

Broadland Flood Alleviation Project

Client :
Environment Agency

Designer :
Halcrow

Location :
Norfolk

Date :
2001 - 2021



The Broadland Flood Alleviation Project is a 20 year PFI / PPP project to maintain and improve the flood defences of the Norfolk Broads.

The project was awarded to Broadland Environmental Services Ltd (BESL), a joint venture company between BAM Nuttall and Halcrow Group.

During 2001 BESL carried out extensive surveys and evaluation studies, together with public consultations in order to update the Environment Agency's flood defence strategy.

Three main methods were chosen to increase flood protection levels:

Flood Bank Strengthening. Reinforcing or raising banks in areas where settlement has occurred or which need additional protection.

Flood Bank Setback. In many areas existing banks are very close to the waters edge. This allows wash from vessels and floodwater to erode banks quickly. By reconstructing banks set back from the riverbanks, the banks are protected, and more area is available to take water during floods. These areas also provide much-improved habitat for wildlife.

Erosion Protection. In many areas, including the approaches to villages and bridges, it is not possible to allow the banks to be set back and valuable property must be protected. In these areas, the riverbanks need erosion protection including piling. Wherever possible BESL looks to provide alternative strengthening methods other than piling, such as erosion control matting, as these are more sympathetic with the surroundings.

Wildlife and habitat protection is an especially important issue in this Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA). Advice has been sought from bodies like the RSPB, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, the Anglian Otters and Rivers Project as well as angling clubs, to try to programme works at periods of the year when disruption to wildlife is at its minimum. The project includes 28 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, covering 7,000 of the 30,000 hectares of the Broads.