

May 2019:

What are we updating you about?

You may be aware that we are currently working on a scheme to reduce the flood risk to properties and communities in the villages of Coggeshall, Feering and Kelvedon. This is an update on progress since our last update in December 2018.

What have we been doing since the last update?

We have continued to work with Blackwater Aggregates and the local landowners in developing the scheme.

The option we are progressing combines the construction of an “on-line” embankment across the River Blackwater and an “off-line” flood storage area next to the river (see map overleaf). The idea of flood storage was favoured by the communities at the last public drop-ins in 2015.

Further modelling work has been completed and ground investigations have been carried out near at the football ground dam location. Environmental surveys have also continued.

What's happening next?

We are holding two public drop-in events:

Wednesday 22 May, 3.00pm-7.45pm
Christ Church, Stoneham Street CO6 1UH

Friday 24 May, 2.00pm-7.45pm
Feering Community Centre, Coggeshall Road CO5 9QB

At these events you will be able to see the latest designs for the scheme, and our project team will be on hand to explain how the “on-line” embankment and “off-line” flood storage area would work. We encourage you to come along and see the latest designs and discuss these with our project team, and to let us know your thoughts.

We will continue to meet with organisations, the local community and other stakeholders who are either affected by the scheme or can help to ensure we achieve the best outcomes from the scheme.

As we take things forward, you will start to see more people working in and around the site carrying out environmental surveys and other ground investigation works. This information will be used to develop the detailed design of the scheme, and support a planning application and environmental impact assessment which will be submitted to Essex County Council in the winter of 2019.

If the planning application is not approved the scheme will not progress with no viable alternative available to the Environment Agency.

Opportunities for enhancements

As well as providing much needed flood protection to the local villages, the project will look at opportunities to enhance ecological and biodiversity features within the Blackwater Valley through the creation of new habitats. There may also be the opportunity to improve existing Public Rights of Way across the site.

Contact

For further information on the project, please contact our Partnerships & Strategic Overview (Essex) team:

☎ 0203 0258483

✉ roger.webster@environment-agency.gov.uk

Further information

Further information about the scheme, along with our previous updates, is available on the following web page:

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

We will keep you up-to-date with further developments on this project.

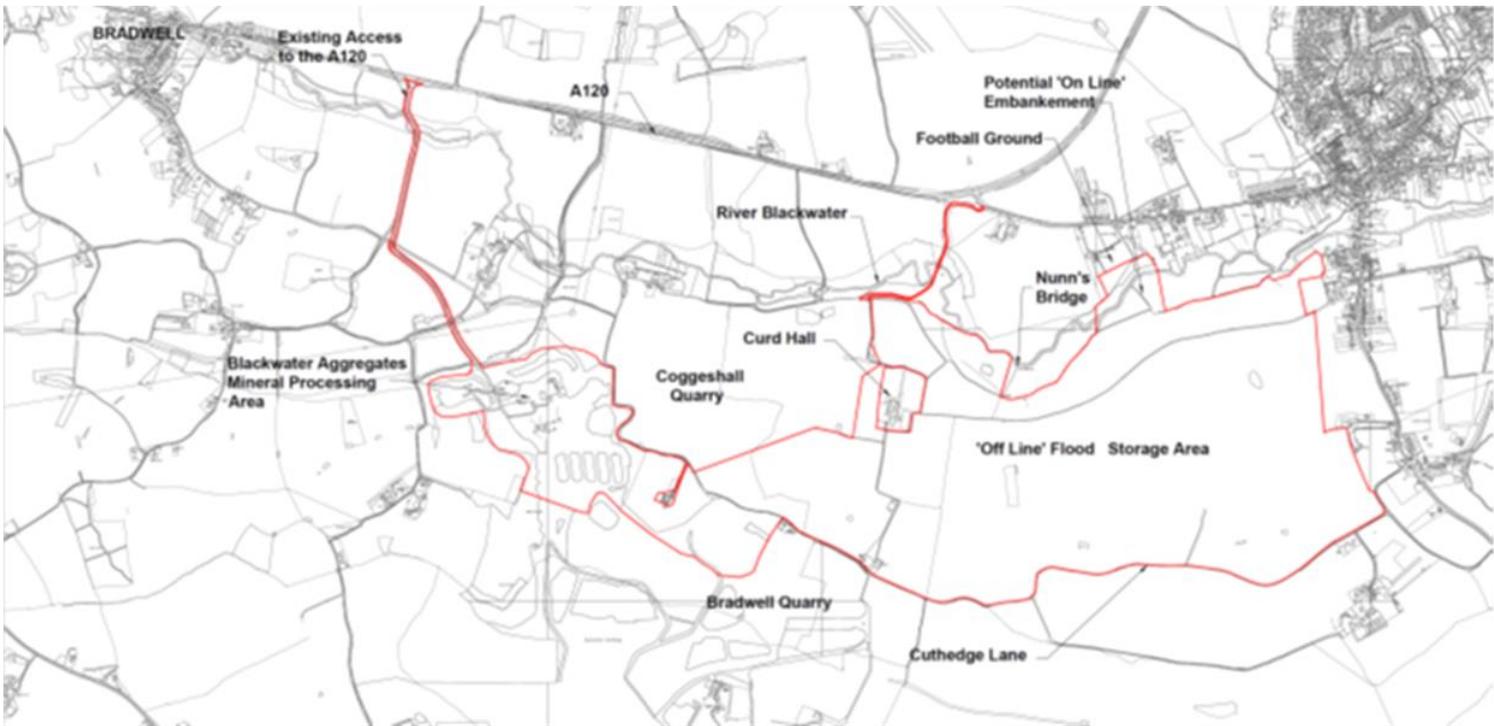
customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88



Map showing the extension to the river's flood plain or "off-line" flood storage area (edged in blue) to be formed through Blackwater Aggregates' restoration operations across the site. The dam (or embankment) location near the football ground is shown as the light grey strip crossing the valley



Map showing the extent of the site boundary relating to the scheme and proposed planning application

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