this an opportunity to share this research with all of our stakeholders, and hear their views on their priorities regarding flood risk, climate change and adaptation for the BFI plan area through the online survey.

This represents the next step and the beginning of tailoring our engagement approach to specific groups.

Building on this survey, we will look to focus our attention on particular topics and groups to understand in more depth the likely challenges posed by future climate change and flooding, and the possible consequences of different flood risk management interventions.

For example, this could include those at higher flood risk and those with certain perspectives such as farming, recreation, business, conservation, and the youth sector.

As the lifecycle of the project progresses we will continue to undertake focused engagement to ensure that the community remains at the heart of the BFI strategy.



Wroxham Broad & Great Hoverton Broad © Mike Page

CONTACT US

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BFI WEBSITE

<https://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after/climate-change/broadland-futures-initiative>

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