

17 September 2008  
Our ref: S/Policy/Sectors - Coastal  
Defence/BFAP /Capital/Comp4  
Clayrack  
Your ref: BA/2008/0249/FUL



██████████ – sent via email only  
Planning Officer  
Broads Authority  
18 Colegate  
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NR1 1RN

T [01603  
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Dear ██████████

**Application: BA/2008/0249/FUL**

**Description: Strengthening the floodbank and infilling of the existing  
soke dyke, as well as installation of erosion protection and piling,  
together with a temporary site compound and associated engineering  
operations.**

**Discharge of planning condition 14:**

*No works shall commence on site to strengthen floodbanks or implement  
erosion protection measures until a report detailing the satisfactory  
colonisation and condition of the new soak dykes has been submitted and  
approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with  
Natural England.*

Thank you for advising Natural England of the decision to grant planning  
permission for the above application. Your letter was received by this office  
on 17 September 2008. We have also received from BESL Ltd, the Broadland  
Flood Alleviation Project Monitoring review of existing and new soak dyke for  
Ant Broads & Marshes SSSI (Compartment 4 – Clayrack Marshes), dated  
September 2008.

Natural England is satisfied that the replacement soak dyke, while not yet  
achieving target condition across all attributes, is approaching the equivalent  
standard of a Broads SAC feature, and we therefore consider it appropriate  
for the Broads Authority to discharge condition 14.

We have the following specific comments to raise:

Although the overall conclusion of the report is that the new dyke is comparable with the existing watercourse, there are two areas where targets have *not* been met. We note the proposed cutting of bankside vegetation along section 1 of the dyke in autumn 2008, to reduce heavy shading from 45% to meet the target of less than 10% shading, and consider that there are unlikely to be any risks associated with this approach. However, there is also an identified need to reduce coverage of aggressive non-native *Elodea* sp. from 5% in section 1 (the control section) and 40% in section 3 (new dyke), to less than 1% overall. We would welcome some detail of how this is to be achieved, and whether the target is a realistic one.

We are pleased to note the results for macrophyte, macroinvertebrate and diatom compatibility across the old and new dykes, and that the species richness for molluscs and beetles is even greater in the new dyke.

We would further endorse the recommendation of the diatom report that future comparative work should focus on changes in the proportions of the benthic aerophil, eu-terrestrial and planktic diatoms to better understand the early-stage colonisation process.

We concur that, in terms of invertebrates, the assemblage similarity, typicalness and quality, suggests that the new soke dyke can be considered an adequate replacement for the existing dyke, with the proviso that management practices to arrest succession continue as before.

Our advice, therefore, is that satisfactory colonisation has taken place, and the condition of the replacement dyke is of a sufficiently high standard to enable discharge of the planning condition.

If you have any queries relating to the content of this letter, please contact the author at the above Norwich address.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
Planning & Conservation Adviser  
Norfolk & Suffolk Government Team  
[REDACTED]

cc [REDACTED], BESL Ltd.

Application: BA/2008/0249/FUL

Thank you for consulting Natural England on the above proposal. Your letter was received by this office on 12 August 2008.

We have no objection to this application, subject to the inclusion of a planning condition to defer the commencement of works until after the report detailing the results of the 2008 monitoring programme of the replacement ditch has been received and approved by Natural England, as stated in our pre-application consultation.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Planning & Conservation Adviser  
Norfolk & Suffolk Government Team  
Natural England  
122a Thorpe Road  
Norwich NR1 1RN

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

sent 21/12/09

[REDACTED]  
To:

Subject:

[REDACTED]  
Monitoring - Compartment 4 - Clayrack Marshes

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for sending Natural England the monitoring review of the existing and new soke dykes in Compartment 4 (Ant Broads & Marshes).

We are satisfied that the focus of future monitoring should be on the replacement dyke for a minimum of three years, with annual reports supplied to ourselves and the Broads Authority. If the survey results show any notable decline in quality (for example, we see that the target for a reduction in the mean cover for non-native species – *Elodea* spp – is not currently being met), we would request a further extension of the monitoring period.

Thank you, and best wishes to you all for the holiday season,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Planning & Conservation Adviser  
Norfolk & Suffolk Government Team  
Natural England  
Dragonfly House  
2 Gilders Way  
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[REDACTED]  
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Environment  
Agency

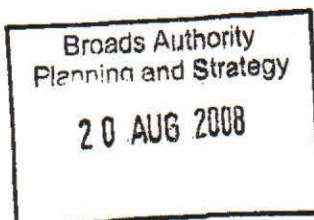
CS  
20 AUG 2008

Broads Authority  
Planning & Development  
18 Colegate  
Norwich  
Norfolk  
NR3 1BQ

Our ref: AE/2008/106417/01-L01

Your ref: BA/2008/0249/FUL

Date: 18 August 2008



Dear Sir/Madam

**STRENGTHENING THE FLOODBANK AND INFILLING OF THE EXISTING SOKE DYKE, AS WELL AS INSTALLATION OF EROSION PROTECTION AND PILING AND ASSOCIATED ENGINEERING OPERATIONS. LEFT BANK OF RIVER ANT, CLAYRACK MARSHES, HOW HILL, NORFOLK.**

Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency regarding the above planning application, which we received on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2008. We wish to make the following comments in response.

The proposed development seeks to strengthen the floodbank on the river Ant. The proposed development falls within Flood Zone 3 and therefore a Flood Risk Assessment is required under PPS25.

After reviewing the Assessment we conclude that the works will limit erosion to the banks of the river Ant. The proposed sluice upstream of the strengthening works will have a minimal impact on the river regime.

Therefore we have NO OBJECTION to the application. We require the following informative to be appended onto any planning permission granted.

#### **Informative**

Under the terms of the Water Resources Act 1991 and Land Drainage Bylaws, the prior written consent of the Environment Agency is required for any proposed works or structures in, under, over or within 9 metres of the top of the bank of the main river (river Ant).

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.



Yours faithfully

*H. J. Jiraidh*

[REDACTED]  
**Planning Liaison Officer**

[REDACTED]

cc BESL