



**Broadland
Futures Initiative**

Horsey Gap © Jeremy Halls



Progress Newsletter

In this edition:

'Consultation results', 'BFI Objective prioritisation' 'Current flooding'.

UPDATE TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS

Welcome to the latest edition of the BFI Progress Newsletter. In this edition, provide feedback on the latest consultation and next stage of work, as well as some information about recent flooding following storms Babet and Ciaran.

Consultation results

In our last edition we told you about the public consultation of our 'toolkit' of possible flood risk management actions which took place in June and July. We would like to thank those people who took the time to take part.

We had 21 responses in total which came from organisations and individuals.

Overwhelmingly people agreed that the 16 possible actions shown in the consultation document should be included in the toolkit. Many people gave their views on the actions. Some comments suggested alternative actions were needed but upon closer inspection, these

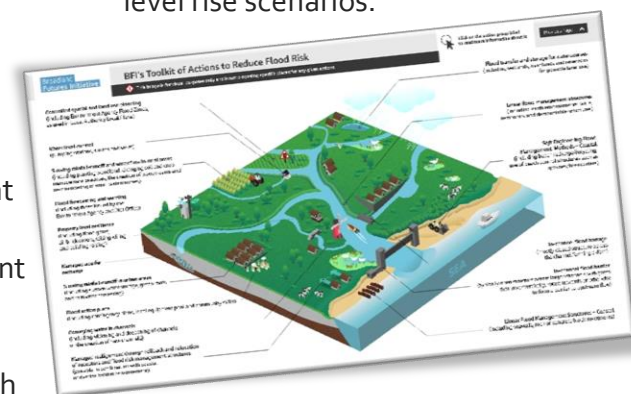
suggestions were already contained within the existing actions and so no new actions have been added to the toolkit. Nonetheless, all the comments made by respondents are valuable and will be kept in consideration as we progress.

Having confirmed the possible tools available to us we are now taking the next step and assessing the possible combinations of actions.

Combination of actions

We know from experience that single types of action on their own are unlikely to be sufficient and so actions are often combined for best effect, e.g. grazing marshes can have both flood embankments and pumps to manage the risk of flooding. We will be considering how the actions in our toolkit may be combined in different geographic areas of Broadland. Inspiration for developing the action combinations will come from our agreed set of BFI objectives and

previous experience. The effectiveness of these short-listed action combinations will be assessed using our set of new and updated computer-based hydrological models. These models will become available in 2024 and will be useful in testing how well the action combinations are at managing flood risk in a range of climate change and sea level rise scenarios.



The interactive toolkit is available to view on the [BFI website](#) or you can visit it directly [here](#). By clicking on an action on the interactive toolkit, a pop-up window explains the action with a photo to illustrate an example of application.

Further work to agree priorities of 13 BFI Objectives

Some other recent work has been to consider if the 13 BFI objectives are all of equal weight, or if some are of a higher priority than others.

We asked our Elected Members Forum (EMF) (a group made up of local councillors from across the BFI area) to individually compare the objectives.

We have gathered the results and have an overall ranking for each objective. For the near-term (next 25-30 years) the objective *'the built environment is more resilient; flooding is less disruptive, and recovery is faster'* was ranked most important. The objective *'access to recreational and tourism activities is supported and impacts to navigation are minimised'* was ranked at the other end of the scale, with the other 11 objectives being evenly distributed between these two. When considering the longer-term (50-100 years) the ranking was broadly similar, however the objective *'actions are carbon neutral within the 100-year plan period'* moved to the top of the list ahead of the built environment. We will shortly be producing a summary note describing this work in more detail and will share a link to that in our next newsletter.

We would like to reassure you that ALL the BFI objectives will be used to develop the possible flood risk management actions and combinations of actions.

However, with likely limited future funding resources to implement these actions we may need to prioritise those actions which fulfil some objectives more than others. We will continue to work with you to help develop our future work and with the EMF to make future decisions.

This prioritisation does not override where there are legal obligations that need to be met, e.g. the protection of designated wildlife habitats and species, or having regard to protecting the interests of navigation in the Broads.

Current Flooding

Our sympathies are with the individuals, communities and businesses which have been, or are continuing to be, affected by storms Babet and Ciaran.



Met Office information shows that the Broadland rivers catchment received up to 200% of the average October rainfall.

Also, for several days in early November mean sea level at Great Yarmouth was higher than normal due to a surge and neap tide. As a result, high water levels and flooding occurred in the upper reaches of the Broads rivers

with marshes flooded in the Waveney valley.

In addition, large parts of the upper Thurne marshes were flooded to an extent not seen in decades. We understand that no flood defences breached, but instead embankments were overtopped in places.

Since then, continued high river levels have meant it has taken a long time to drain the floodwaters.

When our new hydrological model for the Broads is complete, we plan to recreate this event to understand the factors that caused it and further improve our knowledge of how flooding might be managed in future. This recent event, with exceptional rainfall at a period of higher-than-normal sea level, may give a sign of what the future with climate change could be like in the Broads.

CONTACT US

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