

# Broadland Flood Alleviation Project

## Protecting



## Broadland

## Flood alleviation improvements for Dockeney Wall (Compartment 25a) Public Consultation January 2007

### Introduction/Site Description

As part of the Broadland Flood Alleviation Project, BESL are currently progressing the design of flood defence improvements for the Dockeney Wall, part of Compartment 25a, Geldeston Marshes. The 1.2km long Dockeney Wall defends over 30 vulnerable residential properties along Station Road and Kell's Way in Dockeney. There is a further length of floodwall within Compartment 25a which comprises earth floodbanks from Dunburgh to Geldeston Dyke. Proposals are currently in design for this reach and a separate consultation document will be issued for this section of bank later in 2007.



Photo 1 - Dockeney Wall

### Consultation

This leaflet has been prepared as part of an ongoing process of consultation to inform you about BESL's proposals and to seek your views on them.

The purpose of this consultation document is to:

- Explain the need for the flood defences at this stage;
- Outline our preferred flood defence proposals;
- Invite your views on these proposals, and
- Ensure, from the responses we receive, that we are aware of any specific local issues that should be considered before the planning application is submitted.

BESL will carefully consider any comments it receives, seeking clarification and incorporating changes where necessary before finalising its plans. The results of this consultation will play an important part in BESL's planning application for the proposals. General feedback on this consultation will be contained in the planning application documents.

A questionnaire is provided with this leaflet. If you have not received one, or if you would like an electronic copy of the questionnaire by email, please contact Angela Rowe at the address given at the end of this document. Alternatively, all consultation documents produced by BESL can be downloaded from the BFAP project website ([www.bfap.org](http://www.bfap.org)).

### Need for the scheme

The Dockeney Wall was constructed in 1980 as a retreated defence from that which previously ran along the edge of the river. Consequently this area of the Geldeston Marshes now acts as a floodplain allowing storage of water on the marshes during flood events. This was demonstrated during the recent November 2006 tidal surge, when this area was flooded right up to Dockeney Wall (Photo 2).

An assessment of the earth floodbank defences has shown that the bank standards have progressively reduced over time due to settlement. The lack of maintenance to the wall has resulted in the development of significant areas of scrub and trees, which affect the integrity of the defences. These works are being progressed in advance of the rest of the compartment due to concerns raised by Geldeston Parish Council about the potential affects that improvement works on the opposite side of the river (Barsham Marshes, compartment 25B) may have.



*Photo 2 – Dockeney Wall from Lock's Lane, November 2006*

### **The proposed scheme**

The proposed improvement works are essential to prevent breach and increased overtopping frequency and to allow future maintenance works to be carried out. As part of these works it is necessary to both increase the crest height and width in order to strengthen the bank and allow grass cutting machinery to operate. In addition the side slopes to the wall will be made shallower for improved stability.

The quality of the material (peat) on the adjoining marshes is unsuitable for construction as it is susceptible to shrinkage, thereby requiring more regular maintenance works and is more likely to collapse in the event of a major flood. Furthermore, unlike the majority of floodbanks in the Project area, the Dockeney Wall directly protects 30 residential properties so it is particularly important to use good quality material to ensure a high standard of protection.

The scheme will therefore require the use of approximately 3000m<sup>3</sup> of imported clay. This will be brought to site using 20 ton lorries with 300-375 deliveries anticipated. Approximately 20 additional lorry movements will also be needed to deliver plant and fuel to the site. It is estimated that the works will be completed over a 3 month period. It is acknowledged that this aspect of the scheme will affect the amenity of local residents so it will be important to try and minimise the impact. The frequency and duration of the material import, together with the routes to be used and any signing, will need to be agreed with the Highways Authority.

Details of the proposed works, including access routes, are shown on the enclosed consultation drawings.

### **List of consultees**

In addition to landowners we will contact:

Broads Authority

Broads Society

Ellingham Parish Council

Geldeston Parish Council

Natural England

Norfolk County Council Planning and Transportation Department

South Norfolk District Council

### **What are the potential issues associated with this work?**

The Strategic Environmental Framework (SEF) process, developed by BESL with extensive stakeholder input, sets out environmental standards for maintenance, flood defence improvements and first-time defences for undefended communities. The scheme details are consistent with these environmental standards. Please let us know any other issues that you think should be considered.

### **What are the next steps?**

Thank you for taking the time to read through this information leaflet and answering the associated questions in the accompanying questionnaire. BESL is keen to find out what you think of these proposals. We will collate your replies and will then consider all comments made, these will help to inform us as we develop the proposals in more detail. If you have any queries regarding either these proposals or those elsewhere in Broadland, please phone Angela Rowe, (BESL Project Administrator) on: 01603 226161

If you wish to reply we would encourage you to email your reply to Angela Rowe at

[Halcrow@edmund-nuttall.co.uk](mailto:Halcrow@edmund-nuttall.co.uk)

Please mark the subject line of your email with:

### **Compartments 25a Dockeney Wall Consultation**

Alternatively, our freepost address is:

Broadland Environmental Services Limited  
Freepost ANG20504  
Norwich  
NR1 1ZW

Both the consultation document and accompanying questionnaire can be downloaded from the project website at:

[www.bfap.org](http://www.bfap.org)

Please try to ensure that all replies are received by

**14<sup>th</sup> February 2007**

Replies can be considered after this date but please contact us first if you need an extension.