

**Broadland Flood Alleviation Project:
Planning application for piling removal in Compartment 9 – Thurne Mouth to
Acle Bridge**

Report by Senior Waterways and Recreation Officer

Summary: This report provides Members with a summary of Broadland Environmental Services Ltd (BESLs) planning application proposals for piling removal in Compartment 9 (Thurne Mouth to Acle Bridge) on the true left bank of the River Bure. The report also outlines officers' comments on the planning application upon which Members' comments are welcomed.

1 Background

- 1.1 Compartment 9 is located on the true left bank of the River Bure between Thurne Mouth and Acle Bridge. Flood defence improvements were carried out by BESL in the compartment between 2011 and 2012 which consisted of strengthening the existing floodbanks and a combination of rolling and setting back floodbanks behind piled erosion protection. These earthworks were required in order to provide an adequate level of flood protection for the compartment as the existing floodbanks had deteriorated in level and condition over time.
- 1.2 As the Environment Agency's permitted development rights in respect of piling removal works were removed at the outset of the Broadland Flood Alleviation Project (BFAP). BESL has now applied for planning permission to remove the piling in the compartment that is no longer required for flood defence purposes. These works can only be carried out once the newly constructed floodbanks are established and BESL is now confident that piling removal can take place throughout the compartment.

2 The Piling removal planning application

- 2.1 The planning application now under consideration involves the removal of 1532m of piled erosion protection in the compartment.
- 2.2 BESL is proposing to adopt the methods for piling removal in compartment 9 that have been successfully used elsewhere in the BFAP area. Prior to piling removal the original floodbanks will be reprofiled to form a cadge bank at a suitable level to allow reed growth and then the piles will be extracted leaving a 1:1 slope at the river's edge.
- 2.3 Post piling removal there is a risk that erosion of the newly reprofiled banks will result in an excessive deposition of sediment in the navigation channel. BESL is therefore proposing to adopt the same erosion monitoring protocol

that has been agreed in other compartments where planning permission has been granted for piling removal. This methodology, which has been accepted by the Broads Authority, involves a combination of measurements taken from fixed monitoring posts, photographic surveys and hydrographic surveys.

- 2.4 Should excessive erosion occur and the intervention trigger levels defined in the erosion monitoring protocol are exceeded, BESL has undertaken to restore the agreed waterways specification defined in the Authority's Sediment Management Strategy by undertaking the required dredging or contributing to the Authority's dredging costs.

3 Moorings

- 3.1 There is one Broads Authority 24-hour mooring in the compartment at Boundary Farm and an adjacent area of land that the Authority is currently in the process of buying from the landowner in order to extend the length of existing mooring. Neither of these lengths of piling are included in the planning application. All other lengths of piling in the compartment that are currently used for private mooring purposes are being retained.
- 3.2 Other areas of piling in the compartment have been used for the purposes of informal mooring without the permission of the landowners and these will be removed if planning permission is granted. This is consistent with other planning permissions for piling removal that have been granted by the Authority since 2007.

4 Access

- 4.1 The Weavers Way long distance route runs along the compartment and there will therefore be a need to divert the route of the path from the old floodbanks to the new setback banks prior to piling removal and bank reprofiling. BESL is currently applying for a public path diversion order under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to achieve the required diversions.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 Provided that appropriate conditions regarding erosion monitoring, channel marking prior to vegetation establishment after piling removal and timing of works are attached to any planning permission granted for the proposed works officer support the application. Members' comments on the contents of this report are welcomed.

Background papers:	Nil
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Broads Plan Objectives:	None
Appendices:	None