

DRAGONFLY HOUSE

The Broads Authority

Part of the current narrative on climate change is that we should move towards "thinking intelligently about how we should adapt to what is already happening". What this seems to imply is left quite vague. What is envisaged? Cities relocated to higher ground? Roads and railways shifted inland? Rivers diverted? Arable land abandoned? Regions depopulated? Have we any clue what this would all cost? What the impacts would be on the people breezily being told to live with fuel poverty, poor housing, crumbling social infrastructure?

Generally it seems they don't really envisage anything: there is little detail when it comes to adaptation., and the idea seems to be based on a steady rise in temperatures, followed by a steady rise in impacts, to which we steadily adjust. But that, as we know from increasing experience, is not how it will happen. Climate breakdown proceeds in fits and starts, sudden changes of state against which changes cannot easily be made.

Insurers working out their liability when a disaster has occurred use a process they call *loss adjustment*. Loss adjustment seems a good term to describe what all of us who love this world are going through, as we begin to recognise that governments, the media and most businesses have no intention of seeking to avert the coming climate tragedies.

We are being told to accept the world of wounds; to live with the disappearance, envisaged in the new climate report, of coral reefs and summer sea ice, of most glaciers and perhaps some rainforests, of rivers and wetlands and the species which, like many people, will be unable to adapt. As the scale of the loss to which we must adjust becomes clearer, the grief and anger will be overwhelming.

Dragonfly House was built on the Norwich flood plain (despite the resignation of a Labour Cllr., from Norwich planning committee and the clear guidance not to build from the environment agency). In this drawing an angry sea has reclaimed the surrounding flood plain. It is also drawn to remember, that the agencies charged to protect us, are themselves part of the wider process of business as usual.