

Broadland Futures Initiative

Progress Newsletter

In this edition:

'Next steps following Winter Flooding .

UPDATE TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS

Welcome to the latest edition of the BFI Progress Newsletter. In this edition, we are going to look at the next steps following the flooding this winter.

Following the prolonged flooding in the Thurne catchment this past winter a public meeting was held at Hickling on 2 February.

At the meeting the possible causes of the flooding and the consequences of it, especially on the local sewage system were discussed. The Broadland Futures Initiative (BFI) was mentioned on several occasions, and it was acknowledged to be an important project for people to be engaged with. We want to use this newsletter to pick up on some of the points raised during the meeting.



Modelling was highlighted several times as being crucial in proving the impact of suggested actions such as dredging.

Computer-based hydrological models are an important and powerful tool allowing us to understand how flood risk will change because of climate change and sea level rise, and how effective our flood risk management responses would be.

As part of the BFI, we are developing a new model of the whole Broadland river system from Great Yarmouth to upstream, well beyond the tidal limit on all the rivers. The model also encompasses the land adjacent to the rivers so we can predict where and how deep flood water will be. The model extends over a large geographical area and a huge amount of data such as the river channel shape and adjacent land levels is needed to replicate the real world in digital form. Because of the amount of data and the complexity of the processes within the model it has taken a long time to develop.

Work on the model was started in 2021 and it is expected to be built, tested and fully documented by early 2025, although we should start to benefit from it before then. It is important to appreciate that despite its complexity the model is a simplified version of the real world, which itself continually changes, for example as flood banks settle and rivers scour and deposit sediment. For more information about modelling see our short video on the BFI website available [here](#).

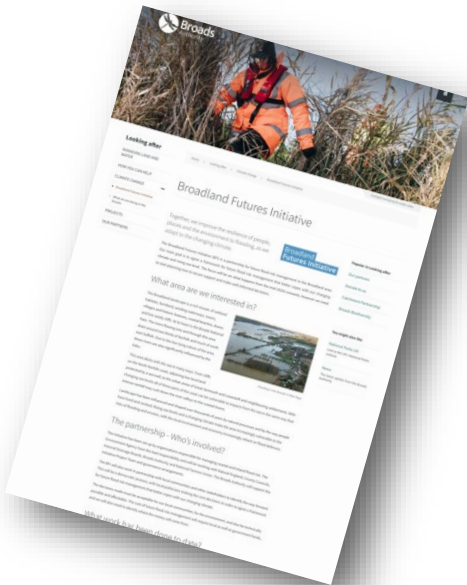
It was suggested several times at the meeting that there is a need to dredge the River Bure, particularly the lower section near to Great Yarmouth. Dredging to enlarge the size of a river channel and alleviate flood risk may be appropriate in some circumstances where there is a set volume of water flowing down a river. However, for a tidally influenced river, like those in the Broads area, the situation is more complex because the ability of the river to drain is also affected by sea levels and the tide.

There is a short video on the BFI website that looks at the issues around dredging available [here](#). In response to the meeting we will use the new hydrological model to investigate dredging and test how effective it could be to manage flood risk in the project area, and check for any potential drawbacks. It is important to recognise that dredging a tidal river system could lead to increased tidal flood risk and salt water travelling further up the rivers, so it's vital we understand this.

There were other suggestions made at the meeting for how flooding could be managed. These included creating a new sea outfall for the River Thurne in a north east direction through the dunes near to Horsey and Somerton, and a new relief channel linking the lower section of the River Bure to Breydon Water. We will consider the merits of both these ideas.

It was clear from the meeting that there are still people who are not familiar with the BFI. We need as many people as possible to be actively involved and contributing to the development of the BFI.

To date, we have made efforts to reach as many as possible but there is always more that can be done. Our main store of information, and the best way of getting in touch with the team is via the BFI website [Broadland Futures Initiative \(broads-authority.gov.uk\)](https://broads-authority.gov.uk).



We also produce these regular newsletters which outline the latest progress and topical items. The newsletter is shared with everyone on our contact list. The list comprises over 300 different people who have expressed an interest in the project and these range from private individuals to local councils, businesses and organisations. The newsletter is also shared with all parish councils in the BFI area. Please do contact us via the website if you would like to be added to our mailing list.

We have a regular item published in the Broads Society Harnser magazine and the Anglian (Eastern) Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) papers. The team are always happy to come and speak at parish or other local group meetings. Please contact us if this something you would like within your local community.

When we are seeking feedback on BFI project outputs we will share these online, because most people have said that is the best way for them to be able to contribute. However, we are always happy to send out printed versions of material, or simply have a conversation if this is more suitable for you.

We are currently in the process of planning some future consultation activities. Please do check our website or social media for future opportunities to input when they are advertised.

BFI will be once again represented on the Anglian (Eastern) RFCC stand at the Royal Norfolk Show this year. This will give people an opportunity to meet with members of the project team and talk about any current consultations or general project information. We will be near to the Broads Village again, on the corner of First Avenue and we would be happy to speak with you there.



Finally, it was said at the meeting that there needs to be better local representation when decisions are made.

In the case of the BFI, the team undertaking and overseeing all the work comprises a wide group of government, local authority and voluntary organisations who are either responsible for managing flood risk or who have a keen local interest.

Above this sits our senior decision-making group termed the Elected Members Forum (EMF).

The EMF is made up of eight locally elected councillors, one from each of the local authorities within the BFI area, plus a member from the Broads Authority's main committee. It is chaired by the councillor from Norfolk County Council.

The EMF is involved in all key decisions during the development of the BFI and will approve the strategy plan that will be the final output, keeping democracy at the heart of decision making.



Please scan the above QR code to complete a short survey if you would like to join our mailing list. Also available [here](#).

CONTACT US

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