

Coggeshall, Feering, & Kelvedon Flood Alleviation Scheme



Environment
Agency

Working in partnership with

Blackwater Aggregates

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Background

Many will remember the significant flooding of 2001 in Coggeshall, Feering and Kelvedon, and the following events of 2012 and 2014. Hundreds of homes were affected, and all three communities disrupted.

Our flood alleviation scheme aims to better protect all three villages from the risk of flooding from the River Blackwater during periods of intense or prolonged rainfall. The scheme involves the design of a dam and flood storage area to significantly reduce flood risk.

Climate change is expected to increase the frequency and severity of such flooding in the future. A study in 2006 explored the viability of a flood alleviation scheme but found the cost-benefit ratio to be low. In 2015, a consultation revealed the public favoured flood storage within the River Blackwater, but this option was considered unaffordable to use public funding alone. It was only through collaboration with Blackwater Aggregates, a viable and effective flood alleviation scheme has been developed.

The design phase will be followed by the submission of a planning application and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to Essex County Council for approval. The public will have the opportunity to comment on the scheme once it is submitted.

There are around 300 houses that sit within Flood Zone 3 that will benefit from this scheme, including 49 listed buildings (and one scheduled monument).

Proposal

The scheme has been designed to hold more than 3 million m³ of flood water, enough to fill 2,500 Olympic swimming pools, during a major flood event.

This will be achieved by constructing a dam across the valley upstream from the three villages next to Coggeshall Town Football Club. To achieve the storage capacity required, an extension to the natural floodplain will be created within the southern side of the valley between Curds Hall and Coggeshall through Blackwater Aggregates' quarrying operation.

The site will be restored to include a more bio-diverse habitat and the existing floodplain will only be affected where the dam construction takes place, the rest will be unaffected.

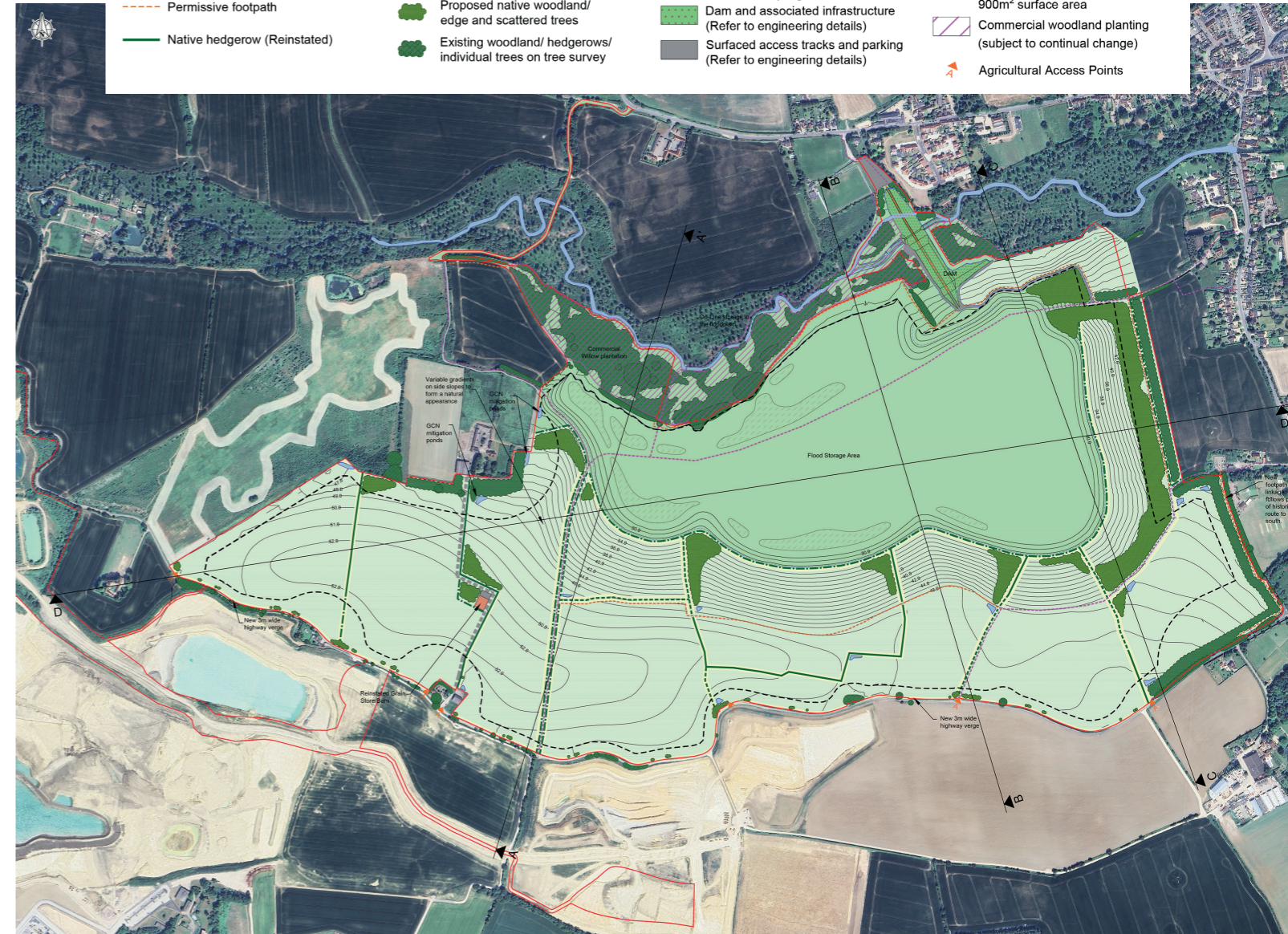
The connection point between the existing floodplain and the flood storage area will run along the edge of the existing willow plantation.

Artist's impression indicating the creation of the flood storage area



Site restoration plan

- CFK Planning Application Boundary
- Extraction Area
- Maximum extent of water during flood event
- PRoW (Existing & Reinstated)
- Permissive footpath
- Native hedgerow (Reinstated)
- Replanted lost historic hedgerow (New)
- Native hedgerow (New)
- Farm access track
- Species rich agricultural margins
- Proposed native woodland/ edge and scattered trees
- Existing woodland/ hedgerows/ individual trees on tree survey
- Existing woodland/ hedgerows/ individual trees on tree survey
- Existing commercial willow woodland plantation
- Existing recently planted native woodland saplings
- Dam and associated infrastructure (Refer to engineering details)
- Surfaced access tracks and parking (Refer to engineering details)
- Agricultural (arable) restoration
- Proposed ditch & field ponds
- Species rich grassland
- Scattered shallow scrapes 0.5 to 1.0m deep, between 100m² and 900m² surface area
- Commercial woodland planting (subject to continual change)
- Agricultural Access Points



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Quarrying and restoration operations

The proposed quarrying and restoration operations would be carried out by Blackwater Aggregates on a rolling basis, phase by phase. Each phase would be restored as soon as practicable following mineral extraction.

The restoration scheme would create a living landscape capable of providing large areas of interconnected biodiverse restoration, new and permissive footpaths, woodlands, hedgerows, areas of wetland, a large floodplain grassland, enhancements to sections of the existing river and wildflower field margins alongside restored agricultural operations, which would improve the site's previous land use.

Views of the scheme from the Essex Way near to Grange Farm

Existing view of the site



View whilst the quarrying and restoration works are ongoing



View of the site 15 years post restoration



A floodplain grassland from another scheme



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More information

More information on the scheme, including frequently asked questions and contact details, is available from the Environment Agency's webpage:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/east-anglia-c-e/coggeshall-flood-alleviation-information-page/>

There is also a video presentation to support the documentation that explains the scheme and its phased construction. This is hosted on YouTube (Coggeshall, Feering, and Kelvedon Flood Alleviation Scheme –information video):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfULOeddT-c>

