

# **BLACK SLUICE**

## **INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**



**Bug Hotel (Netherlands)**

# **Environment Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 2:00pm**

**Station Road, Swineshead, Lincolnshire PE20 3PW**



# Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

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Our Ref: IMW/DPW/B10

Your Ref:

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018

## **To all Members of the Environment Committee**

Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of the Environment Committee will be held at the Offices of the Board on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 2pm at which your attendance is requested.

Ian Warsap  
Chief Executive

## A G E N D A

1. To welcome guests and receive apologies for absence
2. Declarations of interest
3. To receive and if correct sign the Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017 (**pages 1 - 12**)
4. Matters arising
5. To review the Environment Committee Terms of Reference (**page 13**)
6. To receive a report on Environmental Work completed in 2017/18 and recommendations for proposed works for 2018/19 (**pages 14 - 46**)
7. To receive a report on Barn Owl nesting boxes for 2017/18
  - (a) Annual Check of Black Sluice IDB and Catchment Nest Boxes 2017 (**page 47 - 49**)
8. To receive a verbal presentation from Celia Commowick, Scarborough Nixon Associates
9. To receive a joint verbal presentation by Amanda Jenkins on the South Lincolnshire Fenlands Partnership and the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership
10. To receive a verbal presentation by Mr & Mrs P Bowler on the Amber Hill Butterfly and Wildlife Conservation Area
11. To review the Environment Agency; Initial Priority Catchment (IPC), Improving the way we manage water May 2018 introduction paper (**pages 50 & 51**)
12. To receive the minutes from the ADA Lincolnshire Branch Environment Committee
  - (a) Confirmed minutes dated 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017 (**pages 52 - 58**)
  - (b) Unconfirmed draft minutes dated 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 (**pages 59 - 65**)
  - (c) ADA Lincolnshire Branch Environment Committee Report 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018 presented at the ADA AGM (**pages 66 & 67**)
13. Any Other Business

# BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

## MINUTES

of the proceedings of a meeting of the Environment Committee

held at the offices of the Board on  
10<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 2pm

### Members

Chairman - \* Mr P Holmes

* Mr W Ash	* Mr J Atkinson
* Mr V Barker	* Cllr C Brotherton
* Mr K Casswell	Mr R Leggott
* Mr P Robinson	* Mr R Welberry
* Mr R Wray	

\* Member Present

In attendance: Mr I Warsap (Chief Executive)  
Mr P Nicholson (Operations Manager)  
Mr Ian Nixon (Scarborough Nixon Associates)  
Mrs Sarah Baker (GLNP Partnership)

#### 1109 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Agenda Item 1

Apologies were received from Mr R Leggott.

#### 1110 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - Agenda Item 2

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 1111 MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - Agenda Item 3

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016, copies of which had been circulated, were considered. It was agreed that they should be signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

#### 1112 SYNDICATE PROPOSAL UPDATE - Agenda Item 4

The Chief Executive reported that the Angling Syndicate had presented a proposal in April 2016 which was reviewed at last year's Environment Committee meeting, he wanted to update the Committee on the final proposal on page 13. The Chief Executive would like today to gain approval or non-approval from this Committee regarding the Angling Syndicate proposal. He presented some background information regarding pages 22 to 28. He stated although the syndicate initially put forward an attraction to proceed with the proposals, they did not want to push forward any hasty decisions. They approached the Officers requesting that the Board, as owners, register the pond under the Aquatic Animal Health Regulations 2009.

This would mean that if the syndicate were, in a position, whilst stocking other ponds should have a surplus of fish they could take them to the pond. The Board registered the pond and consequently there was quite a large number, close to a 1,000 carp fry placed in the pond at no charge to the Board. The Chief Executive believes Ian Cappitt and Chris Reeds are sincere and they have the right intentions to safeguard the pond.

The Chief Executive added that within the syndicate management plan in 2020/21 on page 18 under actions – it states from the fishery management plan “over the intervening years will align with the BSIDBs conservation management plan and this will continue to be implemented for the benefit of the lake (fisheries, habitats and wildlife)” – the Chief Executive suggested this Committee could introduce a further sentence “if there were surplus fish these could be removed into other rivers”.

Mr Welberry indicated that they will breed quite quickly, in approximately 4/5 years.

Mr Robinson asked what percent survive? The Chairman responded it is dependent on the environment, Mr Welberry responded it will depend on predators ie herons, otters. If the fry have been put in the pond correctly there is very little mortality.

The Chairman stated having been on a recent Water Resources East tour at Willow Tree Fen in the Welland and Deepings area Nick Morris flagged up that this tick's boxes in their IDBs BAP. If this is done properly in the way the syndicate are proposing to do then, it will be entered into the Boards Biodiversity Action Plan. The Chairman reminded Members on page 13 in note 3 that Helen Scarborough should visit on site and complete a full environmental survey.

The Chairman pointed out the access, the syndicate are restricting it to only three anglers at any one time. The Chief Executive responded that within the updated proposal Ian Cappitt and Chris Reeds have spoken to the locals and have negotiated with them regarding access.

Mr Casswell added that the access is a double edge sword, it helps deter people who should not be there. The Chief Executive suggested that access from the Twenty end through private land would be difficult. The Committee could implement this as a condition that the only access is via Tongue End.

The Chairman believes that as time goes on the locals will warm to it and they will realise that someone is policing it. There won't be just anyone accessing the pond as it will be fished fairly frequently therefore occupancy will be the best form of policing the pond.

The Chief Executive asked for approval from this Committee to move forward with these negotiations or not.

The Chairman proposed that we go ahead with this proposal, Mr Welberry seconded the proposal and all AGREED.

1113 TO REVIEW THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE - Agenda Item 5

The Chief Executive presented the Committees terms of reference on page 29.

The Chairman asked members if they were happy with these, all AGREED.

1114 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL WORK COMPLETED IN 2016/17 AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROPOSED WORKS FOR 2017/18 - Agenda Item 6

The Chief Executive presented the report on Environmental works on pages 30 to 35 and the recommendations for 2017/18. The Chief Executive stated that the key focus of today's meeting are the proposals at the end of this report for this year.

Completed Works 2016/17

(a) Owl Boxes

The Chief Executive introduced the owl boxes which have been cleared, cleaned and suitably re dressed with detailed photographs on pages 39 to 43.

(b) High Profile Watercourse Assets

The proposed watercourses as detailed on page 30.

(c) Water Vole Monitoring Surveys

The Chief Executive suggested the water vole monitoring surveys be reported later in the meeting and asked Ian Nixon to mention these in his report at agenda item 7.

(d) Control of Mink

The Chief Executive explained that the Board has had a down turn in the number of reported mink sightings. Mr Welberry stated that one had been sighted at Swineshead Bridge last October 2016.

The Chief Executive mentioned at the Southern Works inspection at Gosberton Pumping Station one was sighted.

Mrs Baker stated at the Biodiversity Rivers & Wetland Group meeting also attended by Lincolnshire Rivers Trust and the Calk Stream Project the issues surrounding mink were raised. Chris Manning is looking into a coordinated approach to mink trapping in Lincolnshire. There are plans also for a more coordinated approach at County level to see if something will come of it regionally and then possibly national.

(e) Environmental surveys of larger hedge rows in our bushing programme

The Chief Executive presented the surveys of hedgerows and bushing programme, this has been taken on board by Officers.

(f) RSPB Water Abstraction for Frampton Marsh

The Chief Executive receives an annual request to abstract water which has increased this year to 500,000m<sup>3</sup> water per annum from Wyberton Marsh pump drain to assist with water management levels in the Frampton Marsh Nature Reserve.

(g) Big Boston Clean Up

The Chief Executive stated 2/3 workmen were involved with the Big Boston Clean Up.

(h) Fly Swat Team

The Chief Executive stated that the fly swat team remain very strong, very dedicated. The fly swat team offer BSIDB and other IDBs value in relation to the contribution made against what the Board used to spend pulling fly tip out of the Boards watercourses.

Mr Robinson asked if Members see rubbish in the drains who do they contact? The Chief Executive responded contact the Operations Supervisor.

(i) Invasive Species

The Chief Executive informed Members that towards the end of the meeting he has a presentation regarding an invasive Asian homet and a reporting "app" you can place on a mobile app.

(j) Bat Boxes and Surveys

The Chief Executive stated that Ian Nixon will have further information regarding the bat surveys in his verbal presentation.

(k) Environmental Scheme – Eel Passability at Boards 'Category A' Pumping Stations

The Chief Executive stated he is not aware of how Brexit will affect any European rulings regarding the eel passes. He believes that DEFRA are trying to bring over all the current rulings into all environmental schemes.

Mr Barker asked could there be a repeal of the badgers? And if there is a willingness through ADA; The Chief Executive responded that this can be passed through to ADA.

The Chief Executive stated that the eel passes are in the gravity channels and the Board has introduced some slow closing, none return valves to help the elver travel through. One of these passages is next to the only underwater camera at Chain Bridge, unfortunately there has been no sightings.

## **Proposed Works 2017/18**

### **(l) Water Vole Surveys**

The Chief Executive presented a proposal to seek approval to continue with the water vole surveys through Scarborough Nixon Associates.

Ian Nixon stated that they have picked six sites where water voles are present and these are monitored. One of the proposals he is recommending is a new way of monitoring, he explained by using tethered polystyrene floats in the channel for water voles to use as latrines this form of identification has been used before. These monitor surveys will be performed in Spring and Autumn which reflects the beginning and end of the breeding season.

The latrines are used as a territorial marker so you can work out the number of water voles by the numbers of territories.

The Chief Executive added that this data is now being collated year on year and is core data to refer back to.

The Chief Executive asked the Committee for approval for the continued employment of Scarborough Nixon Associates for vole surveys at an agreed level for mitigating works whilst carrying out the Boards maintenance works.

Members AGREED.

### **(m) Winter Bushing and Cleansing**

The Chief Executive stated that the Officers will be having a meeting to discuss alternate bank cuts along watercourse routes for cleansing works which should elevate some major/minor bushing issues.

### **(n) Summer Cutting and Vegetation Clearance**

The Chief Executive stated the Summer cutting and vegetation clearance revolve around the Boards BAP and environmental policy with regards to mechanical works within watercourses. The Boards Summer cutting programme will commence on or around the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

Mr Barker confirmed he was pleased to see that the high profile early cutting has been done at the Risegate.

### **(o) Owl Boxes**

The Chief Executive explained he is seeking approval for the repair/replacement of existing owl boxes, he believes if maintenance of the Boards existing boxes is not carried out they would be overrun by other birds.

Mr Nixon added that the jackdaws build nests of sticks and barn owls prefer to crush down pellets to nest on therefore the sticks are a physical barrier for the barn owls. A jackdaw will put sticks in a box until it is full, whether the barn owl is present or on top of chicks or eggs.



The Chairman added that the Boards area is well covered with owl boxes, he believes that these boxes need maintaining and if the budget is higher than c£1,000 then it is a requirement. He asked members for approval.

Mr Barker asked if other boxes from the Environment Agency could be added into the survey results. The Chairman responded they are not actually the Boards concern. The Chief Executive added as well as barn owl boxes attached to pumping stations the Board has other boxes on poles. He has requested this year Alan Ball review all boxes in the Boards area. He was conscious that the erected boxes on poles could potentially be, on health and safety grounds, difficult to access.

The Chief Executive also added that the new Pumping Station Groundsman, once his role has been developed, may be able to assist by cleansing out boxes at pumping stations in the winter months. Regarding the timing of maintenance on the owl boxes last year they were accessed on the 14 February 2016 and he believed there were three birds sat on eggs at that time. This year they were accessed in January 2017 and there were no birds which meant this is probably an appropriate time to cleanse the boxes.

The Chairman added that the Environmental Committee budget could contribute a portion towards the Pumping Station Groundsman salary.

Mr Nixon was asked if there is anything which can be done to deter jackdaws, he explained that there has not been anything found yet. He could only make the suggestion of a smaller box on the other side of the pumping station and barn owl would tend to go for the smaller boxes.

Cllr C Brotherton asked if the numbers of barn owls were higher? Mr Nixon responded that numbers tended to fluctuate depending on the availability of food. Lincolnshire is a strong hold for barn owls, in Hertfordshire they only have one pair in the whole county.

Members gave approval and AGREED.

(p) Recording by Machine Drivers

The Chief Executive reported this has continued and the new machines have had toms toms fitted.

(q) High Profile Watercourse Assets

The Chief Executive stated this is as detailed in the report.

(r) Water Levels

The Chief Executive reported water levels are controlled over the whole catchment. The SFFD has two level configurations, winter is generally dictated around the first week in November through to Easter. Due to the ongoing South Forty Foot desilting works this year the Officers have requested the EA maintain the lower winter level until a later date of the 7 May 2017 because there has been no rain. The EA are to hold the water at 500/600mm lower at Black Sluice pumping station. Currently there is a dam at Neslam Bridge where water is being held up stream.

Mr Atkinson mentioned that the water is moving in a different direction towards Black Hole Drove. The Operations Manager responded that possibly it is because the water is being held at a higher level.

Mr Barker clarified that the water has been going over the Neslam sluice fairly consistently from the highland carriers and it depends on what is being pumped into the lagoons and if they are draining the lagoons back in to the SFFD this could push water the opposite way. He made the comment that the SFFD looks great. Mr Casswell also expressed that it looks fantastic.

The Operations Manager clarified the depth of water at Neslam bridge is 2 metres, upstream of the dam where we are holding the water. This information has come from the Captain of the barge.

(s) Fens for the Future

The Chief Executive asked Mrs Baker if the GLNP are involved with Fens for the Future. Mrs Baker responded yes. The Chief Executive explained they are looking for a new representative as Martin Redding has left Witham 4<sup>th</sup> IDB. He used to represent this Board and other IDBs on this committee, the Secretary (Lincolnshire ADA Environment Committee) are looking for a replacement.

(t) South Lincolnshire Fens Partnership

The Chief Executive explained these are associated with the Fens for the Future and are an important link with the WRE project. The Chief Executive then gave an overview of the WRE project and its plans for the future.

(u) Water Framework Directive

The Chief Executive stated Water Framework Directive is an important continuous approach to water management.

(v) The Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site

The Chief Executive reported that this body is changing their name and this will re-focus what they are trying to do in and around the Wash and North Norfolk coastline.

(w) BAP Targets and Future Works

The Chief Executive stated these targets are within the Boards BAP focusing on environmental work. He explained there is a very good working relationship with Scarborough Nixon Associates and the work they do for the Board is always quoted for. If this Committee required Officers could try and obtain competitive quotes but there is a lot to say about the quality of reports that Scarborough Nixon bring back to the Board. A lot of it is the trust of the working relationship the Officers have built now over a number of years and they are expertise in their fields. The Chief Executive suggested that all the work, that is not carried out in the office, should be carried out by Scarborough Nixon for the Board.

If this Committee recommend that other quotations are sort, the Officers could do this but it would delay things with Scarborough Nixon there is continuity.

Mr Ash asked what sum of monies; the Chief Executive responded that it is a maximum of £5,000/£6,000 contract per year.

The Chief Executive stated the Boards Biodiversity Action Plan was last reviewed in May 2014 and is due to be reviewed in 2019. Any actions that can be undertaken or addressed will then be updated into the Action Plan.

(i) 100 metres of Reed Bed

The Chief Executive pointed out that an area will need to be decided upon in order to plant 100 metres of reed bed, this will be carried out by our workmen. He asked Members to give some thought to a location for this section to be planted.

Mr Barker stated that at Works Committees the Members were presented with drains the Board would like to give up, if any of these drains would be suitable for the 100/200 metres of reed beds planted. The Chief Executive responded yes the Officers could focus on these drains and identify a section before discussing it with the riparian landowner. They would be cut less frequently, from the environmental budget, but using reed planting this would enhance the section. The Chairman concluded that this would probably be the most likely area which could be identified.

The Members approved a section of 100/200 metres of reed beds to be planted, on all probability, on one of the lengths of drain which will be given up. All AGREED.

(ii) Survey and Map

The Chief Executive stated a GIS layer of historically established hedgerows within the Boards catchment, this will be completed within the office using the information from the tom toms. The Chief Executive added that the Officers want to log these for environmental impact assessment, also for Board machine access and place this data on to the mapping system. Members AGREED.

(iii) Establish Greater Water Parsnip

The Chief Executive stated following a visit to Willow Tree Fen, last year one of the wardens mentioned they have been thinking of introducing (with permission) the Great Water Parsnip to Tongue End pond. This could be a way of the Board reducing costs by allowing the wardens to re plant as they have the required licences to pick and replant. The Chief Executive believes he would be able to approach the South Lincolnshire Partnership and look at their wardens to transplant to Tongue End pond. Members AGREED.

(iv) Farmland Bird Survey

The Chief Executive stated that in 2010 a detailed farm land bird survey was carried out at Wyberton Marsh area.

It would be very advantageous to have another survey to summarise that data and compare it, clearly that will be a job for Scarborough Nixon. The Chief Executive requested approval to obtain a quotation to carry out a farmland bird survey in the Wyberton Marsh area. Also Mr Barker has given some detailed information regarding historical bird surveys from 1994 to 2016 obviously you can track peaks and flows for comparison. Mr Robinson also added that the RSPB have completed several bird surveys which has been plotted on the maps. The Chief Executive felt that all this data can be logged using the partnership approach to undertake a full study along the similar lines of the 2010 survey.

The Chairman concluded that the more surveyed information you can obtain is for the better it helps to understand trends and the way forward. Mr Wray stated that Viking Link are performing surveys for invertebrates, nesting birds and the results of these can also be helpful, they can be contacted.

The Chairman asked if a full bird survey could be carried out at Tongue End especially because the Board should have a full survey now before the syndicate take over because if something went in to decline the data can be referred back to in the survey report. The Chief Executive stated he would obtain a quotation and come back to the Chairman.

Members AGREED to the farmland bird survey at Wyberton Marsh.

(v) Invertebrate Survey at Tongue End

The Chief Executive stated discussion had taken place previously about an invertebrate survey at Tongue End pond to be able to state in the Biodiversity Action Plan that these have been reviewed. Members AGREED.

(vi) Incorporate Windmill Lodge – ([www.homeforbutterflies.com](http://www.homeforbutterflies.com))

The Chief Executive explained this is the “home for butterflies” at Amber Hill, we recently carried out some desilting work. This will be added to the Biodiversity Action Plan and how the works benefited this site.

(vii) Risegate Bank

The Chief Executive added that Mr Barker has given some information regarding a seed mix for the Risegate bank where the Board has had little success. Specialist seeds has been tried on three different banks which has had very little success. Mr Barker responded regarding a seeding mixture, wildflower or a pollen & nectar mix which comes from Frontier which will grow on silt land. Mr Barker also has an idea for a pond on the Risegate Eau, a place along a straight drain where a wide cut in to the bank where reeds, some yellow irises, snow drops could be introduced. The Chairman responded that in answer to Mr Barker questions, the wildflowers struggle because the land is too fertile to accept wildflowers. It will need re-establishing again every three years. Mr Barker agreed.

The Chief Executive believed that bulb type planting might be an option ie iris, snow drops along the bottom on the water line. Mr Barker requested if they could meet with Operations Manager and come back with a section position; The Chief Executive responded this can be arranged yes.

The Operations Manager was going to suggest, there is a future scheme to realign the Towns Drain there maybe the potential to look at some environmental enhancement because he is not confident it will stand up on its own, therefore the introduction of reed beds could be a benefit.

The Chief Executive commented that he is always happy to receive new ideas for environmental scenarios and approvals for the planned biodiversity actions.

The Chief Executive asked Mrs S Baker from the GLNP if there was anything she could think of for the Board to contribute towards. Mrs Baker responded she would need to have a chat with the team and come back to the Board.

1115 TO RECEIVE A VERBAL PRESENTATION BY SCARBOROUGH NIXON ASSOCIATES - Agenda Item 7

Mr I Nixon from Scarborough Nixon Associates reported they had carried out the Bat Surveys at the pumping stations and reported some success this time;

Bicker Eau Pumping Station – 1 daubenton  
Dowsby Lode Pumping Station – 1 common pipistrelle  
Holland Fen Pumping Station – 22 daubentons

The Chief Executive asked where were the daubentons coming from; Mr Nixon responded from the pumping station outlet side opposite side to the weedscreen.

Mr Nixon continued stating the Lincolnshire Bat Group has been doing studies on daubentons, over the last 3/4 years. All this research will be reported back and also sent to the GLNP for their database.

He added that these are a protected species, therefore if the Board were to be carrying out works at the pumping stations then they will require to obtain exact details. Unfortunately, none of the bat boxes erected have been used, but this is not unusual as it often takes 2/3 years for the box to become established.

Mr Nixon stated that they have set cameras to take pictures of otters, but unfortunately they have not found any. Mr Nixon asked if any Members had an idea where they should set up a camera or if any of the workmen drivers have noticed a site. The Chief Executive asked that the Officers disseminate this request to Members and workmen in order that Scarborough Nixon can be made aware of any sightings within the Boards catchment.

The Chief Executive asked if Scarborough Nixon are aware of any local otter locations or are they just passing through the catchment, Mr Nixon responded they concentrated on pumping stations as this is where in the past they have found evidence and it is good protection for the camera. He asked if any Members have sighted otters to let them know in order to set up a camera.

The Chief Executive asked are you aware of any local otter population. Mr Nixon responded we have found otter spraints at various pumping stations and placed a camera near them but unfortunately there has been no photographic evidence.

Mr Nixon added that he believed there were sightings at Great Hale but again we did not find anything. The Chief Executive clarified that if we have any sightings in the Boards area they could be passing through; Mr Nixon stated the Board should have otters they are around, we have worked with South Holland IDB and found them there.

Cllr Brotherton, stated that he has had a sighting reported to him, it may be an idea to look along the North Forty Foot bank; Mr Nixon responded they roam a long way and will make a holt a long way from water there has been a report of them being found 1.5kilm from the water.

The Chairman asked if another otter holt was put up would it make it more friendly. Mr Nixon responded we are aware of otters in the area, it may be worthwhile putting up another otter holt and we could advise where to put it.

The Chief Executive stated we would love to see otters in our catchment, could we offer any kind of security, permanent casing for cameras, could we put cameras in remote locations in a secure case on a post? Mr Nixon responded that they can be identified by the public easier and removed. Perhaps under bridges on private land, the Chief Executive if there were any interested parties on private land who had visual sightings to relay to Scarborough Nixon Associates.

Mr Nixon mentioned the water vole surveys completed, he presented the report and the Chief Executive interjected that if Members required a copy sending please let the Office know. Mr Nixon stated that the survey had been completed on six sites, some of which were different from last year as they were not providing the data required. Mr Nixon presented the results summary table of populations interestingly around Kirton Skeldyke.

The Chairman was confused at the locations of the dyke in question, he concluded he would contact Helen Scarborough regarding the dyke location on the map because it no longer exists.

Mr Nixon presented an area and regional graph, from the National Water Vole Database and Mapping Project Metadata these views show where the water voles have been recorded.

Mrs Sarah Baker stated the records held by the record centre for Lincolnshire previously detailed South Holland as having no water voles. This was because there were none being recorded therefore by simply providing logging machines to operatives at South Holland IDB data is now being recorded.

1116 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON ANGLIAN WATER'S POLLUTION WATCH PROMOTION - Agenda Item 8

The Chief Executive presented slides detailing a new project strategy, Anglian Water are trying to move forward regarding pollution watch particularly relating to discharge into watercourses. The simplistic approach is to SPOT IT – REPORT IT – STOP IT there is a new hotline no 03457 145 145. All this information will be placed on the Boards website.

Anglian Water are focusing on effluent discharge, which is common on the lower end of the NFFD near the pumping station in particular where there are Anglian Water discharge washout bays where the Board has had problems previously.

(a) Asian Hornet

The Chief Executive stated DEFRA are so concerned about this invasive species that they have introduced an app which you can download to your phone at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-app-to-report-asian-hornet-sightings> .

1117 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON BARN OWL NESTING BOXES FOR 2016/17 - Agenda Item 9

The Chief Executive stated that he had already discussed this in the minute 1114(o) above.

1118 TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF THE ADA LINCOLNSHIRE BRANCH ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE - Agenda Item 10

The Chief Executive stated that the ADA Lincolnshire Environmental Committee minutes are for information. He added as Environment Committee Members you are welcome to attend these ADA Lincolnshire Branch Environmental meetings, if any Member would like to attend can you please let the office staff know. The dates are generally three meetings a year. One is in the Boston area, either at BSIDB or Witham 4<sup>th</sup> office. One in the Manby area either the old EA offices or Lindsey Marsh IDB office and one at Horncastle Banovallum House.

1119 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - Agenda Item 11

(a) Lincolnshire ADA Biodiversity Manual

The Chief Executive informed Members that a copy of this has been handed out for Members to take away and review and Members may find significant scenarios within this document for discussion.

Mrs Baker highlighted that there is a more up to date copy of the ADA biodiversity manual which has some additional sections in it. The Chief Executive responded to Members that this is a first draft.

(b) Water Vole Legislation

Mr Nixon informed the Committee that there is new legislation regarding water voles. As the Board has built up a reputation it would be detrimental to fall short of the rules. This incorporates the methods with which you are carrying out maintenance works, these need to be looked at in more detail just to make sure you are legally compliant this will be looked at quite severally. Mr Nixon has spoken to Chris Manning at Lindsey Marsh IDB and the methods they use could be disseminated to the BSIDB and he would encourage us to contact him. The Chief Executive asked would you need to be involved; Mr Nixon responded yes he would be involved.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 16:23.

## BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

### ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING – 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2018

#### AGENDA ITEM 5

#### ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – TERMS OF REFERENCE

##### 1. GENERAL

The Committee shall have TEN members who will be appointed by the Board, five members from each of the Works Committee.

The Membership shall include:

- Chairman of the Board
- Vice Chairman of the Board

The Committee Chairman shall be appointed by the Board at the tri-annual meeting being the first meeting following an election.

##### 2. MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee shall meet at least once in every 12 month period and a quorum shall be five members.

No one other than the Committee members shall be entitled to attend Committee Meetings, but any other persons may attend meetings if invited by the Committee.

##### 3. POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee has the authority to utilise a budgetary amount as agreed by the Board at the beginning of each financial year on Environmental Projects and Works.

##### 4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

The responsibilities of the Committee shall be:

1. To monitor the Board's performance in relation to the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan and Government's Environmental Targets.
2. To promote best practice through employee training and awareness.
3. To inform the public of the Board's commitment to Environmental issues.
4. To promote initiatives, within watercourses maintained by the Board under statutory powers, that result in a meaningful environmental gain.



## **BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

### **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING – 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2018**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6**

#### **REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS**

##### **Completed Works in 2017/18**

1. **Owl Boxes**

Repairs were completed where required and all boxes fixed to pumping station buildings were internally cleared, cleaned and suitably 're-dressed'. Three old non-repairable boxes were replaced at Black Hole Drove, Dowsby Fen and Sempringham Pumping Station.

2. **Early Flailing Works**

Early season bank flailing on our high profile watercourses (approximately 67Km) has been completed along with the early health and safety bank top cuts on the main river highland carriers for the Environment Agency (EA) through our Public Sector Co-Operation Agreement. Our pumping station grounds maintenance cuts commence in March of each year.

3. **Water Vole Monitoring Surveys**

Scarborough Nixon Associates (SNA) have carried out monitoring surveys for water vole evidence on the pre-agreed watercourses. SNA will be presenting this and other reports under Agenda 8.

4. **Control of Mink**

The Board have continued to liaise with agricultural landowners with regards to the correct setting up and inspection frequencies of the Boards traps and the dispatching of mink throughout the year. Initial thoughts are they have been lower in numbers this year.

5. **Environmental Surveys of Larger Hedge Rows in our Bushing Programme**

Surveys were carried out by the Boards officers on any significant hedgerows that were felt could offer a form of environmental enhancement prior to any bushing works. No environmental enhancements or protected species were identified during the 2017/18 surveys or works. The extensive bushing works undertaken on the raised banks of the South Forty Foot Drain were pre-walked/inspected on a daily basis prior to each day's work. No active nests were located therefore all works have been completed.

6. **South Forty Foot Drain Environmental Works Associated with the De-Silting Works**

The 2017/18 de-silting works have been successfully completed, various environmental considerations were undertaken throughout the works which assisted in various levels of protection/enhancement:-

- Suspending the works for protective species (Spined Loach) habitat identification.
- Inspection of bushing for nesting birds.
- Completion of works before a predicted Elver run.
- Identification of land for tree/bush re-planting as mitigation following tree/bush removal works.
- Daily monitoring of dissolved oxygen, water and air temperatures with agreed guideline to suspend works at pre-agreed levels.
- To record and photograph the process of suction cutting and pumping into open lagoons.
- To continually assess the impact upon aquatic vegetation.
- To create reports and advise on impacts and evidence that will offer data for future works of this nature.
- Offer advice on further mitigation.
- Liaison with a DIDSON fish survey team.
- Monitor the works and maintain vigilance for any potential ecological impacts and potential impacts on protected species (badgers, nesting birds, water vole, otter, kingfisher nesting etc).
- Monitor the works and assess silt movements etc within the channel.
- Assess impacts on riparian vegetation and banksides.

7. **RSPB Water Abstraction for Frampton Marsh**

Permission has again been granted by the EA and the Board for the RSPB to abstract 500,000m<sup>3</sup> of water per annum from the Wyberton Marsh pump drain to assist with water management levels in the nearby Frampton Marsh Nature Reserve.

8. **Big Boston Clean Up**

The Board's workforce were once again involved with the Big Boston Clean Up in April 2018.

9. **Fly Swat Team**

The Board remains a partner within the Operation Fly Swat team and contributes towards its funding, which in turn offers financial benefits to the Board in relation to the amount the Board previously spent on fly tipping clearance, collection and disposal.

10. **Invasive Species**

Invasive species identification guides produced by the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (GLNP) for Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed, New Zealand Pigmyweed and Floating Pennywort are handed out to the operational workforce at each year's pre-cutting brief.

The continuous spread of 'Bastard Cabbage' a non-native species growing on Board maintained and Riparian banks has been brought to our attention and addressed at Board level.

The Board have requested the Environment Committee review this subject again.

#### 11. **Bat Boxes and Surveys**

The Bat box erection programme for all our pumping stations was completed, an update on occupation will be requested from SNA in Agenda Item 8.

#### 12. **Environmental Schemes**

##### (a) **Eel Passability at the Boards 'Category A' Pumping Stations**

As previously reported the eleven pumping stations in the initial EA Category A classification (Chain Bridge, Black Hole Drove, Cooks Lock, Donington Wykes, Donington North Ings, Gosberton, Great Hale, Holland Fen, South Kyme, Swineshead and Wyberton Marsh) have all been assessed by the EA consultants resulting in detailed Eel passage mitigation and proposals being produced. These have all been evaluated with costs ranging from Donington Wykes £300k to Black Hole Drove £3.4m. At this time no further actions from the EA have been instructed or received.

##### (b) **Bird Survey**

Bird surveys were completed at Wyberton Marsh and Bourne North Fen ponds, a verbal report will be received from Scarborough Nixon Associates in Agenda Item 8.

### **Proposed Works and Environmental Involvement in 2018/19**

#### 1. **South Lincs Water Partnership (SLWP) Official Launch**

The Water Resource East (WRE) and SLWP had a marquee at the Lincolnshire Show and will have an official public launch at a separate event on the 'Future of Water' concept on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at the Epic Centre, Lincolnshire Show Ground. BSIDB are a partner within this project and will be in attendance.

The launch will bring together stakeholders from the utility, agricultural, energy, public, and environmental sectors to influence and shape the future direction of water resources management.

This will be a unique occasion to meet those already involved, as well as potential new partners, to discuss key challenges and opportunities.

Far from traditional launch events it will be an interactive, immersive and experiential afternoon which will help change the way we talk about, think about, and manage water in the East of England.

For more information or to reserve a place please go to: <https://futureofwater.eventbrite.co.uk>.

The SLWP Defra case study document is enclosed for your information (pages 24 - 27).

2. **Bourne North Fen Ponds**

As a partner within the SLWP the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (LWT) are trying to raise the funds required to purchase some land (c50 Hectares) around the Boards pond in order to develop a new wet fenland wildlife site.

The Bourne North Fen Information pack is enclosed for your information (pages 28 - 38).

3. **Water Vole Surveys**

Committee approval is requested to continue to employ SNA to undertake further surveys for water vole evidence at the monitoring sites and on some sites prior to desilting and any significant capital works. In addition, post desilting surveys will be carried out following the works where water vole activity has been found to confirm whether or not our works have had any effect on these populations. Environmental mitigation works may be required should results give evidence of disturbance. Estimates at c£3,500.

4. **Winter Bushing and Cleansing**

Bushing works will commence in November along with the cleansing works, all bushes will be chipped onsite, all excavated silt will be deposited on adjacent fields, left to dry then spread and levelled across the adjacent land.

Where required water levels will be lowered by damming lengths of the water course and the water over-pumped, if fish are evident they will be carefully removed whilst the water is being lowered and transferred over the dams.

We have our own bushing budget outside of the Environment budget, fish relocation whilst cleansing is budgeted at £1,000.

5. **Summer Cutting and Vegetation Clearance**

The Boards summer cutting programme will commence on or around the 9th July, the mechanical flails will go out a few days beforehand in order to 'get in front' of the excavators. The workforce will be presented with a 'Summer Cutting Brief' which will cover channel management in relation to balancing the benefits of flood risk management, agriculture and the biodiversity values.

Where birds nests are encountered a minimum 10m length of bank will be left un-cut (5m each side of the nest).

6. **Owl Boxes**

Approval is sought to spend c£1,500 from the Environment budget on repairing/replacing existing boxes during 2018/19.

7. **Recording by Machine Drivers**

The eight machine drivers will continue to record sightings on the Tom-Tom units; environmental sightings such as badger or fox holes in banks, water vole, mink, eel, grass snake, frog and toad sightings along with other specialist environmental sighting will be recorded. All sighting information is passed onto the GLNP and in turn to the Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre (LERC).

8. **High Profile Watercourse Banks**

Early season flailing of Wyberton Marsh Drain, Washdyke Lane, NFF (Cooks Lock to Punchbowl Lane) and New Hammond Beck (Chain Bridge to Tesco) will continue to be carried out.

Other notable watercourses that have enhanced maintenance are Endeavour Park (12/4&5), Kirton Drainside North (5/30), Frampton Towns Drain from London Road to weir (5/1), Gosberton Risegate Eau (22/14), Bicker Eau through the village (4/67), and the Drain alongside the IDEA park at Donington (2/26).

A total of c67Km of high profile watercourse banks (generally our larger watercourses) have been identified that require additional late summer inspections to determine whether a second flail and/or cut is required.

9. **Water Levels**

Water levels will continue to be controlled via the Boards 34 pumping station and/or the gravity channels associated with them. The South Forty Foot Drain (SFF) water levels were raised to their summer levels by the EA in late March and will be lowered back to winter levels in November, this obviously affects the gravity flows from the catchments into the SFF. Water levels within the catchments will be held back where requested, this will help to enhance the biodiversity associated with the watercourses.

10. **Invasive Non- Native Species (INNS)**

The identification and eradication of INNS is important for the protection of our native species. INNS are expanding their population, often to the detriment of native species. Early identification of INNS is critical in the control of their spread, we propose to implement identification training for our workforce (budget c£2,000) to help achieve early identification and assist with removal.

INNS locations will be reported to the GLNP to help determine population trends and distribution.

We have a level of uncertainty regarding the number of Signal Crayfish within our catchment, future engagement and studies to be undertaken to determine numbers and possible solutions (budget £2,000) (pages 39 - 42) are extracts from an Eel Biocontrol of Crayfish for Flood Management presentation by Bethany Worley of Loughborough University presented to the Lincs ADA Branch meeting.

11. **Fens for the Future**

The Fens for the Future Vision is to see sustainable wetlands restored, re-created and reconnected across the Fens for the benefit of people, our natural and historic heritage and the rural economy.

Sustainable wetlands will help reduce storm effects, make available clean water and retain peat land soils so helping mitigate the effects of climate change, while at the same time offering a haven for wildlife, protecting our historic heritage and providing exciting areas for people to visit. Recreational access and tourism increases with more people taking exercise in the countryside. The diversity of the local economy widens and opportunities for employment in local communities are created.

The Fens for the Future Partnership Mission Statement is to make the Fens one of the main UK landscape scale wetland complexes by 2020, within a matrix of sustainable agriculture.

The Fens remain nationally important for modern productive farming. The provision for wildlife in the farmed landscape increases significantly with the uptake of environmentally friendly farming practices and sensitive ditch and drain management, thus creating a network of wildlife habitats extending throughout Fenland. The variety and abundance of farmland wildlife increases and iconic Fenland species thrive.

12. **Fly Swat Partner**

Approval is sought to continue being a partner with this scheme into 2019/20 using monies from the Environment budget (£2,641 for 2018/19 already paid).

13. **Big Boston Clean-Up**

Approval is sought to offer manual/vehicular assistance with the annual Big Boston Clean-Up organised by Boston Borough Council c£600

14. **Sand Martin Nesting Site**

Create a vertical sand bank that is soft enough for Sand Martins to burrow in, approximately 5m in length as a minimum and 1.5m in height as a minimum. Budget request of £3,000.

15. **South Lincolnshire Fenlands Partnership**

Associated with Fens for the Future, the Partnership covers part of our catchment north of the Bourne Eau and the River Glen. Recent developments held at meetings of the South Lincs Water Partnership could develop additional areas of fen wetland associated with water storage reservoirs.

16. **Grass Snake Nesting Sites**

Fence off areas at pumping station sites to create Grass Snake nesting sites, create heaps of vegetation from the weed from the watercourse, reeds, leaves, grass etc. (budget 4 x £300 per site).

17. **Wildflower Meadow**

To consider development of suitable sites for wildflower meadows (i.e. Cooks Lock field) (budget £1,500).

18. **Water Framework Directive (WFD)**

Discussions take place with the WFD Officers to regularly review the following:-

- What actions do we undertake within our maintenance regime that can affect the water quality within our catchments?
- What levels of water quality information do the EA hold?
- What longer term plans can we start to jointly investigate to further enhance our catchments working within the WFD guidelines?
- What records do the WFD hold on the EA main rivers?
- What funding is there available to assist with future enhancements works?

19. **Bug Hotel**

Create a bug hotel alongside the pond in front of the offices, comprising of stacking old pallets and filling with logs, twigs, leaves, bricks and bark. Budget request c£500. If budgets allow to also create bug hotels at pumping station sites.

20. **The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership**

The Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site (WNNC EMS) management scheme has been running since 2002 with the aim to safeguard marine wildlife and habitats designated under EU and UK law, while encouraging sustainable use of the European marine site.

The organisation went through a rebranding phase in 2017 changing its name to The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership.

Being one of the relevant authorities (£400 per annum) involved we have a statutory duty under the UK Habitats Regulations to report on progress against the management actions on an annual basis, and the information is presented in the Action Plan.

We report on subjects such as land drainage, shoreline management (if applicable), coastal oil spills, water framework directives, chemical weed control, non-native invasive species and water abstraction.

Wild Sea Week will be taking place between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of August this year. Please visit their web site for more information at <http://wnnmp.co.uk/journal/>.

You can also follow the partnership on various social media sites including:-

Twitter <https://twitter.com/wnnmp>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/WNNMP/>

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/wnnmp/>

The week will consist of various attractions and interactions some of which are listed below:-

- (a) Saltmarsh Nature and Culture
  - Events on the benefits and values of saltmarsh including flood protection, grazing, bird watching, wildfowling etc etc etc
  - Tied into the research project on natural capital and ecosystem services provision of The Wash and North Norfolk coast saltmarsh that I'm currently undertaking with the University of Hull
- (b) Marine Litter
  - It would be fantastic to coordinate beach cleans through The Wash and North Norfolk coast via Wash Week
  - Plus there are great litter initiatives around the UK coast that we can use and promote via Wash Week
- (c) Reserve Seafood
  - It would be great to move forward with the link between catering colleges, reserve seafood, fisheries management and fishermen
  - Wildfowling would fit well here along with other local seafood ideas
- (d) Recreation
  - Promotion of best practise for recreation along the coast
- (e) Local people, local interests
  - This is a community coastal interest theme and is quite broad and can include marine and coastal natural and cultural heritage interests
- (f) Art and photography
  - The photo competition would fit in here
  - I am hoping to engage some local artists to run sessions along the coast too. Ideas welcome

For those that may be interested the next full board meeting for The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership will be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2018 at the Water Management Alliance Offices in King's Lynn from 1000 to 1300.

The UK government has gone out to consultation for the third tranche of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) as part of the UK's Blue Belt Programme. The consultation seeks your views on the proposals to designate 41 new MCZs and to add new features for conservation in 12 existing MCZs.

Please use the link below to find out more and have your say. The closing date for consultation is the 20<sup>th</sup> of July.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-leading-blue-belt-expands-as-new-marine-protections-revealed--2>



21. **Heckington Show 28-29 July 2018**

The Lincolnshire ADA Branch Show Committee will have a stand at this year's show featuring amongst other things the work Lincolnshire Boards do to help improve the environment, please visit the stand if you are attending and introduce yourself as a BSIDB Environment Committee member.

22. **Gulf Wedged Clam (Rangia)**

The comments below have been received from Emma Holden, Environmental Monitoring Officer, Analysis and Reporting (Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire Area)

From our surveying thus far we believe Rangia is only currently present in the South Forty Foot Drain (SFFD) from the Skerth Drain confluence to the Black Sluice Lock where the SFFD joins the River Haven. We have surveyed locations in the neighbouring rivers/drains as well as looking in a few locations in the Welland and Nene but have not seen any evidence that Rangia are currently anywhere else.

We had a meeting to discuss the possibility of using BioBullets to eradicate Rangia within the SFFD and are awaiting a response to costs involved with setting up a trial to see if BioBullets would be successful in doing this. It was also highlighted that extra monitoring may be needed around the country to ensure Rangia is not present elsewhere, as if Rangia is present in other areas then it may not be plausible to spend money on eradication in the SFFD. If this monitoring can be done and does demonstrate Rangia is only known to be in the SFFD then it would be likely that eradication using BioBullets would take place, presuming BioBullets are successful in the trial lab tests and obviously taking into account costs (both monetary and environmental).

23. **Operation Galileo**

The Chief Executive has attended various Operation Galileo update meeting held by the Lincolnshire Police and the National Farmers Union (NFU), BSIDB support and assist the police with their action plans (**pages 43 - 46**).

24. **Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Target Works**

Works identified for 2018/19 are:-

- Review BSIDB BAP in preparation for next year's meeting (May 2019).

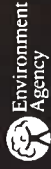
# NEW GUIDANCE ON FISH AND EEL PASSAGE SOLUTIONS AT FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

Major barriers to fish and eel migration increase mortality and injury so it is vital to ensure they have safe passage for their long term sustainability.

The Environment Agency is collaborating with AECOM and a research team comprising THA Aquatic Ltd and Hull International Fisheries Institute (HIFI) to:

“Develop a new guide and supporting tools which synthesise existing research, guidance and practical experience to help the planning / appraisal, design, construction and maintenance of fish and eel screens, deterrents, passes and fish-passible pumps.”

AECOM



## BUILDING ON WHAT WE KNOW

This new guide will build on existing guidance such as the Eel Manual to provide much needed updated advice on choosing appropriate passage and deterrent measures in a range of situations based on the options available, expected performance and whole-life costs.

To achieve this, it will synthesise recent experience and good practice gained in planning, installing and maintaining passage and deterrent measures at land drainage and flood risk management structures. This includes pumping stations, weirs, locks, sluices and tidal outfalls across the UK and abroad.

The guide will also capture the latest scientific research, including field trials by HIFI and the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), providing valuable insights into eel behaviour and passage / deterrent performance at pumping stations.



## PRACTITIONER-LED APPROACH

Production of the new guide is being guided by a Project Advisory Panel comprising end-user representatives from organisations such as the Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, Internal Drainage Boards, Lead Local Authorities and Natural England.

### The new guide is being developed through:

- Review of guidance currently available in the UK and internationally
- Desk study assessment of recent research on passage and deterrent measures
- Workshop with both practitioners and fisheries scientists to identify key issues, questions and information needs
- Gap analysis between information needs and currently available guidance
- Site visits and interviews with those responsible for managing structures
- Detailed case studies on the selection of optimal deterrent and passage measures and funding mechanisms
- Development of an intuitive Decision Support Tool (DST) to help practitioners identify the most suitable option
- Workshop to help ensure the new guide is user-friendly



## TIMETABLE

Work on producing the new guide started in November 2016 and is due to be completed and disseminated by spring 2018.



## WHO IS THE NEW GUIDE FOR?

The primary audience of the new guide will be the flood risk management authorities (FRMAs). It will cover both the development of new flood risk management and land drainage structures as well as modification of existing structures in both inland and coastal settings.

It will also be relevant to anyone interested in passage and deterrent measures, especially as it is intended to help link fisheries science with practical implementation.



## PROGRESS TO DATE

To date the following have been undertaken as part of the study:

- Project initiation workshop, held in February 2017 and attended by a range of organisations
- Detailed literature review
- Visits of 50 sites across the UK and the Netherlands
- Interviews with around 50 practitioners, suppliers and technical specialists
- Review of costings of passage solutions at more than 100 sites in order to develop relationships that will inform the cost benefit aspects of the DST
- Derivation of case studies showing good practice, lessons learnt and illustrating how to navigate through available guidance
- Development of the draft DST

## GET INVOLVED!

The DST will help users identify suitable fish passage options at their site and provide evidence of business cases. Now that we have developed a draft DST we would like to present this to you and would welcome your feedback on the tool itself.

To do this we invite you to attend our "User Testing Workshop" on the 18th July in Central London (from 10 a.m./venue tbc). There will also be an opportunity to feedback on the proposed structure of the upcoming Guide itself.

If you would like to attend the User Testing Workshop please don't hesitate to contact:

Omar Sholi  
Principal Water Scientist, AECOM  
omar.sholi@aecom.com

Owen Tarrant

Principal Research Scientist, Flood & Coastal Risk Management Research, Environment Agency  
owen.tarrant@environment-agency.gov.uk

## South Lincolnshire Water Partnership (SLWP)

### Top level narrative

SLWP demonstrates an integrated approach to sustainable rural development in a relatively deprived area where water supply, drought and flood risk are constraints on economic development. Stakeholders have come together to develop innovative strategies for increasing resilience, while simultaneously enhancing the natural capital that underpins much of the local food, farming and visitor economies. SWLP is leading the way in terms of collaboration between stakeholders, addressing issues related to rural deprivation and the use of leading edge decision-support tools for exploring the relationship between water resources, ecosystem services and economic growth.

### Background

#### What is the South Lincolnshire Water Partnership (SLWP)?

The SLWP is a group of organisations who are collaborating to plan the management and use of water resources in the South Lincolnshire Fens and adjacent areas.

The South Lincolnshire Fens is highly productive, with large areas of Grade 1 and 2 agricultural soils supporting high value crops that require access to water. The farming industry is innovating through technology and recognises the need to secure the natural resources that underpin it, including the rich soils of silts and peats, as well as helping minimise water quality and quantity impacts. To the west is a limestone ridge where the streams pass down into the Fens and water flows out to the east into one of the most important wildlife sites in the UK, The Wash. There are significant flood risks in the area from the sea, rivers and drains. There is limited 'natural' fen habitat but there are examples of highly successful recreated Fens that support wildlife, and are significantly helping to grow the visitor economy. Historically water has been managed to flow out of the area as fast as possible, however recent endeavours have seen this flow being slowed to support growth in water bourne navigational tourism with the aim of linking 3 major cathedral cities of Lincoln, Peterborough and Ely. The area also supports the aggregates industry that underpins housing growth.

The community is diverse for a rural area, and has a passion for nature, innovation, its farming and drainage history, as illustrated by investments in a food technology college and water taxis nearby, and the backing for a new Nature Improvement Area that will help inform an ecosystem approach to development and growth in the area.

#### Why is water management a key focus for South Lincolnshire?

With an average annual total of 620 mm/year, the East of England receives the same amount of rainfall as Cape Town and is the driest part of the UK. Outside of London and the South East, it is also the fastest growing. Agriculture, technology, manufacturing, the environment and tourism are all key elements of the economy while the region contains three of the five fastest growing UK cities – Cambridge, Milton Keynes and Peterborough. Over the period 2010-15, total GVA growth in the region was equivalent to 18.7%<sup>1</sup>.

Over 12% of the UK food supply is produced and processed in the Greater Lincolnshire area, in an industry which employs 75,000 people and is worth £2.5bn per annum. Tourism and the visitor economy are worth a further £1.9bn per annum and support an additional 39,000 jobs.

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<sup>1</sup> "Regional and local economic growth statistics" House of Commons Library, Briefing Paper Number 05795, December 2016

Over the next 25-years, the population in the East of England is projected to grow by more than 900,000, while climate change will reduce water supply by more than 80 Ml/d, equivalent to the volume of water which is supplied to Norwich on a peak day. Action to restore abstraction to more sustainable levels will further reduce supplies, while severe drought will exacerbate the effect of any shortage. At the same time, periodic disruption and loss is expected from severe flooding. Future success depends on providing enough water for people and business, while simultaneously reducing flood risk and protecting the environment.

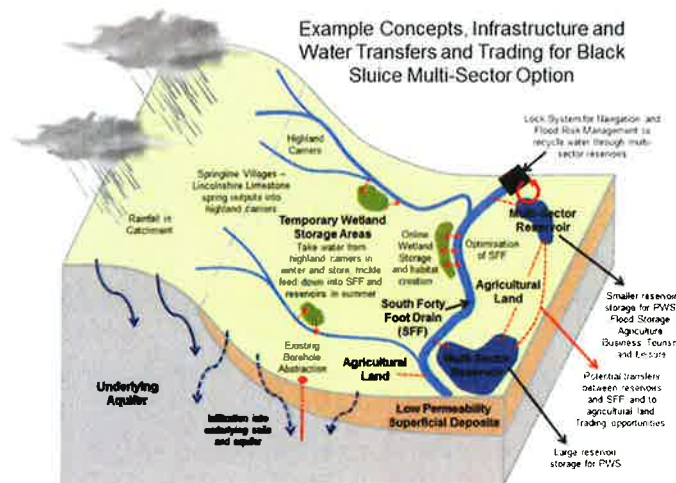
The Greater Lincolnshire LEP area is relatively deprived, ranked 11<sup>th</sup> out of 39 in terms of the 2015 DCLG Index of Multiple Deprivation with levels of unemployment and low income at approximately 10%. Within South Lincolnshire, Boston ranks in the bottom 20% of local authority areas in England.

Access to water and flood risk management are key constraints on economic growth so the Great Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Council (LEP) was the first LEP to have a water management plan.

What is the SLWP doing?

The SLWP is developing an Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) plan for South Lincolnshire. The plan will ensure there is sufficient water to support growth in the local and regional economy, as well as meet the needs of the environment and reduce the threat from severe flooding. Increasing resilience to drought, flooding and the longer terms effects of growth and climate change are key objectives of the plan, as is protecting and restoring fenland, riparian and in-stream habitat.

A holistic approach, encompassing all elements of the hydrological cycle, will be used to achieve these objectives.



Shared responsibility; shared delivery; shared costs leading to a greater collective impact with more effective and efficient use of resources, reducing the burden on the public and improving the quality of life now and in the future.

Successfully implementing the IWRM plan will deliver integrated, multi-sector wins for public water supply, farming and UK sourced food security, flood risk management, water quality improvements, good peat and wider soils husbandry, building the visitor economy, and enhancing the natural environment and the ecological systems that underpin a vibrant community.

Who is involved?

Partners include Anglian Water Services, Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board (IDB), the Environment Agency, the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Council (LEP), the Fenland Agricultural Water Group, Lincolnshire County Council, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, the National Farmers Union, Natural England, the South Lincolnshire Fenland Partnership and the Welland and Deepings IDB. The early work of the SLWP was sponsored by the Water Resource East (WRE) project; a regional multi-sector, multi-company strategic water resource planning initiative.

What projects is the SLWP involved with?

Increasing water storage in the fenland catchments and re-engineering some of the artificial drainage for navigation and habitat creation are key elements of the IWRM concept developed by the Partnership (see below):

Other initiatives being considered include:

- Funding and development of multi-sector assets, including storage reservoirs: alternative ownership and trading models are in the process of being developed.
- Water trading: including trading of groundwater resources between the public water supply, environment and agriculture sectors as the flagship pilot of water abstraction reform, and
- Trading of ecosystem services: including for improving water quality as well as the volume and reliability of flow under drought and other water stressed conditions. Ecosystem services trading may be between the flood risk management, farming and environment sectors or between each of these and the public water supply or tourism and leisure sectors.

A bi-lateral model is being developed to identify work in the project area that can be included in the IWRM program. Using this, funding and delivery can be coordinated and each project can be scoped to ensure that it delivers outputs that are aligned with the objectives of the IWRM plan:

	Public Water Supply	Farming	Environment	Flood Risk Management	Tourism and Leisure
Public Water Supply		Water quality (catchment) management and water trading	Wetland restoration and water quality management	Surface water transfers for reservoir refill	Fishing, sailing and other activities
Farming	PWS reservoir development		Wetland restoration and water trading	Water transfers and trading	
Environment	PWS reservoir development	Lagoons and water trading		Water transfers and trading	Wildlife reserves
Flood Risk Management	PWS reservoir development		Wetland storage		
Tourism and Leisure	PWS reservoir development		In-stream and riparian habitat restoration	Drainage modification for navigation	

Bi-lateral matrix for identifying SLWP IWRM projects and the principal project sponsors

What are the next steps?

Next steps for the SLWP are to publish a draft of the SLWP IWRM plan. This is expected in December 2017 and will give a prioritised list of the SLWP IWRM projects. These will be for delivery in the short, medium and long-term. Priorities include:

- Projects that can easily be modified to deliver benefits for multiple sectors (see below)
- “Quick wins” – projects that can be delivered relatively quickly, building trust and the capacity for partnership working, and
- Collaborative projects which are more cost-effective than the equivalent single-sector alternatives

Once the scope of the SLWP IWRM project is understood, work will progress to develop formal Governance for coordinating and funding project delivery.



IDB silt lagoon: in future, a series of shallow multi-purpose lagoons could be used to provide water for farming and wildlife, increasing the resilience of businesses and the environment to drought and climate change.



## **BOURNE NORTH FEN, SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE**

**An opportunity to change perceptions and make a generational shift  
to a different approach**

**Information Pack supporting Land Purchase Funding Support**

**January 2018**



## **Contents**

1. South Lincolnshire Water Partnership: Defra 25 Year Environment Plan Case Study
2. Introduction to Bourne North Fen Proposed Project – brief summary and diagrams

## **Acknowledgements**

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust would like to acknowledge the time given by the current land owner of Bourne North Fen through 2017 to helping take this proposal forward, for allowing access for baseline ecological surveys to take place and allowing access for the valuation of the site by land agents, Brown & Co.

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust has been working closely with all the organisations within the South Lincolnshire Water Partnership and acknowledges their support and willingness to try another way together. Particular thanks to Anglian Water team for the enabling the opportunity to work with them on the case study enclosed in this pack for the Defra 25 Year Environment Plan, and for the resourcing so far of Water Resource East and the South Lincolnshire Water Partnership. Thanks to the Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board for hosting the South Lincolnshire meetings and workshops, and to the technical support Wild Planet Associates have given to the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust in developing the Bourne North Fen proposal and undertaking years of work on the hydrology and potential of the South Lincolnshire Fens.

Copyright of the images within this pack belongs either to Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Anglian Water or Wild Planet Associates as contractors to Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.

Please contact Tammy Marie Smalley, Head of Conservation, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust with any queries in regards to the content of this information pack.

Email: [tsmalley@lincstrust.co.uk](mailto:tsmalley@lincstrust.co.uk)

Phone: 01507 526667



# 1. South Lincolnshire Water Partnership (SLWP)

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### What is the South Lincolnshire Water Partnership (SLWP)?

The SLWP is a group of organisations who are collaborating to plan the management and use of water resources in the South Lincolnshire Fens and adjacent areas.

The South Lincolnshire Fens is highly productive, with large areas of Grade 1 and 2 agricultural soils supporting high value crops that require access to water. The farming industry is innovating through technology and recognises the need to secure the natural resources that underpin it, including the rich soils of silts and peats, as well as helping minimise water quality and quantity impacts. To the west is a limestone ridge where the streams pass down into the Fens and water flows out to the east into one of the most important wildlife sites in the UK, The Wash. There are significant flood risks in the area from the sea, rivers and drains. There is limited 'natural' fen habitat but there are examples of highly successful recreated Fens that support wildlife, and are significantly helping to grow the visitor economy. Historically water has been managed to flow out of the area as fast as possible, however recent endeavours have seen this flow being slowed to support growth in water bourne navigational tourism with the aim of linking 3 major cathedral cities of Lincoln, Peterborough and Ely. The area also supports the aggregates industry that underpins housing growth.

The community is diverse for a rural area, and has a passion for nature, innovation, its farming and drainage history, as illustrated by investments in a food technology college and water taxis nearby, and the backing for a new Nature Improvement Area that will help inform an ecosystem approach to development and growth in the area.

### Why is water management a key focus for South Lincolnshire?

With an average annual total of 620 mm/year, the East of England receives the same amount of rainfall as Cape Town and is the driest part of the UK. Outside of London and the South East, it is also the fastest growing. Agriculture, technology, manufacturing, the environment and tourism are all key elements of the economy while the region contains three of the five fastest growing UK cities – Cambridge, Milton Keynes and Peterborough. Over the period 2010-15, total GVA growth in the region was equivalent to 18.7%<sup>1</sup>.

Over 12% of the UK food supply is produced and processed in the Greater Lincolnshire area, in an industry which employs 75,000 people and is worth £2.5bn per annum. Tourism and the visitor economy are worth a further £1.9bn per annum and support an additional 39,000 jobs.

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<sup>1</sup> "Regional and local economic growth statistics" House of Commons Library, Briefing Paper Number 05795, December 2016

Over the next 25-years, the population in the East of England is projected to grow by more than 900,000, while climate change will reduce water supply by more than 80 Ml/d, equivalent to the volume of water which is supplied to Norwich on a peak day. Action to restore abstraction to more sustainable levels will further reduce supplies, while severe drought will exacerbate the effect of any shortage. At the same time, periodic disruption and loss is expected from severe flooding. Future success depends on providing enough water for people and business, while simultaneously reducing flood risk and protecting the environment.

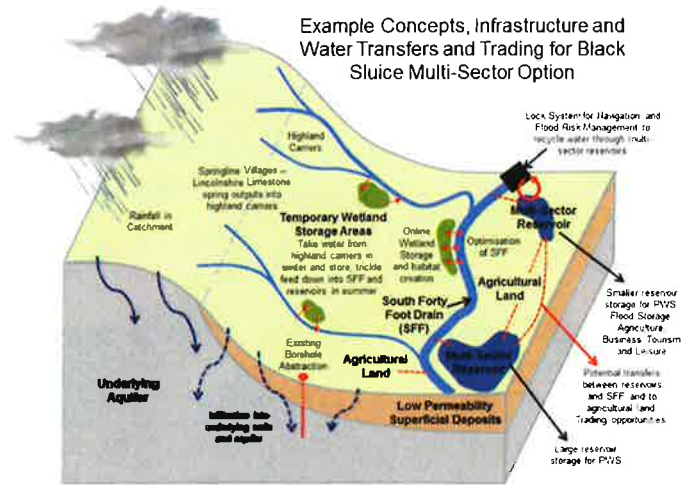
The Greater Lincolnshire LEP area is relatively deprived, ranked 11<sup>th</sup> out of 39 in terms of the 2015 DCLG Index of Multiple Deprivation with levels of unemployment and low income at approximately 10%. Within South Lincolnshire, Boston ranks in the bottom 20% of local authority areas in England.

Access to water and flood risk management are key constraints on economic growth so the Great Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Council (LEP) was the first LEP to have a water management plan.

What is the SLWP doing?

The SLWP is developing an Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) plan for South Lincolnshire. The plan will ensure there is sufficient water to support growth in the local and regional economy, as well as meet the needs of the environment and reduce the threat from severe flooding. Increasing resilience to drought, flooding and the longer terms effects of growth and climate change are key objectives of the plan, as is protecting and restoring fenland, riparian and in-stream habitat.

A holistic approach, encompassing all elements of the hydrological cycle, will be used to achieve these objectives.



Shared responsibility; shared delivery; shared costs leading to a greater collective impact with more effective and efficient use of resources, reducing the burden on the public and improving the quality of life now and in the future.

Successfully implementing the IWRM plan will deliver integrated, multi-sector wins for public water supply, farming and UK sourced food security, flood risk management, water quality improvements, good peat and wider soils husbandry, building the visitor economy, and enhancing the natural environment and the ecological systems that underpin a vibrant community.

Who is involved?

Partners include Anglian Water Services, Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board (IDB), the Environment Agency, the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Council (LEP), the Fenland Agricultural Water Group, Lincolnshire County Council, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, the National Farmers Union, Natural England, the South Lincolnshire Fenland Partnership and the Welland and Deepings IDB. The early work of the SLWP was sponsored by the Water Resource East (WRE) project; a regional multi-sector, multi-company strategic water resource planning initiative.

What projects is the SLWP involved with?

Increasing water storage in the fenland catchments and re-engineering some of the artificial drainage for navigation and habitat creation are key elements of the IWRM concept developed by the Partnership (see below):

Other initiatives being considered include:

- Funding and development of multi-sector assets, including storage reservoirs: alternative ownership and trading models are in the process of being developed.
- Water trading: including trading of groundwater resources between the public water supply, environment and agriculture sectors as the flagship pilot of water abstraction reform, and
- Trading of ecosystem services: including for improving water quality as well as the volume and reliability of flow under drought and other water stressed conditions. Ecosystem services trading may be between the flood risk management, farming and environment sectors or between each of these and the public water supply or tourism and leisure sectors.

A bi-lateral model is being developed to identify work in the project area that can be included in the IWRM program. Using this, funding and delivery can be coordinated and each project can be scoped to ensure that it delivers outputs that are aligned with the objectives of the IWRM plan:

	Public Water Supply	Farming	Environment	Flood Risk Management	Tourism and Leisure
Public Water Supply		Water quality (catchment) management and water trading	Wetland restoration and water quality management	Surface water transfers for reservoir refill	Fishing, sailing and other activities
Farming	PWS reservoir development		Wetland restoration and water trading	Water transfers and trading	
Environment	PWS reservoir development	Lagoons and water trading		Water transfers and trading	Wildlife reserves
Flood Risk Management	PWS reservoir development		Wetland storage		
Tourism and Leisure	PWS reservoir development		In-stream and riparian habitat restoration	Drainage modification for navigation	

Bi-lateral matrix for identifying SLWP IWRM projects and the principal project sponsors

What are the next steps?

Next steps for the SLWP are to publish a draft of the SLWP IWRM plan. This is expected in December 2017 and will give a prioritised list of the SLWP IWRM projects. These will be for delivery in the short, medium and long-term. Priorities include:

- Projects that can easily be modified to deliver benefits for multiple sectors (see below)
- “Quick wins” – projects that can be delivered relatively quickly, building trust and the capacity for partnership working, and
- Collaborative projects which are more cost-effective than the equivalent single-sector alternatives

Once the scope of the SLWP IWRM project is understood, work will progress to develop formal Governance for coordinating and funding project delivery.



IDB silt lagoon: in future, a series of shallow multi-purpose lagoons could be used to provide water for farming and wildlife, increasing the resilience of businesses and the environment to drought and climate change.

## 2. Introduction to the Bourne North Fen, South Lincolnshire Proposed Project

Project Title	South Lincolnshire Fenland Storage & Transfer Reservoir: Pilot Project
Lead Partner	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
Project Location	Bourne North Fen, South Lincolnshire Fens
Project Summary	<p>Developing new water management tools and a sustainable approach to integrated catchment water management: meeting the needs of multiple water users and delivering multiple benefits.</p> <p>The capture, storage and transfer reservoir pilot will develop, trial and evaluate water management regimes and partnership working at the catchment, and multiple catchment level.</p> <p>Outline targets: increasing South Lincolnshire's fenland habitats by 30%; capture and storage capacity 2-400,000m<sup>3</sup>; transfer potential 1-4 million m<sup>3</sup>; water quality improvements 1-4 million m<sup>3</sup>; potentially providing some flood risk alleviation to Surfleet via whole catchment approach at times of event recognising relates to tidal surges too; testing &amp; developing multiple partnership working and protocols.</p>
Project Funding	<p>Land purchase: £1 to 1.1 million</p> <p>Site development: £1 to 2 million dependent on the scale of capital works and evaluation / scale of outcome targets / demands</p>
SLWP Priority	High
Comments	<p>Initial assessment of the Project's costs and benefits at the base-level outline targets and outcomes (see above) are largely 'knowns,' there are however, a number of 'unknowns' at the higher level. There are no other similar national equivalents or trials of this scale elsewhere. Although at a moderate scale, this project will be able to test, inform and develop sustainable water management tools and techniques for wider 'whole catchment' use, and therefore is potentially relevant to improved water management at a national level.</p>



## Brief overview

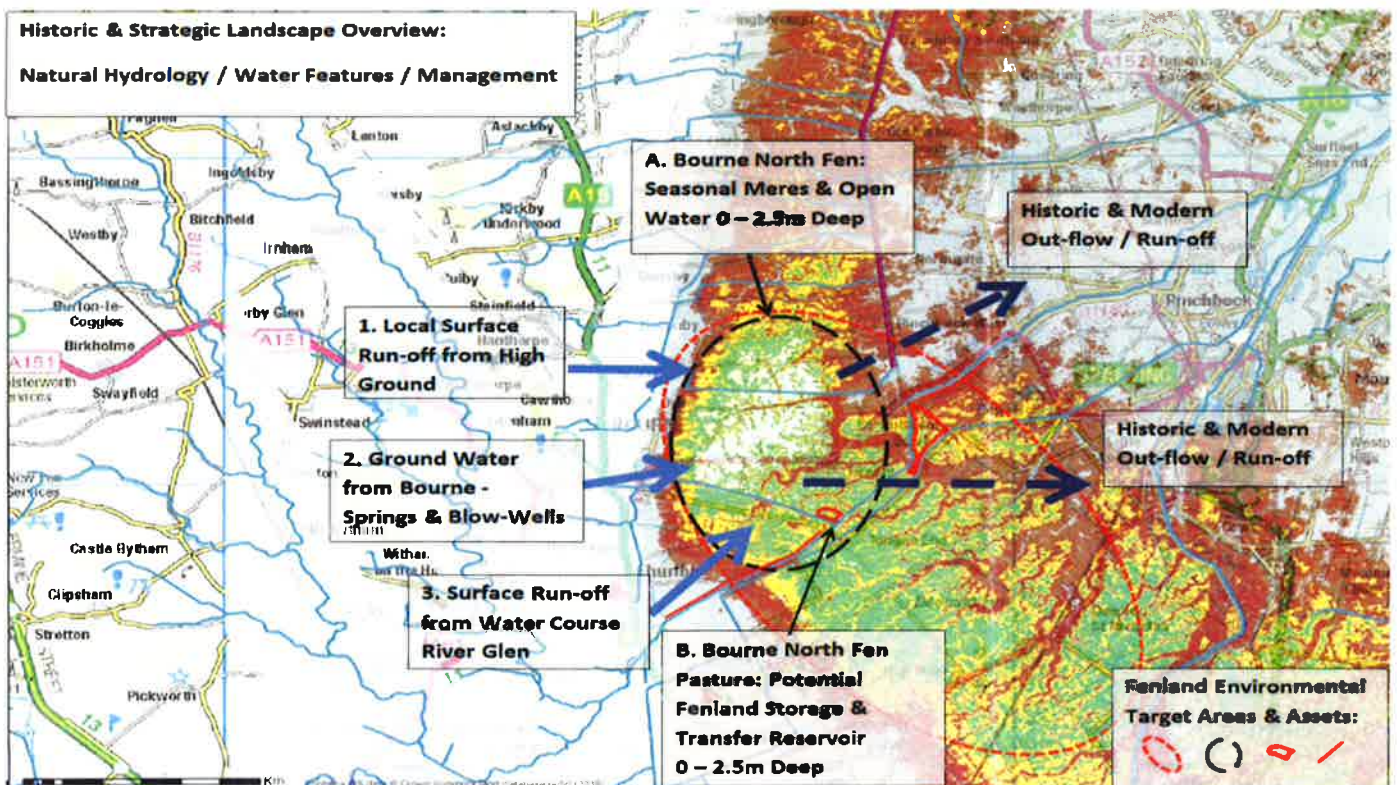
- Purchase of 50+ hectares at confluence of the Rivers Bourne Eau & Glen to create a water storage and transfer reservoir
- Purchase: £1-1.1 million
- Initial capital works: £1-2 million
- Lead organisation and proposed governance: LWT with the South Lincolnshire Water Partnership within the context of Water Resource East

## Aims & outcomes

- Developing new water management tools and a sustainable approach to integrated catchment water management
- Meeting the needs of multiple water users and delivering multiple benefits
- Piloting a capture, storage and transfer reservoir which will develop, trial and evaluate water management regimes and partnership working at the catchment, and multiple catchment level

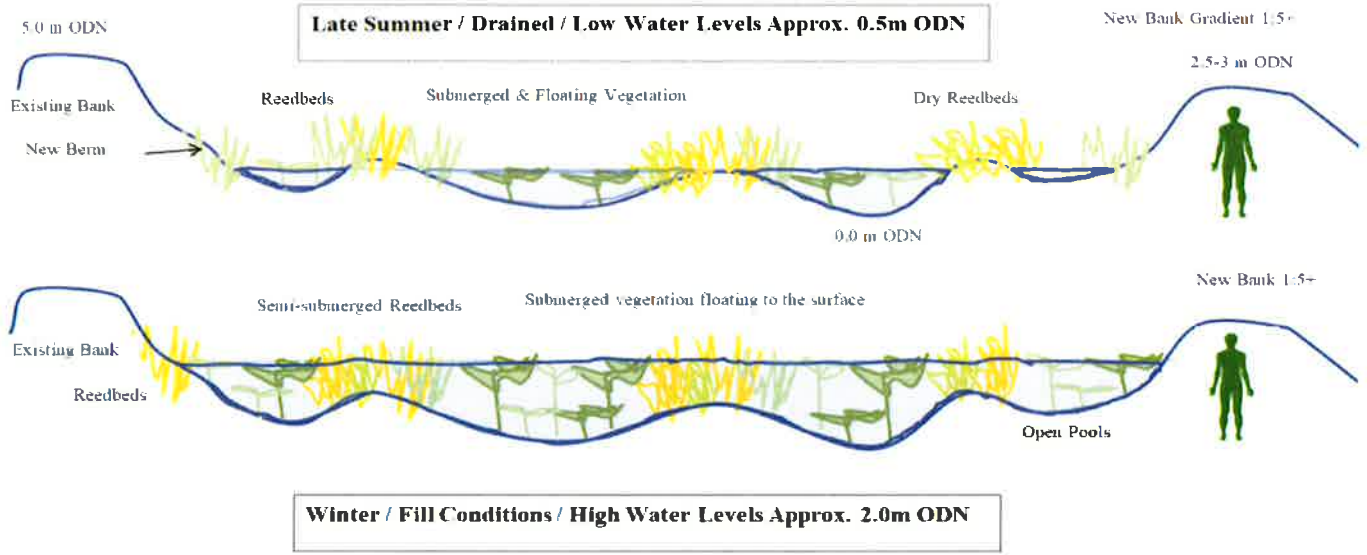
## Outline targets

- Increasing South Lincolnshire's fenland habitats by 30%
- capture & storage capacity 2-400,000m<sup>3</sup> (potential 1Mm<sup>3</sup> @ 2.5m AOD)
- transfer potential 1-4 million m<sup>3</sup>
- water quality improvements 1-4 million m<sup>3</sup>
- potentially providing flood risk benefits in the area
- testing & developing multiple partnership working and protocols including funding and investment strategies

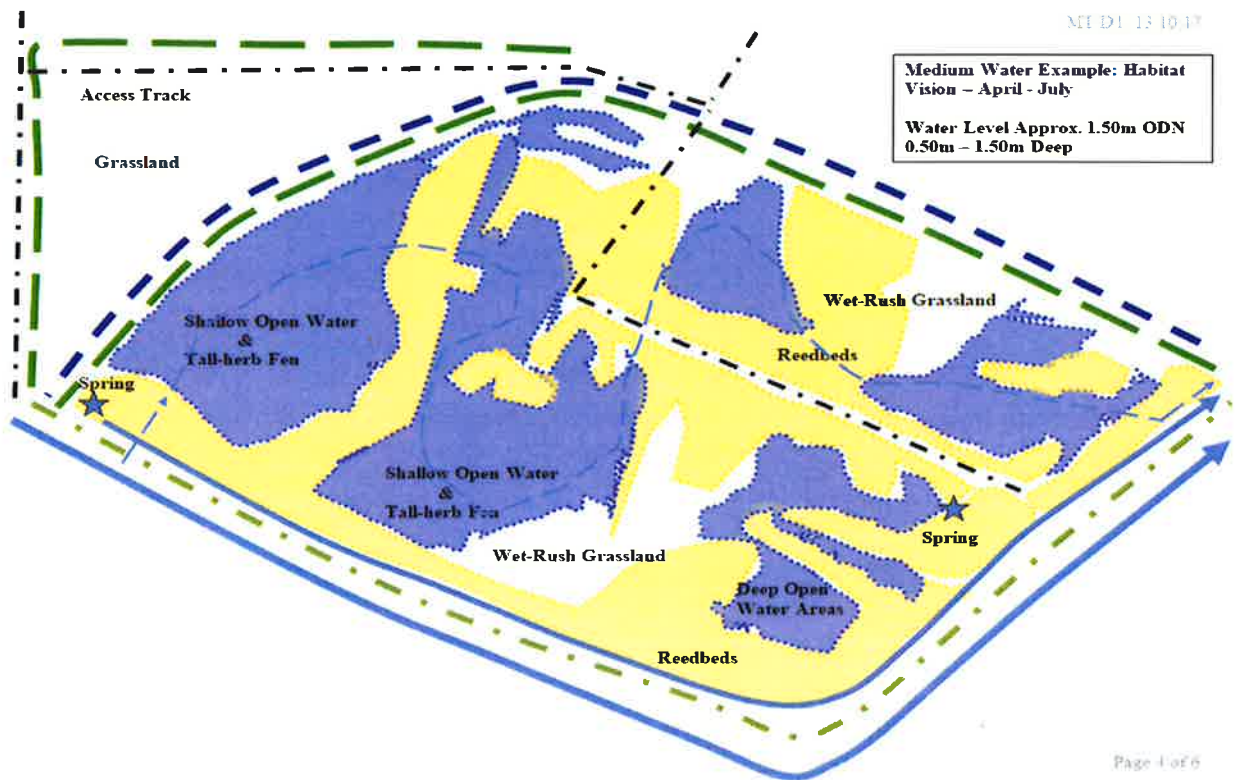


**Bourne North Fenland Reservoir Cross Section Summer & Winter - Not to scale**

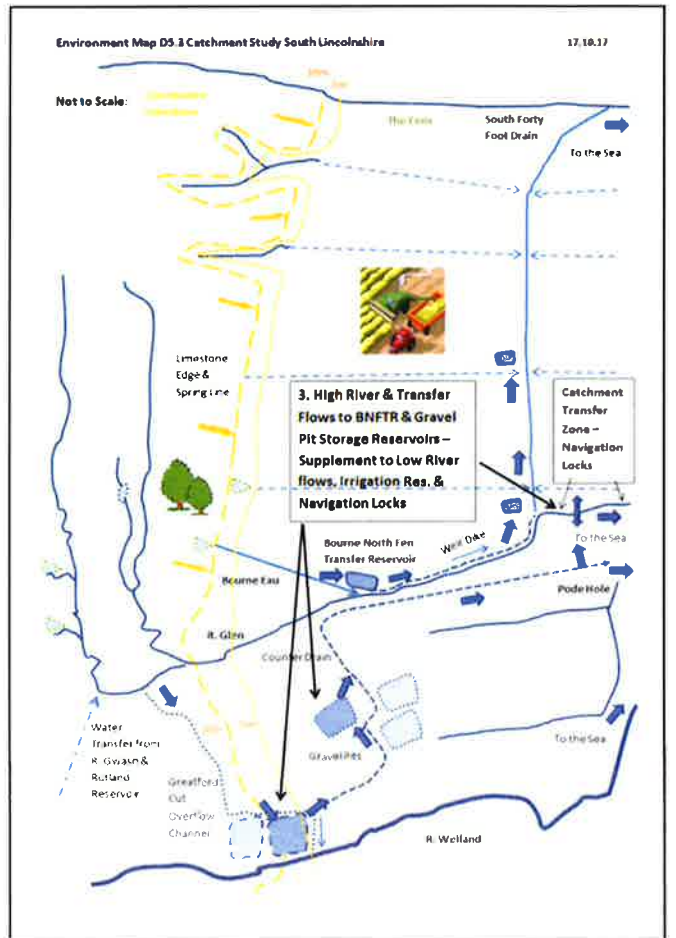
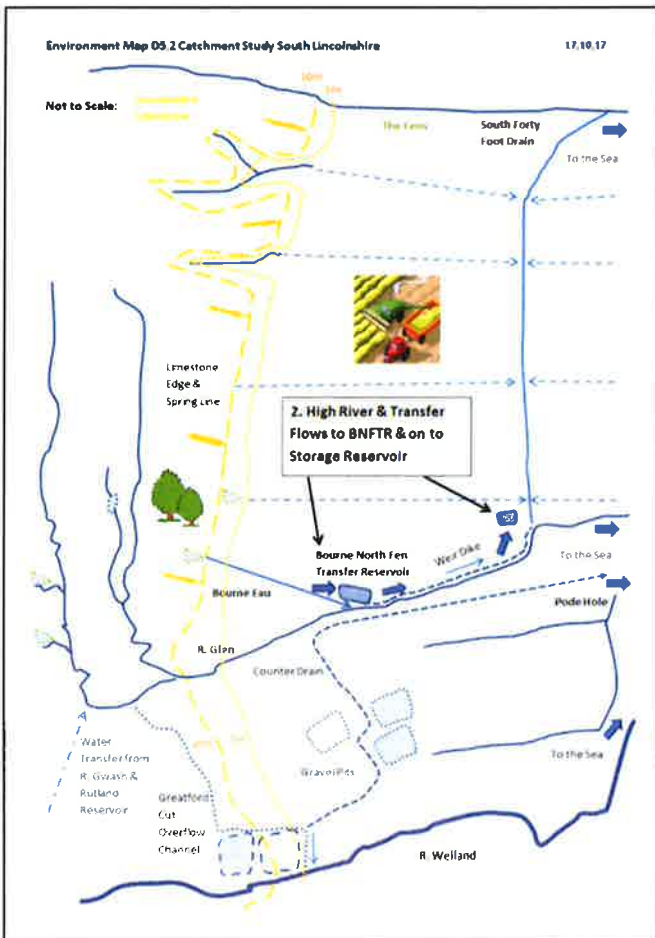
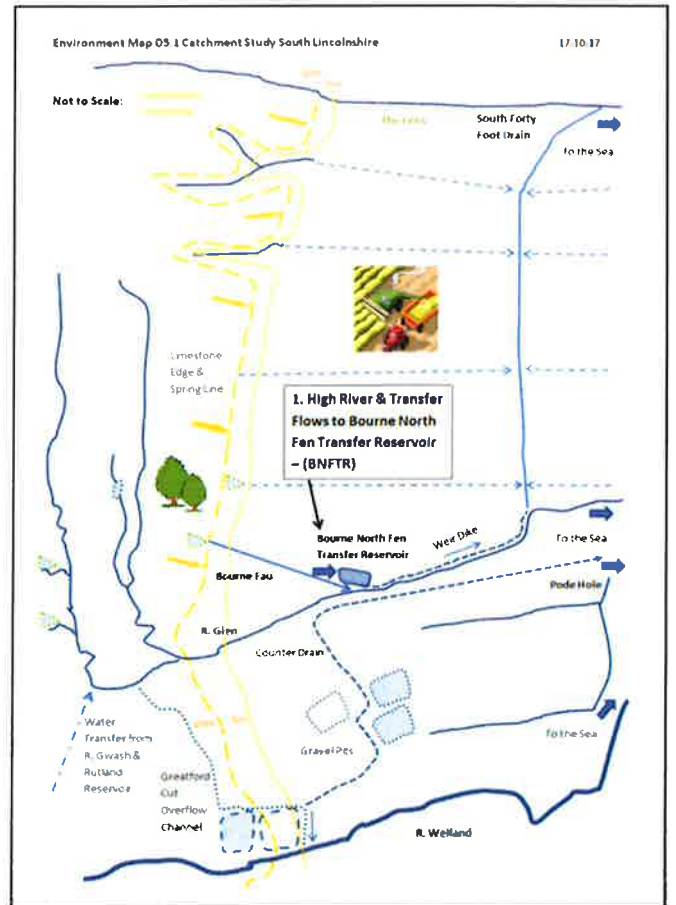
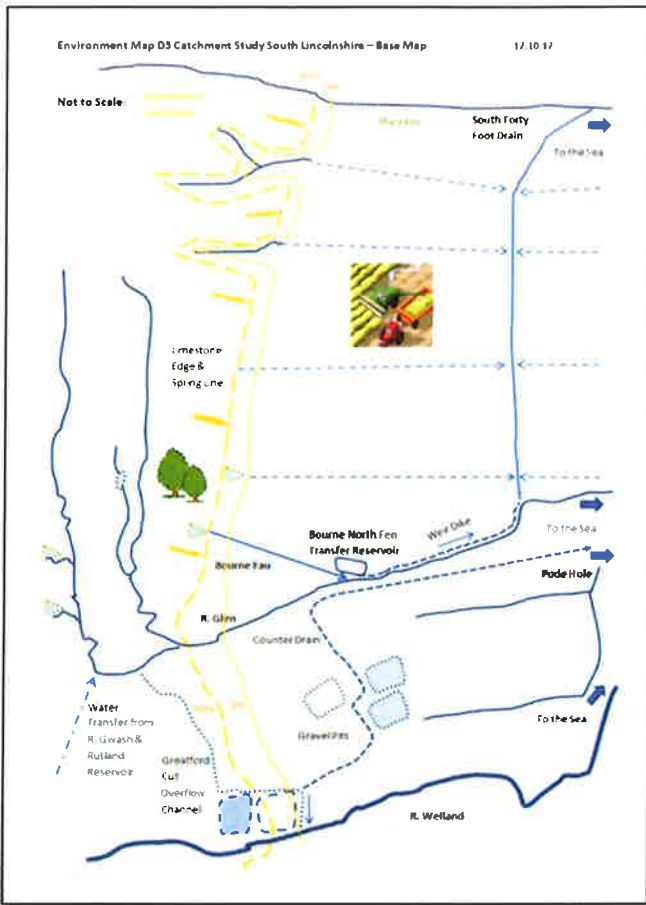
**Water Level & Aquatic Vegetation Management:** Mimicking historical seasonal water levels and vegetation communities (existing & historical)  
**Open Water:** Water Crowfoots sp. e.g. Thread-leaved *Ranunculus trichophyllus*, Water Dropwort's *Oenanthe* sp. Common Club-Rush *Schoenoplectus lacustris*, Water Violet *Hottonia palustris*, Stonewort's *Chara* sp.  
**Open Water - Water Margins:** Inc. Extensive reedbed / tall-herb fen /swamp habitats - NVC S24 Common Reed *Phragmites australis* & Milk Parsley *Peucedanum palustre* - see below (& Greater Water-Parsnip *Sium latifolium*) S25 *P. australis* & *Angelica sylvestris* Hemip. Agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum*  
**Potential Reintroduction of County Extinct Sp.:** Saw-sedge *Cladium mariscus* (1932 Tattershall Cox), Cowbane *Cicuta virosa* (1838 Bourne Dodsworth), Milk Parsley *Peucedanum palustre* (1949 Waddingham Gibbons)

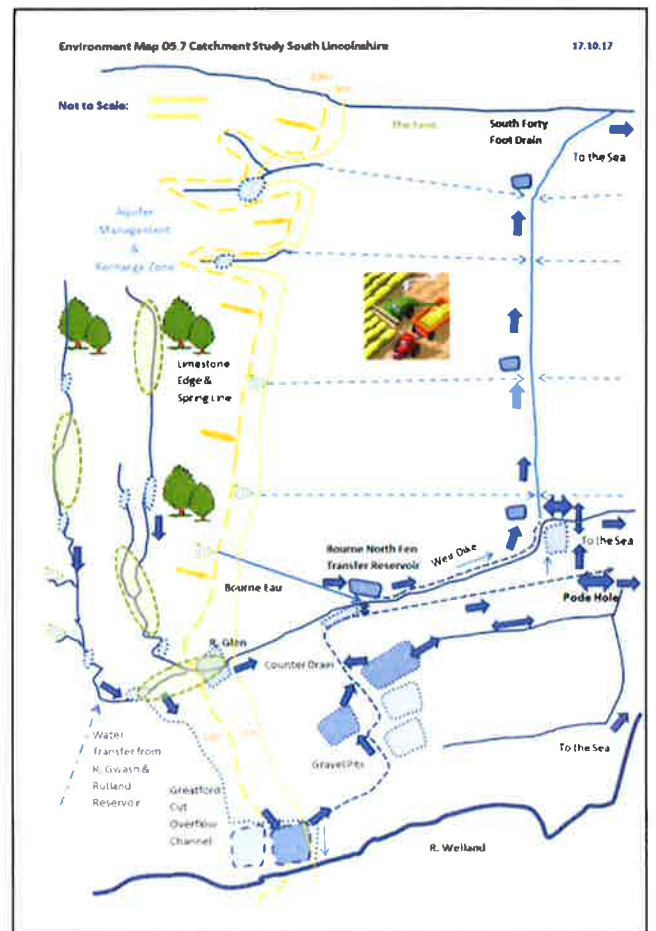
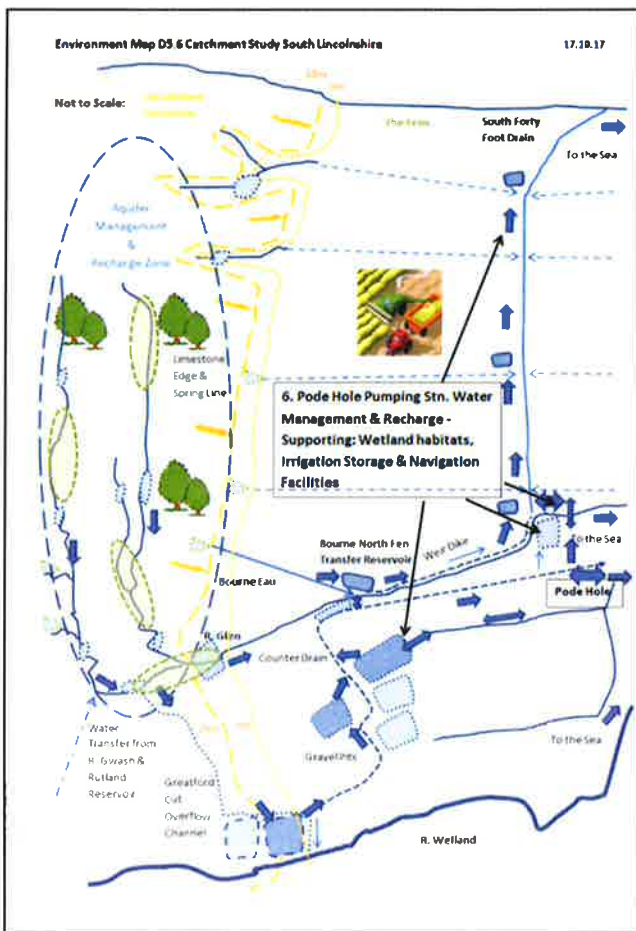
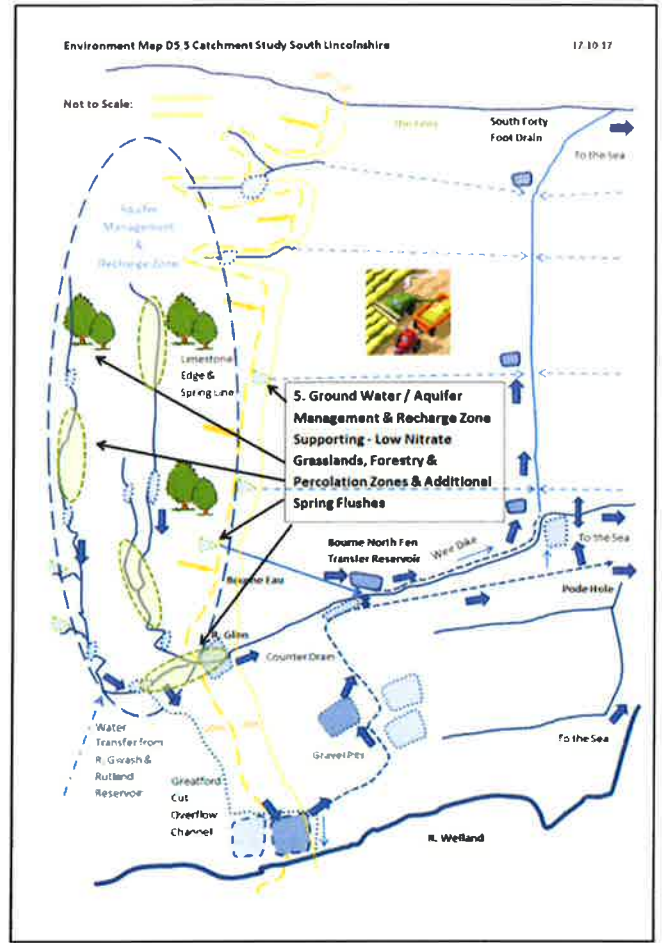
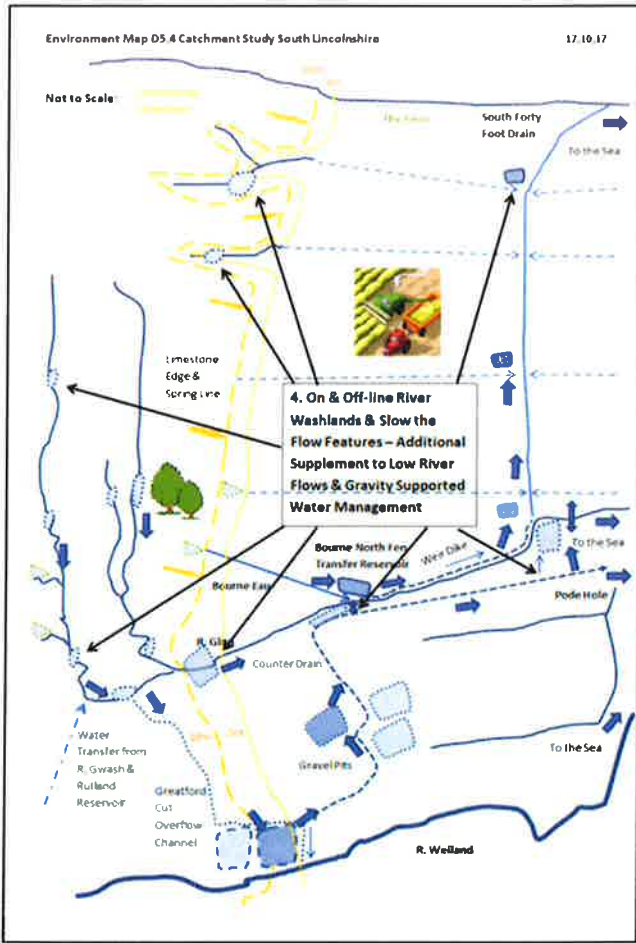


The diagram above illustrates how the Bourne North Fen site will potentially work through the seasons, and the one below provides an idea of what the site design.



**A series of eight diagrams illustrating multiple uses and benefits**



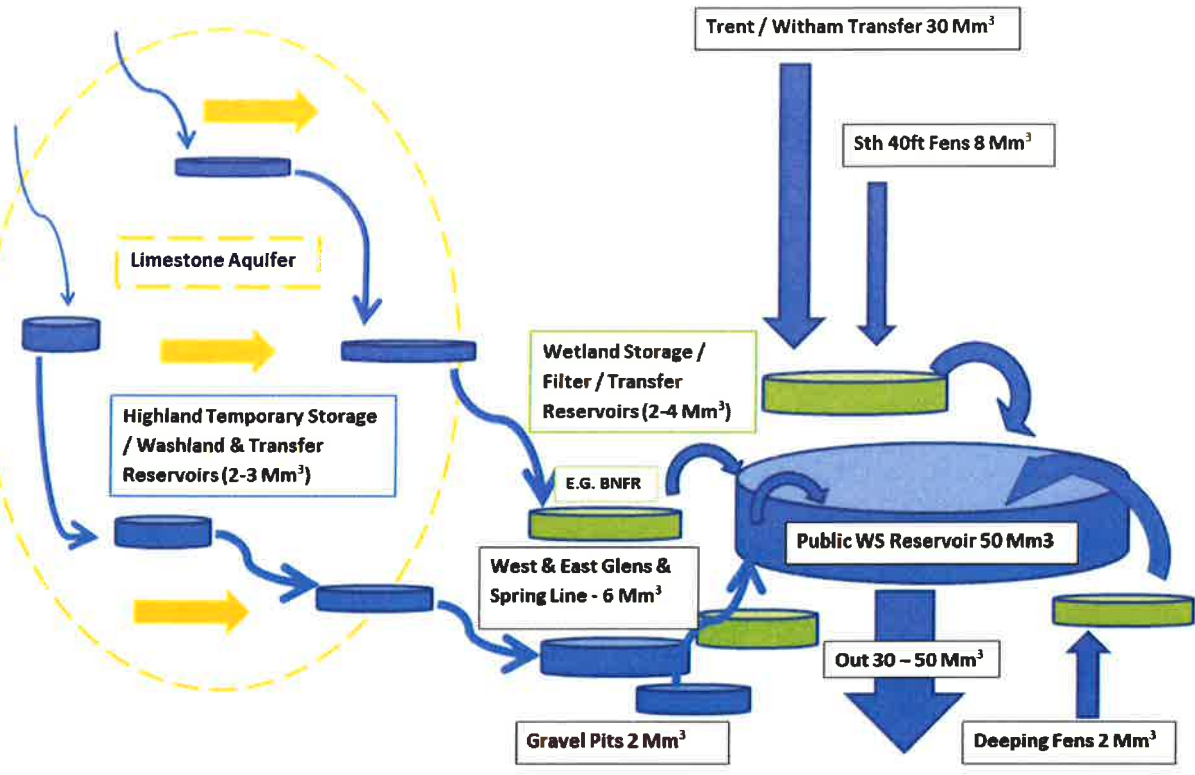




# Water volumes schematic

MT 02.11.17

Fens & Glens Integrated Water Management Schematic Layout: Approximate Transfer Volumes – see notes

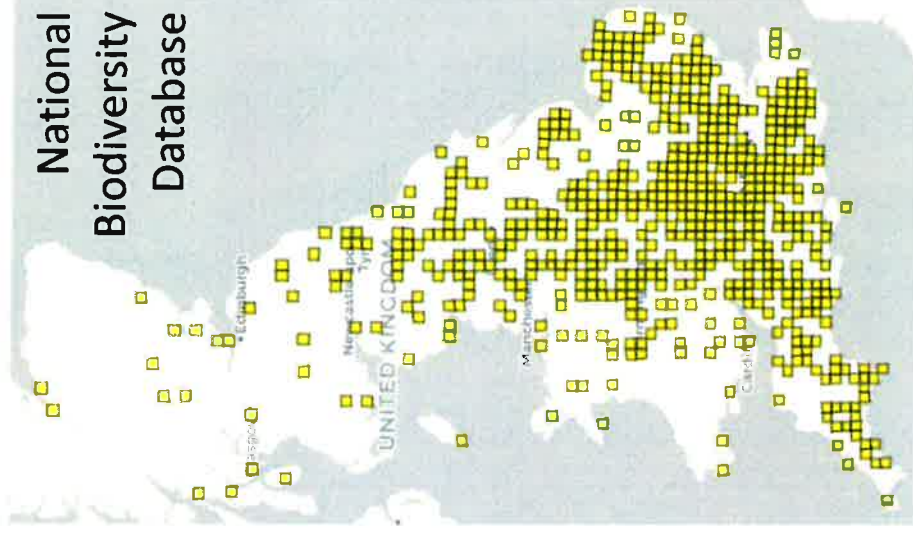


# Signal crayfish are widespread and abundant in UK rivers

## Densities in UK streams

- 10-20 per m<sup>2</sup>
- extreme, >100 per m<sup>2</sup>

*From 0.16 per m<sup>2</sup> in 1975 to 15 per m<sup>2</sup> in 1995*



# So, can we get rid of signal crayfish?

Trapping, physical barriers, dewatering, habitat destruction, poisoning with biocides, autocidal control (sterilisation or genetic alteration), lethal electro-fishing – ***NONE of these work***



*Loch Ken, Dumfries & Galloway -  
720,000 crayfish trapped, 400 traps  
per day, 5-month period:*

- *reduction in the adult males of 60%*
- *female population not affected*
- ***impact on population was minimal***

## Biocontrol – predation by European eel

- Well-known predator of crayfish
- Recent successes in closed water bodies (wetlands, ponds) in S. Europe
- Target of restocking efforts (IUCN red list species)
- No existing assessment of predation in rivers or in the UK



## Key question

In a UK river environment,

**Will reintroduced eels predate on signal crayfish sufficiently to affect the crayfish population?**

...thereby reducing damage to river banks, fine sediment recruitment and fine sedimentation downstream...

...thereby reducing flood risk

# OPERATION GALILEO



This map shows the concentration of hare coursing incidents in the south of the county

Hare coursing is not just about animal welfare, but wider community safety issues, including threats, intimidation, damage & dangerous driving.

We recognise that if you are one of the victims who suffered repeated hare coursing, any updates we provide may be meaningless.

However we hope that they demonstrate our determination to tackle rural crime and make Lincolnshire hostile to hare coursers

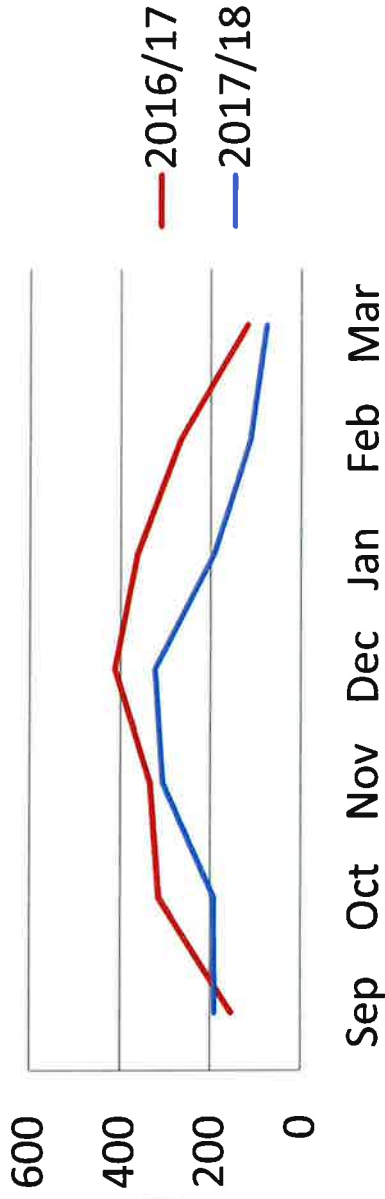


# OPERATION GALILEO

There were over **2000 incidents** reported in the 2015/2016 season. This chart shows the comparison between the 2016/17 season & the 2017/18 season.

A total of **1,365** hare coursing incidents in the 2017/18 season compared to **1,965** last season

### Hare Coursing Incidents Per Month



There is more information on the next page

That's a **30% reduction**, or **600 less hare coursing victims** in Lincolnshire, at a time when most other forces we speak with have experienced an increase.



# OPERATION GALILEO

Sep 2016 154	Oct 2016 315	Nov 2016 334	Dec 2016 413	Jan 2017 363	Feb 2017 267	Mar 2017 119	<b>Total</b> <b>1,965</b>
Sep 2017 191	Oct 2017 193	Nov 2017 306	Dec 2017 324	Jan 2018 193	Feb 2018 113	Mar 2018 77	<b>Total</b> <b>1,365</b>



The month on month reduction of hare coursing related incidents has continued. Not all these incidents are of hare coursing in progress and include sightings of hare coursing vehicles parked at cafes etc. They also include reports by several different callers relating to the same group of hare coursers.





# OPERATION GALILEO

## THANK YOU

It is very rare for a police patrol to catch hare coursers in progress. So we rely on calls from our rural community. Every call counts and adds to our intelligence picture.

Thank you to every one of you that has taken time to report hare coursing.

We are genuinely grateful for every call.

**A special thanks to those of you who stepped forward to provide witness statements and give evidence at court. Your contribution has been vital.**



**Operation Galileo would not be possible without your calls in to our control room.**



# Annual Check of Black Sluice IDB nest boxes –2018

Boxes checked by Alan Ball and/or Bob Sheppard on dates shown



Box	IPMR	Grid Ref	Location	Type	Date	Con
3290		TF154188	Richardson's Borrow Pit, Twenty	Pole		Not checked
3291		TF173211	Gandy's Borrow Pit, Twenty	Pole		Not checked
3292		TF138195	Cook's Borrow Pit, Bourne N.Fen	Pole		Not checked
1365	DYF	TF152227	Dyke Fen Pump	Pump		
1366	RSI	TF167251	West Pinchbeck (Black Hole Dr )	Pump		
1367	RSI	TF166257	Haconby Fen Pump	Pump		
1368	RSI	TF166266	West Pinchbeck (Starlode Drove)	Pump		
1369	RSJ	TF165271	Dunsby Fen Pump	Pump	24/05	TAWNY OWL – failed on 1 egg, f=GV74061 B
1370	RSJ	TF164275	Rippingale Fen Pump	Pump	15/.06	Jackdaws fledged
1371	BFF	TF162284	Dowsby Fen Pump	Pump		
1293	BFF	TF162284	Dowsby Fen pole	Mk 7		
1372	DOF	TF167294	Gosberton Pump	Pump		
1373	RSQ	TF164318	Neslam Fen Pump	Pump		
1374	RSV	TF168331	Quadring Fen Pump	Pump		

1375	RSV	TF168333	Billingborough Fen Pump	Pump	06/06	Jackdaw – 1 chick EA13097	A
1376	RSG	TF170346	Horbling Fen Pump	Pump	05/06	Jackdaw – 4 chicks EA13076-79	A
1377	RST	TF174364	Swaton Fen Pump	Pump	04/06	Jackdaws - 4 chicks EA130563-66, top 1 chick EA13062	B
1378	RST	TF176370	Donington Ing Pump	Pump			
1379	RST	TF177375	Helpringham Fen Pump	Pump	05/06	Jackdaw – 1 chick EA13075	A
1380	RSH	TF186397	Bicker Fen Pump	Pump	10/06	<b>BARN OWL</b> – roosting male GV74083, Stock Dove top – 2eggs	A
1381	RSU	TF206425	Great Hale Pump	Pump			
1383	HKF	TF185466	Heckington Pump	Pump	01/06	<b>BARN OWL</b> – 6 eggs, m=GV74071, f=r/GV64014 Jackdaw – top - 3 chicks EZ65986-88	B
1384	SKF	TF207469	South Kyme Pump	Pump	01/06	<b>KESTREL</b> – top 5 eggs, Jackdaw box -2 chicks EZ65949-50	B
1385	EWV	TF159484	Ewerby Pump	Pump	01/06	Feral Pigeons	
1386	SKG	TF194507	Damford Grounds Pump	Pump	01/06	<b>BARN OWL</b> pair – m=GV74072, f=r/GV64016 <b>KESTREL</b> – in top – 5 eggs	A
2802	BSG	TF236477	Gill Bridge (Barry Hall)	Pole	03/06	<b>BARN OWL</b> – 1 chick + 4 eggs, f=r/GV45507 <b>KESTREL</b> – in top – 5 tiny chicks	A
2803	BSH	TF205529	Hart's Grounds (Andrew Means)	Pole	03/06	Jackdaw – 2 chicks EZ65999 – EZ66000 <b>KESTREL</b> – in top – 3 eggs	A
2804	BSM	TF204484	Maryland (Pocklington Bros)	Pole	03/06	Jackdaw – 2 chicks EZ65994-95	A
3169		TF341370	Kirton Skeldyke	Pole			A

3165	BFK	TF340359	Kirton Bucklegate		Pole				A
3170	KME	TF281388	Kirton Meeres - Pick's Barn		Pole	10/06	<b>BARN OWL</b> – failed on 3 eggs, m=GV74084		A
2969		TF248464	Holland Fen (Two Hundred Fm)		Pole	03/06	<b>KESTREL</b> – top 3 eggs, Jackdaw – box 2 chicks EZ65992/93		A
2971		TF199521	Chapel House (ex Bridge House)		Pole				
2973	PAH	TF192484	South Kyme (Pattingden House)		Pole	01/06	Jackdaw – 3 chicks EZ65989-91		A
1387	WYB	TF359400	Wyberton Marsh Pump		Pump				A
1388	KIR	TF343350	Kirton Marsh Pump		Pump				A

Con = Box Condition, A = good, B = fair, C = replace

# Initial Priority Catchments

Improving the way we manage water

May 2018

This briefing note explains what an Initial Priority Catchment is, how it affects you and how you can get involved.

## What is the Abstraction Plan?

The [Abstraction Plan](#)<sup>1</sup> was published in December 2017. It sets how we will reform abstraction by;

- making full use of existing regulatory powers and approaches to address unsustainable abstraction and move around 90% of surface water bodies and 77% of groundwater bodies to the required standards by 2021
- developing a stronger catchment focus – bringing together the Environment Agency, abstractors and catchment groups to develop local solutions to existing pressures and to prepare for the future. These local solutions will:
  - protect the environment by changing licences to better reflect water availability in catchments and reduce the impact of abstraction
  - improve access to water by introducing more flexible conditions that support water storage, water trading and efficient use
- supporting these reforms by modernising the abstraction service, making sure all significant abstraction is regulated and bringing regulations in line with other environmental permitting regimes

We will report to Parliament on the progress of abstraction reform next year so it is important the work starts now.

## What is an Initial Priority Catchment?

Initial Priority Catchments (IPCs) are the test beds for developing innovative solutions to abstraction issues. We have chosen catchments where:

- there is unmet demand for water
- there is potential for water to be shared amongst abstractors
- there are a number of abstractors who we can work with to trial new and innovative ways of managing water abstraction.

In some of these catchments too much water is abstracted during low flows damaging the ecology. We hope that abstractors and stakeholders will come together in each IPC to develop voluntary solutions to abstraction issues. Working across a range of stakeholders should mean that solutions deliver multiple benefits.

We already have some outline proposals for achieving greater access to water and addressing unsustainable abstraction; such as the higher flow abstraction proposals which are summarised in the plan.

Each IPC's direction and outputs need to be overseen by a catchment group including abstractors and other partners. We want to co-develop solutions with our partners, not dictate them.

## What will happen in an Initial Priority Catchment?

We will work with existing local groups to identify the catchment partners and abstractors who will form the catchment groups charged with overseeing the IPC work. There may already be successful partnerships and groups operating in the catchments and we want to see groups working closely together.

We will look to each IPC catchment group to define the challenges in the catchment, and work collaboratively to develop solutions to trial. For example, certain abstractors might not be able to access water as their

**customer service line**  
03708 506 506

**incident hotline**  
0800 80 70 60

**floodline**  
03459 88 11 88

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-abstraction-plan-2017>

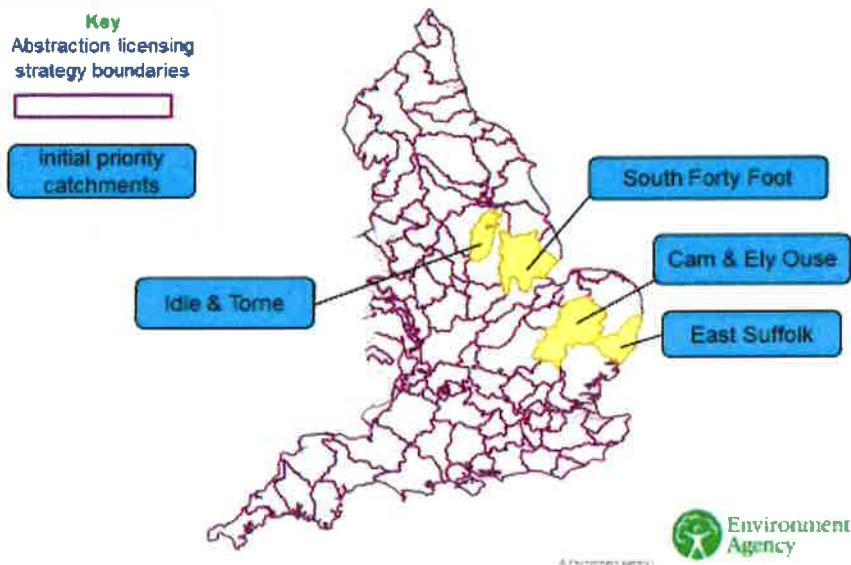
catchment is closed to new applications to abstract. A solution might be trialling a faster water trading service, or giving abstractors access to on-line river flow. We hope that each group will be open to all reasonable suggestions and be willing to test them if suitable trials can be designed.

We recognise that these proposals depend on support from dedicated local groups, such as a local catchment partnership or water abstractor group. Catchment partnerships are supported by a national support group. We have set up a dedicated independent water resources sub-group to support IPCs and help share best practice.

We will learn from the successes and failures of solutions and approaches trialled in IPCs, capturing policies in updated Abstraction Licensing Strategies (ALS) for each catchment during 2020. These documents provide information to abstractors on water availability in a catchment and provide guidance on how to apply for an abstraction licence.

## Where are the IPCs?

### Initial priority catchments



## How will it affect me?

If you currently abstract within an IPC catchment or have an interest in the way water resources are managed there, then you may wish to join a catchment group and use your experience and knowledge to develop solutions to unsustainable abstraction and limited access to water.

We will begin to meet with catchment groups in early summer 2018, and continue to meet and progress the Initial Priority Catchments over the coming months and years.

## How can I get involved or find out further information?

If you wish to get involved, learn more about the Abstraction Plan and IPC or have any questions please contact the abstraction reform team at [abstraction\\_reform@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:abstraction_reform@environment-agency.gov.uk)

**customer service line**  
03708 506 506

**incident hotline**  
0800 80 70 60

**floodline**  
03459 88 11 88

Association of Drainage Authorities Lincolnshire Branch Environment Committee Minutes 01.11.17

Wellington House, Manby Park, Manby, Louth, Lincolnshire, LN11 8U

**Present:**

Peter Lundgren (PL)  
 Nicholas Watts (NW)  
 Jane Picking (JP)  
 Richard Chadd (RC)  
 Chris Manning (CM)  
 Amanda Jenkins (AJ)  
 Lionel Grooby (LG)  
 Tammy Smalley (TS)  
 Ian Warsap (IW)  
 Fiona Scott (FS)  
 Peter Pridgeon (PP)

**Committee Chairman** Witham First District IDB (*Ratepayer*)  
**Committee V. Chairman** Welland & Deepings IDB (*Board Member*)  
**Committee Secretary** Welland & Deepings IDB (*Secretary*)  
 Environment Agency (*Senior Environmental Monitoring Officer*) / Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership  
 Water Management Consortium (*Environmental Officer*)  
 Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (*South Lincolnshire Fenlands Project Officer*)  
 North East Lindsey IDB (*Vice Chairman*)  
 Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (*Head of Conservation*)  
 Black Sluice IDB (*Chief Executive*)  
 Witham First District, Witham Third District & Upper Witham IDBs (*Environment & GIS Technician*)  
 Lindsey Marsh DB (*Chairman*)

	ACTION
1. Apologies for absence	Karen Daft (KD) Welland & Deepings IDB ( <i>Chief Executive</i> ) Alison Briggs (AB) Shire Group of IDBs ( <i>Environment Officer</i> ) Jane Froggatt (JF) North East Lindsey, Upper Witham, Witham First District & Witham Third District IDBs ( <i>Chief Executive</i> ) Martin Shilling (MS) Witham First District, Witham Third District & Upper Witham IDBs ( <i>Director of Operations</i> ) Fred Myers (FM) Upper Witham IDB ( <i>Chairman</i> ) Peter Gilbert Witham First IDB (PG) ( <i>Chairman</i> ) Paul Hoyes (PH) Witham Third IDB ( <i>Chairman</i> ) John Scarborough (JS) Upper Witham IDB ( <i>Vice Chairman</i> ) Pat Vaughan (PV) Witham First IDB ( <i>Board Member</i> ) David Armstrong (DA) Witham First IDB ( <i>Chairman</i> ) Julian Hargreaves (JH) North East Lindsey IDB ( <i>Chairman</i> ) Ed Johnson (EJ) Witham Fourth District IDB ( <i>Operations Engineer</i> ) Brian Bowles (BB) Witham Fourth District IDB ( <i>Board Member</i> ) Keely Tizzard (KT) North Level IDB ( <i>Engineering Technician</i> ) Paul Sharman (PS) North Level IDB ( <i>Chief Executive</i> )

		ACTION
1.	Apologies for absence continued	David Hutchinson (DH) Environment Agency Sarah Baker (SB) Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership Jo Finlow (JF) Fens for the Future
2.	Chairman's announcements and welcome	PL thanked Lindsey Marsh DB for hosting the meeting. PL thanked JP for taking on the role as Committee Secretary. PL welcomed FS to the Committee in her new role as Witham Third IDB's Environment and GIS Technician.
3.	Meeting dates for 2018	The following dates were agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> March (Horncastle)</li> <li>• Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> June (Field trip TBC)</li> <li>• Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November (W&amp;DIDB, Spalding)</li> </ul>
4.	To approve minutes of meeting held 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	The following amendments were made to the minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section: "Present:" Brian Bowles is a Board Member of Witham Fourth IDB, and not Black Sluice IDB as stated.</li> <li>• Item 13, "Water Vole and Badger Licensing": text 'DNA testing the water can determine presence or absence. This can also be used for great crested newts.' was amended to read 'DNA testing the water to determine presence or absence of great crested newts.'</li> </ul> The updated minutes were approved as a true record.
5.	Matters arising and actions	PL informed committee members that he had recently attended a meeting of the Lincolnshire County Council Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee. At this meeting, Anglian Water had given a presentation wherein it was stated they are looking at three areas: South Lincolnshire, Suffolk and Bedford, specifically for the need for a water storage facility in order to provide in the region of 33 million gallons per day. IW and TS informed members they have an interest in this issue and have signed a declaration of confidentiality. However, IW provided a general outline of the project and showed committee members a plan



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	as to where the site of a reservoir could be located within the county. Currently, seven potential sites have been identified.	
6.	<p>GLNP Update</p> <p>Notes provided by SB in her absence and read by RC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GLNP Conference</li> </ul> <p>This year's conference will mark five years since the launch of the GLNP. The conference will celebrate what the partnership has achieved in that time through the work of the team and partners, delivering success together. It will also be an opportunity to look forward to new priorities and challenges, and help shape the next steps for the partnership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment</li> </ul> <p>Luke Bamford joined the GLNP on 24<sup>th</sup> October as a Policy Officer on a 12 month contract. Luke's role will focus on evidencing the value of nature to health and tourism, working across sectors to ensure positive outcomes for both wildlife and people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pollinator Project</li> </ul> <p>The GLNP is continuing with a project to explore opportunities for low budget options to better support wild pollinators on farmland.</p> <p>The project, part funded by Defra, has involved 11 farms in Lincolnshire – all of which vary in terms of holding size and current participation in environmental schemes. Field surveys to assess current habitat provision and highlight opportunities for potential enhancements have been completed and analysis is underway.</p> <p>The project will now look to trial different low budget options on the farms involved to fully understand any potential implications and benefits, before compiling a resource which will be rolled out across Greater Lincolnshire and further afield.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Review</li> </ul> <p>The GLNP's 2016-17 annual review is now available. To download a copy, visit: <a href="http://www.glnp.org.uk/admin/resources/annual-review-2016-17-web.pdf">www.glnp.org.uk/admin/resources/annual-review-2016-17-web.pdf</a></p>	ACTION
7.	<p>Witham Partnership Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CM advised he had been on a summer field visit to Belton House ripples.</li> </ul>	CM



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The differences between CaBA (Catchment-Based Approach) and PACM (Partnership Approach to Catchment Management) were queried. CM to ask David Sisson from ADA to see if he would be willing to attend our next meeting to explain the differences.</li> </ul>	
<p>8. EA Update</p>	<p>Notes provided by DH subsequent to the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Works to introduce gravel to the Witham have been completed along with the habitat improvement work at Wyndham Park in Grantham. These will both helpfully improve spawning habitat for trout.</li> <li>An ambitious outline bid has been submitted by North and South Kesteven District Councils (supported by the EA) to fund a range of habitat improvement projects on the Witham in Grantham and Sleaf in Sleaford.</li> <li>The EA have supported Hull University as part of a European project that aims to improve farming and its impact on drinking water quality. The University is the UK lead for a case study that will be focused on the Cringle Brook. A Catchment Officer has been employed to take this work forward using a catchment-sensitive farming-type approach.</li> <li>The University aims to become a demonstration farm and as such are developing a small-scale Natural Flood Risk Management scheme on the Nettleham Beck as it flows through the Riseholme campus. The work will take place in November/December with landowner events taking place in the new year.</li> <li>A PhD student has now been employed by the University to investigate the impact of field drainage/under-drainage on water quality, ecology, flood risk and agricultural productivity. This project will run until September 2020.</li> <li>The Lincolnshire Streams Project is progressing three capital projects this financial year which the EA are contributing to:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>river restoration on the Upper Rase;</li> <li>deculverting a section of the River Bain at Ludford;</li> <li>sediment management on the Great Eau.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The bid submitted by the Lincs Rivers Trust to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Lincolnshire Limestone Becks project was unsuccessful. However, a project on the Welton Beck will be progressed this year.</li> </ul>	<p>ACTION</p>

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			ACTION
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Dunston Beck Reconnection project has received £50k from the National Natural Flood Risk Management funding pot. This will allow the Wild Trout Trust to complete the feasibility, surveys and designs for the project.</li> </ul>	
8.	EA Update continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Lincs Rivers Trust are leading on a project to control the spread of Himalayan Balsam on the Upper Witham. There is work to be done to incorporate other species such as Giant Hogweed (found at Belton and Barkstone Gorse) and Pennywort (found at Torksey).</li> <li>The Lincs Rivers Trust has a new project officer starting on the 6<sup>th</sup> November. Marie Taylor has left to work for the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust and will be replaced by Nicola Craven.</li> </ul>	
9.	Update on Fish & Eel Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The issue of eel mitigation was discussed, in particular the size of recommended weedscreen mesh used at EA and IDB pumping stations. CM to sound out ADA's thoughts.</li> <li>RC advised he would speak to Jake Swain at Hull University to see if he would be interested in speaking at a future meeting.</li> </ul>	CM RC
10.	Updates	<p>Fens for the Future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a pollinator project in the wider Fens for the Future area managed by Hilary Conlan (Post Grad Research, Anglia University). SB from GLNP is running a pollinator project in Lincolnshire, including working with the South Lincolnshire Fenland Farmers Countryside Stewardship Group. SB has been in touch with Hilary Conlan.</li> <li>Defra are running a Peat Restoration fund. A £10 million grant scheme to restore England's iconic peatlands officially opened for bids in July; closing date is 20<sup>th</sup> November. <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/10m-fund-to-restore-peatland-opens-for-applications">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/10m-fund-to-restore-peatland-opens-for-applications</a></li> <li>Cambridgeshire Fens may be applying to become a UNESCO Biosphere reserve (this does not include the Lincolnshire Fenslands).</li> <li>Cambridge Conservation Restoration Programme. Roger Mitchell has highlighted the conservation evidence/initiative which could feed into/be informed by the work of the Fens for the Future Partnership. Cambridge Conservation Initiative's Endangered Landscapes Programme has been established to support landscape restoration across Europe. Funding is available for one-off grants</li> </ul>	

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	<p>and “enabling activities”. So far, applications have been by invitation only but an open call is planned later in the programme. <a href="https://www.conservationevidence.com/">https://www.conservationevidence.com/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TS advised that SHIDB have reported a sighting of Meadow Saffron, the first time it has been found in their area since the 1800s.</li> </ul>	
10.	<p>Updates continued</p> <p>Operation Fly Swat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members agreed this continued to be a worthwhile project as fly-tipping was still prevalent throughout the county.</li> </ul> <p>ADA Technical Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CM reported this year’s Floodex UK exhibition was successful, with the same amount exhibitors as last year and over a thousand attendees. The next Floodex UK show is to be held on the 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> February 2019.</li> <li>• The issue of using aquatic herbicides was discussed, particularly with reference to the use of glyphosate. General view was glyphosate is considered to be a relatively safe chemical, although RC reported its use may be reviewed by 2022.</li> </ul>	ACTION
11.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RSPB Frampton Marsh Site Visit – 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017.</li> <li>• Few members were in attendance, probably due to the relocation of native crayfish to an ark site exercise and a PCSA meeting being held on the same day. However, an excellent tour by the site’s warden, Toby Collett, was given and those members who had attended thoroughly enjoyed their visit.</li> <li>• ADA Conference – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017.</li> <li>• This year’s Conference is particularly special as it marks the start of ADA’s 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As well as the anniversary celebrations, the annual conference is to celebrate ten years’ service of ADA Chairman, Henry Cator, who is to step down as ADA Chairman during the conference.</li> <li>• The ‘Quick Wins Biodiversity Manual, 2017’ is now available to download from ADA website. It was requested by Members to remove ‘2017’ from the front page. JP to arrange for this to be actioned. Members to review the manual in 2018.</li> <li>• Dr Iain Gould from Lincoln University is to be invited to one of our meetings in 2018 on the subject of ‘Salination on Soils’.</li> </ul>	JP All JP



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11. AOB continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TM mentioned it was her understanding that some people were not aware that a House of Lords Select Committee has been set up in June 2017 to review the Natural Environment &amp; Rural Communities Act 2006 ('NERC').</li><li>• The guide, 'A Guide to Management Strategies and Mitigation Measures for Achieving Good Ecological Potential in Fenland Waterbodies', written in collaboration between the EA, ADA, IDBs and Cambridgeshire ACRE, can now be downloaded from the ADA website: <a href="https://www.ada.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Guide_GEP_Fenland_Water_Bodies_web.pdf">https://www.ada.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Guide_GEP_Fenland_Water_Bodies_web.pdf</a></li></ul> <p>In addition, the partnership has written an introduction to improving the ecology of Fenland waterbodies aimed at IDB Board members and the wider community. <a href="https://www.ada.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Introduction_GEP_Fenland_Water_Bodies_web.pdf">https://www.ada.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Introduction_GEP_Fenland_Water_Bodies_web.pdf</a>.</p>
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There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 4.12 p.m.

**Association of Drainage Authorities Lincolnshire Branch Environment Committee Minutes 07.03.18**

**Banovallum House, Manor House Street, Horncastle, Lincs, LN9 5HF**

**Present:**

- Peter Lundgren (PL)
- Nicholas Watts (NW)
- Jane Picking (JP)
- Sarah Baker (SB)
- Karen Daft (KD)
- David Hutchinson
- Amanda Jenkins (AJ)
- Chris Manning (CM)
- Fiona Scott (FS)
- Tammy Smalley (TS)
- Greg Smith (GS)
- Rachel Yeowell (RY)

- Committee Chairman** Witham First District IDB (*Ratepayer*)
- Committee V. Chairman** Welland & Deepings IDB (*Board Member*)
- Committee Secretary** Welland & Deepings IDB (*Secretary*)
- Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership
- Welland & Deepings IDB (*Chief Executive*)
- Environment Agency
- Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (*South Lincolnshire Fenlands Project Officer*)
- Water Management Consortium (*Environmental Officer*)
- Witham & Humber IDBs (*Environment & GIS Technician*)
- Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (*Head of Conservation*)
- Environment Agency
- South Holland IDB (*Technical Assistant*)

		ACTION
1.	Apologies for absence	Julian Boden, Welland & Deepings IDB Alison Briggs, Shire Group of IDBs Richard Chadd, EA Ed Johnson, Witham Fourth IDB Sam Lew, The Wash & North Norfolk Marine Partnership Nick Morris, Welland & Deepings IDB Alex Pickwell, EA Ian Russell, EA
2.	Election of Chairman	It was suggested that NW take on the role as Chairman this year. PL and NW to discuss further, and report back their decision at November's meeting.
3.	Election of Vice Chairman	It was suggested that PL take on the role as Vice Chairman this year. NW and PL to discuss further, and report back their decision at November's meeting.
4.	Election of Secretary	Jane Picking was nominated and elected as Secretary.
		PL/NW
		NW/PL

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		ACTION
5. Chairman's announcements and welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PL thanked attendees for coming along to the meeting, especially as the weather had been so inclement the previous week.</li> <li>• PL emphasised the importance of rotating the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman. As per Environment Committee terms of reference, the term of office for Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman is three years. This will be the second time that PL and NW have extended their term by a further year, albeit if they agree to swap their roles.</li> <li>• It was suggested that IDB members consider approaching any of their board members who they think may be interested in acting as future Environment Committee Chairman/Vice Chairman. <i>Post meeting: JP spoke with CM who advised that in previous years an IDB had agreed to take on the role of hosting the meetings, with members of that IDB acting as Chair and Vice Chair, for a term of three years. After that three year term, another IDB would take on the role. To be discussed at November's meeting.</i></li> </ul>	IDB members
6. To approve minutes of meeting held 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2017	Minutes approved and signed by PL as a true record.	
7. Matters arising and actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PL believed that massive environmental changes are taking place, not least because of Brexit and plans for the future. A consultation by Defra, "Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a green Brexit", had been published in February 2018. One of the points set out in the report was encouraging: "Our new environmental land management system will be underpinned by natural capital principles, so that the benefits the natural environment provides for people and wildlife are properly valued and used to inform decisions on future land management. The new system aims to deliver benefits such as improved air, water and soil quality; increased biodiversity; climate change mitigation and adaptation; and cultural benefits that improve our mental and physical well-being, while protecting our historic environment." (<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-for-food-farming-and-the-environment">https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-for-food-farming-and-the-environment</a>). PL was of the view that all drainage boards should read and respond to this report.</li> <li>• NW affirmed that it was a farmer's job to make a living and to leave the world a better place.</li> <li>• With regard to soil mapping, PL advised that one of his fields had been DNA sequenced, the only one in Europe; other countries being Kenya and New Zealand.</li> </ul>	

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		ACTION
7.	Matters arising and actions (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NW informed the meeting that he had prepared an article entitled "Drain management with wildlife in mind" which he hoped would be inserted into our 'Quick Wins' Biodiversity Manual. CM requested the article be sent to members for approval first.</li> <li>JP to send NW's article with papers before next meeting re its suitability for inclusion into ADA Lincs Branch 'Quick Wins' Biodiversity Manual. To discuss at November's meeting.</li> </ul>
8.	GLNP Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BAP Reporting GLNP is asking Partners of the Lincolnshire BAP for their annual reports. Reporting spreadsheets have gone out to BAP contacts and deadline for responses is Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> March.</li> <li>LERC Update 2017-18 has proved another successful year for data requests, with 408 received so far and four weeks still to go. Of the 408, 233 have come through the online request system demonstrating its ease of use for standard data searches. The GLNP is now embarking on its most ambitious project yet to build a new ecological data request website capable of returning data to customers in under a minute. The service is to be available 24 hours a day, every day and should be up and running by late summer 2018.</li> <li>Pollinator Work Latest The GLNP is approaching the end of its 12 month Defra-funded project to explore low budget methods to support wild pollinators on farmland. Working with 11 farms in Lincolnshire (6 in the Fens and 5 in and around Lincoln), a range of measures have been developed which are practicable within farm business and low cost to implement and manage. A leaflet and web resource will be available early April. Follow-up surveys of the farms involved in 2017 will take place this summer to assess ease and effectiveness of implementation.</li> <li>Other Current Projects The GLNP also has a large number of projects underway at the moment.</li> </ul>



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	ACTION	
8.	<p>GLNP Update (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other Current Projects (continued) Under the health and tourism workstreams, these include working with Partners on the greening of Sincil Drain in Lincoln and a pilot destination project and a pilot destination project to improve awareness of nature's role in tourism on the Lincolnshire coast.</li> <li>• Other projects include resurveying of remaining Sites of Nature Conservation Importance to assess whether they qualify for designations as Local Wildlife Sites.</li> </ul>	
9.	<p>Witham Partnership Update</p> <p>DH updated members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nicola Craven is Lincs Rivers Trust's new project manager.</li> <li>• The Welton Beck project, to improve habitat in the village park, has been completed. This forms part of the Lincolnshire Limestone Becks Initiative.</li> <li>• Dunstan Natural Flood Risk Management project is still at the design and feasibility stage. This is to look at creating a wetland habitat/river restoration above the village.</li> <li>• A European funding bid for habitat improvement on a range of scales on the Witham in Grantham and Sleas in Sleaford is being developed.</li> <li>• Work has completed on the Natural Flood Management demonstration site at the Riseholme Campus at the University of Lincoln.</li> <li>• LRT's Five Year Strategy will be published shortly.</li> <li>• WEIF funding – Water Environment Improvement Fund is to go live soon. Eligibility details are to be circulated.</li> <li>• New farming rules for water are to be introduced shortly. These are aimed at tackling diffuse pollution. Further details to be shared.</li> <li>• Chalk Streams: Work on the Great Eau to look at sediment sources in the Upper catchment is continuing. Working with EA to engage with farmers in the Waring catchment to try and begin a natural flood risk management project at this location.</li> </ul>	

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		ACTION
10.	EA Update	<p>DH updated members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Environment Grant Scheme (WEG) Funding In brief, this is a multi-million pound fund scheme and is administered by Natural England and the EA, on behalf of Defra. It cannot be used to match fund projects which are already receiving EU funding. Payments will be made in arrears and will have auditing processes. The drivers to this scheme are improving designated conservation sites or protected areas, preventing or reversing waterbody deterioration and achieving WFD objectives. Projects are also encouraged to delivery wider benefits for the environment and people, take a catchment based approach and build on other complementary improvements. The window to bid for any funding commences on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Monies will be paid in arrears. Issue Grant letter containing legal terms and conditions, and delivery and payment schedules will be sent in August 2018. <a href="http://www.theiverstrust.org/mediar/2017/11/6.-Water-Environment-Grant-Scheme.pdf">http://www.theiverstrust.org/mediar/2017/11/6.-Water-Environment-Grant-Scheme.pdf</a></li> <li>Farming Rules for Water – getting full value from fertilisers and soil The policy paper has been updated this month. <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/687090/farming-rules-for-water-policy-paper-v2.pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/687090/farming-rules-for-water-policy-paper-v2.pdf</a></li> </ul>
11.	GLNP – BAP Targets	Covered in agenda item 8 above.
12.	CaBA and PACM: the differences – DH and GS	<p>GS explained the differences between CaBA and PACM and how the work of both policy frameworks overlapped and complemented each other. GS gave an in-depth presentation, showing members a step by step process of how the PACM project had been developed from its aims to the project's next steps. It is anticipated that from April 2018 onwards PACM will be implemented across the area and share outcomes with Defra and partners. <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/204231/pb13934-water-environment-catchment-based-approach.pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/204231/pb13934-water-environment-catchment-based-approach.pdf</a> <a href="https://www.ada.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/David_Sisson_Greg_Smith_Floodex_2017.pdf">https://www.ada.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/David_Sisson_Greg_Smith_Floodex_2017.pdf</a></p>

		ACTION
13.	Update on Fish & Eel Regulations	CM advised there was not a lot to report on this subject and was still very much a work in progress.
14.	Updates	<p><b>Fens for the Future</b> TS reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The last meeting in 2017 focussed on archaeology of Must Farm, with updates from key partners including news that a bid was being developed for connecting two existing reserves in the Cambridgeshire Fens through land acquisition of Species Farm.</li> <li>• The Great Fen Project have submitted their eight year evaluation report to the Lottery.</li> <li>• The next meeting of Fens for the Future Partnership is to be held in April at Needingworth Village Hall, followed by a site visit to the Ouse Washes. The meeting is to focus on the consultation on the future of farming via the Government's Command Paper for a new Farming Bill.</li> </ul> <p><b>Operation Fly Swat</b> Nothing new to report. JP to remove this item from the agenda until further notice.</p> <p><b>ADA Technical Committee</b> CM reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CM advised that the update of ADA's Biodiversity Manual, due by 2020, was delayed.</li> <li>• Future application of Water Transfer Licence charging. CM mentioned that the legal timeframe for IDBs to apply for and enter into new licensing agreements is two years, closing on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019. CM further advised that ADA have now acknowledged the need of next year to transfer £1,500 per river.</li> </ul>
11.	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members asked DH if he could provide an update on the cause and source of pollution in the River Witham which killed thousands of fish on the 5<sup>th</sup> March. DH advised that the source of contaminant had been identified (ammonia) but was unable to provide further information due to the ongoing investigation.</li> <li>• NW is unable to attend November's meeting at Spalding, due to a prior engagement. It was agreed to reschedule the meeting to <b>14<sup>th</sup> November 2018</b>. JP to send out revised meeting dates sheet.</li> </ul>



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	ACTION
11. AOB (Continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• JP advised members that she had received very few apologies to her email sending out the meeting's papers. This caused confusion when confirming final numbers with TS (e.g. seating and catering arrangements).</li><li>• When sending out next meeting's papers, JP will ask recipients to confirm whether or not they wish to receive future meeting details.</li></ul>	JP

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 3:45 p.m.

Chairman



## ADA LINCOLNSHIRE BRANCH ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

APRIL 2018

Please accept my apologies for not being with you today; due to a staff shortage in my office, I am unable to attend and I would have welcomed a chance meet you all. My Chairman, Peter Lundgren, and Vice Chairman, Nicholas Watts, have previously-arranged engagements, so Ian Warsap has very kindly agreed to read out my update on the Environment Committee.

At last year's AGM, Sam Ireland explained that the Environment Committee's roles had been extended for another 12 months. Sam moved on last summer and I was 'encouraged' by Karen Daft, my Chief Executive, to take on the role as committee secretary for three years. At our March meeting this year, it was proposed that Peter and Nicholas should stand again, albeit as Vice Chair and Chair respectively; obviously this means that Peter and Nicholas will have served well over their term. Our terms of reference state that the term of office is three years, so I would encourage IDB members to consider taking on these roles in 2019.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of July last year, we visited the RSPB Frampton Marsh Reserve. Unfortunately, few members were in attendance, probably due to the relocation of native crayfish to an ark site exercise and a PCSA meeting being held on the same day. An excellent tour by the site's warden was given and those members who attended thoroughly enjoyed their visit. A subsequent £50 donation to the RSPB was very kindly made by Peter Bateson.

November's meeting was held at Lindsey Marsh DB's offices. Points covered in this meeting were:

- Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership's Pollinator Project, part funded by Defra, has involved 11 farms in Lincolnshire (six in the Fens and five in and around Lincoln), all of which vary in terms of holding size and current participation in environmental schemes. The project is to explore opportunities for low budget options to better support wild pollinators on farmland. A report is to be compiled which will be rolled out across Greater Lincolnshire and further afield.
- The Lincs Rivers Trust are leading on a project to control the spread of Himalayan Balsam on the Upper Witham. There is work to be done to incorporate other species such as Giant Hogweed (found at Belton and Barkstone Gorse) and Pennywort (found at Torksey).
- The committee's 'Quick Wins Biodiversity Manual' is to be reviewed by members in 2018.
- The guide 'A Guide to Management Strategies and Mitigation Measures for Achieving Good Ecological Potential in Fenland Waterbodies', written in collaboration between the EA, ADA, IDBS and Cambridgeshire ACRE can be downloaded from the ADA website.

March's meeting was held at Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership's offices in Horncastle. Points covered were:

- The GLNP is embarking on its most ambitious project yet to build a new ecological data request website which will be capable of returning data to customers in under a minute. The service is to be available 24 hours a day, every day and should be up and running by late summer 2018.

- Witham Partnership's new farming rules for water are to be introduced shortly. These are aimed at tackling diffuse pollution.
- The Environment Agency's Water Environment Grant Scheme (WEG) Funding – this is a multi-million pound fund scheme and is administered by Natural England and the EA, on behalf of Defra. In brief:
  - this cannot be used to match fund projects which are already in receipt of EU funding;
  - payments are to be made in arrears and will have auditing processes;
  - the drivers to this scheme are improving designated conservation sites or protected areas, preventing or reversing waterbody deterioration and achieving WFD objectives;
  - projects are encouraged to deliver wider benefits for the environment and people, take a catchment based approach and build on other complementary improvements.

Our meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> June will comprise of a field trip to Riseholme Campus, Lincoln; our host will be Isobel Wright who is a senior lecturer in agriculture at the Lincoln Institute of Agri-food Technology. Outline details were sent in my email of the 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

Jane Picking  
Secretary  
24<sup>th</sup> April 2018