

Coggeshall, Feering & Kelvedon Flood Alleviation Scheme



Image of a floodplain grassland from another scheme

The Environment Act 2021 establishes the principle of environmental gain as a requirement of all development. The Act requires a mandatory minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain. Applicants are expected to assess biodiversity net gain using the Government's published biodiversity metric tool.

A Biodiversity Metric has been used to calculate biodiversity net gain. The Metric assesses changes in biodiversity value (losses or gains) brought about by the creation of the flood alleviation scheme.

There are around 300 houses within Coggeshall, Feering and Kelvedon that sit within Flood Zone 3 that will benefit from the flood alleviation scheme, and its creation will result in an overall uplift in the biodiversity value of the riparian landscape upon completion which will exceed a biodiversity net gain of 20%.

The scheme would create over 6.9km of new native hedgerow planting, 7.5ha of new native woodland planting, 4ha of new seasonal wetland areas; 4km of new permissive footpaths, 47ha of species rich floodplain grassland and species rich grassland, 9km of species rich/wildflower field margins and enhance a 945m section of the River Blackwater.

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.



Artistic impression of the scheme