

Broadland Flood Alleviation Project

Protecting



Broadland

Project Introduction

What is the Broadland Flood Alleviation Project?

The Broadland Flood Alleviation Project is a long-term project to provide a range of flood defence improvements, maintenance and emergency response services within the tidal areas of the rivers Yare, Bure Waveney and their tributaries. Broadland Environmental Services Limited has been appointed by the Environment Agency to deliver these services and, in partnership with the Agency, it is now implementing the 20-year programme of works. The contract was awarded in May 2001 as a Public Private Partnership, and is the first of its kind to provide flood defences on this scale.



Floodbank strengthening, Reedham Marshes, River Yare



Steel piling installation, Waxham New Cut

The Project must be cost effective, technically feasible, environmentally sound and socially acceptable – it seeks a sustainable approach to flood defence solutions.

The main aim is to strengthen existing flood defences and restore them to a height that existed in 1995 (a level defined by the Project), making allowance for sea level rise and future settlement of the floodbanks.

The Project will not prevent all future flooding as a consequence of over-topping, but will significantly reduce the risk of breach.

The Project contributes to the protection of valued landscape, wildlife, recreation and farming interests within Broadland



Halvergate Marshes and Haddiscoe Island, River Yare
(Photo courtesy of Mike Page)



Backfilling to piling, Seven Mile House, River Yare



Wickhampton Marshes



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BESL and the Project Area

Who are Broadland Environmental Services Limited (BESL)?

BESL is a consortium of two private companies, Edmund Nuttall Ltd (construction) and Halcrow Group Ltd (design and planning). They both have considerable experience working with the Environment Agency on the design and construction of flood defence schemes. BESL benefits from a well-qualified team of specialists working on engineering, construction, planning and environmental aspects of the project.



For the first two years of the project, BESL worked with CSERGE (The Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment) who assisted and advised on consultation and public participation. CSERGE are part of the University of East Anglia.

What is the Broadland Flood Alleviation Project protecting?

The floodbanks provide protection to approximately 30,000ha of land that lies below sea level. This land has important economic value for farming and tourism. The area's attraction is closely linked to its diversity of landscapes and wetland habitats that give it a quality found nowhere else in the country. The area is internationally important for nature conservation and in 1988 the whole of Broadland was designated as having equivalent status to a National Park.

The Project Area - Key Statistics

- 260km of floodbanks
- 30000 hectares of land (21000 hectares is agricultural)
- 1700 properties (1000 residential)
- 14 undefended communities



Open marshes landscape and habitat



Provision of first time flood defences at Reedham



Haddiscoe Island and the River Waveney
(Photo courtesy of Mike Page)

