



Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

Station Road
Swineshead
Boston
Lincolnshire
PE20 3PW

01205 821440

www.blacksluiceidb.gov.uk

mailbox@blacksluiceidb.gov.uk

Our Ref: DW/JL/B10

Your Ref:

Date: 16th June 2026

To the Chairperson and Members of the Board

Notice is hereby given that a **Meeting of the Board will be held at the offices of the Board on Tuesday, 23rd June 2026 at 2pm** at which your attendance is requested.

A buffet lunch will be available from 1pm, for all members of the Board, to encourage and facilitate Members, Staff and Officers discussion.

Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. Recording the meeting.
2. Apologies for absence and to welcome new members of the Board.
3. Declarations of interest.
4. Presentation from the Environment Agency on simulation comparing to 2018 modelling
5. To receive and, if correct, sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on 10th February 2026 **(pages 1 - 8)**
6. Matters arising.
7. To receive and confirm the draft Committee Minutes and Matters Arising of the following meetings:-
 - (a) Environment Committee on 3rd March 2026 **(pages 9 - 20)**

To adopt the following:
 - (i) Policy No. 11: Biodiversity Action Plan **(Booklet Enclosed)**
 - (ii) Policy No. 55: Working Near Badgers **(pages 21 - 23)**
 - (b) Southern Works Committee on 24th March 2026 **(pages 24 - 36)**
 - (c) Audit & Risk Committee on 21st April 2026 **(pages 37 - 64)**

To adopt the following:
 - (i) Policy No. 01: Risk Management Strategy **(pages 65 - 89)**
 - (ii) Policy No. 04: Procurement Policy **(pages 90 - 100)**
 - (iii) Policy No. 10: Delegation of Authority **(pages 101 - 104)**

To approve the following:
 - (iv) Internal Auditors Report 2025/26 **(pages 105 - 116)**
 - (v) Audit programme 2026/27 **(pages 117 - 127)**
 - (d) Northern Works Committee on 12th May 2026 **(pages 128 - 139)**
 - (e) Executive Committee on 2nd June 2026 **(pages 140 - 153)**

To approve the following:
 - (i) Period 12 Management Accounts **(pages 153 - 158)**
 - (ii) 10 Year Schemes Budget **(pages 159 - 161)**
 - (iii) 10 Year Plant Replacement Budget **(page 162)**
 - (iv) 10 Year Estimates to reflect scheme updates & 2025/26 year end position **(page 163)**
8. To approve the Unaudited Financial Statements for the year ending 31st March 2026 **(Booklet Enclosed)**
9. To review and approve the Annual Governance Statement **(page 167)**

10. To approve and authorise the Chairperson to sign the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the year ending 31st March 2026 **(pages 164 - 169)**
11. To receive a report on Finance & Rating
 - (a) Period 1 Management Accounts **(pages 170 - 176)**
 - (b) Drainage Rates Report **(page 177)**
12. To review the Risk Register **(page 178)**
13. To receive reports on the following:
 - (a) Monthly Accounts: February 2026 – May 2026 **(pages 179 - 195)**
 - (b) Monthly Accounts (Woldmarsh) **(pages 196 - 199)**
 - (c) Schedule of Consents Issued: February 2026 - May 2026 **(pages 200 - 204)**
 - (d) Update on Enforcement Actions since February **(pages 205 - 206)**
 - (e) Rainfall **(pages 207 - 208)**
14. To receive the Fens 2100+ Spring 2026 Newsletter **(pages 209 - 214)**
15. Any other business.
 - (a) Anglian Water Lincs Programme Document May 2026. **(pages 215 - 230)**

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of a Meeting of the Board

held at the Offices of the Board on
10th February 2026 at 2pm

Members

Chairperson - * Mr P Holmes

Mr W Ash	Mr G Atkinson
* Mr T Ashton	* Mr V Barker
* Cllr S Evans	* Cllr P Bedford
* Cllr M Geaney	* Cllr A Hagues
* Cllr Z Lane	* Mr M Leggott
* Cllr R Austin	* Mr M Mowbray
Mr R Needham	* Cllr R Pryke
* Mr P Robinson	Mr M Rollinson
Cllr C Rylott	* Cllr D Scoot
* Mr C Wray	Cllr N Drayton
* Cllr S Welberry	Cllr J Cantwell

* Member Present

In attendance: Mr D Withnall (Chief Executive)
Mr P Nicholson (Projects Director)
Mr S Harrison (Maintenance Director)
Mrs A Chamberlain (Finance & Admin Director)

2586 Recording the Meeting - Agenda Item 1

Members were informed that the meeting would be recorded.

2587 Apologies for Absence - Agenda Item 2

Apologies for absence were received from Mr W Ash, Mr G Atkinson, Mr R Needham, Mr M Rollinson, Cllr J Cantwell, Cllr N Drayton and Cllr C Rylott.

2588 Declarations of Interest - Agenda Item 3

There were no declarations of interest

2589 Minutes of the last Board meeting - Agenda Item 4

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board held on the 9th December 2025, copies of which had been circulated, were considered and it was AGREED that they should be signed as a true record.

- Minute 2566 Original Minute 2501 IDB Recovery Fund

- (i) Ewerby Fen Pumping Station

The Projects Director updated that despite the inclement weather experienced in recent weeks, contractors were coordinated as previously agreed, and the installation of the new control panel and pump motors at Ewerby Pumping Station has been successfully carried out.

All of the Board's mobile eight-inch pumps were deployed to Ewerby Pumping Station to maintain water levels. Under normal operating conditions these pumps would have been sufficient; however, due to the scale of the rainfall event, additional pumping capacity became necessary. To support the Board's response, Mr David Caswell loaned a tractor, enabling the operation of a pump via PTO, which was run overnight to supplement the mobile pumps. This combined effort ensured that water levels remained under control throughout the incident.

The Chairman recorded the Board's thanks to Mr Caswell for his assistance, and a formal letter of appreciation will be issued.

Action Point: The Board to send a letter of thanks to David Casswell for the loan of his tractor.

- (ii) South Kyme Pumping Station

The Projects Director reported that a new duct has been installed on site to accommodate the incoming supply cable. National Grid had provisionally scheduled the transformer installation and associated supply change for 23 March. However, this work will need to be deferred due to concurrent embankment repair activities being undertaken by Jacksons, which would result in conflicting personnel on site. The supply change will therefore be rescheduled to commence once Jacksons have completed their works.

- (iii) Dunsby, Pinchbeck & Helpringham Pumping Stations

The Projects Director reported that progress on the remaining three sites—Dunsby, Pinchbeck and Helpringham—remains dependent on the completion of outstanding wayleave agreements and Environment Agency flood risk activity permit applications. All associated works have been fully paid for, as noted at previous meetings, and the Board is otherwise ready to proceed. Once the necessary legal and regulatory matters are resolved, dates will be scheduled for the works to commence.

- Minute 2431 January 2025 Heavy Rainfall Event

The Chief Executive reported that the Environment Agency's local officers had advised that the ongoing simulation modelling work is currently running approximately two weeks ahead of schedule. Although the modelling had originally been expected before Christmas, the Agency now anticipates completing its internal review imminently. The Board should therefore expect to receive the finalised outputs within the next couple of months.

- Minute 2431 Grant in Aid Funding

The Chief Executive reported that the Environment Agency had not yet issued the updated guidance for the forthcoming flood defence grant-in-aid funding procedures, which are due to take effect on 1 April. The guidance was originally expected in November, subsequently delayed to January, and has now been postponed again with a timescale of before 31 March.

Although the timetable remains challenging, the Chief Executive noted that during the previous refresh of the process the guidance was not received until six months into the financial year, and therefore the current position still reflects an improvement on past experience. The delays relate to the national Environment Agency team rather than local officers.

- Minute 2520(d) Compliance with Eel Regulations

The Chief Executive reported positive progress regarding the Eel Regulations. The Board has now received exemptions for all high-priority sites until 31 December of the year following the planned refurbishment works, providing additional compliance flexibility.

Chain Bridge and Donington North Ings are currently progressing through the process for the installation of less damaging fish and eel friendly pumps. The exemptions provide approximately nine months of additional operational breathing space, ensuring the Board remains legally compliant during the transition period.

The Projects Director further advised that, due to the hydrological connection between Donington North Ings, Swineshead and Chain Bridge via the Hammond Beck, the team is exploring whether a single eel pass installation may satisfy the regulatory requirement for all three sites.

- Minute 2520 Future maintenance of the Cliff Beck EA Main River

At the request of the Chairman, the Chief Executive provided an overview of the role of the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) for the benefit of new members. The RFCCs were established under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and there are nine committees nationally, with the Board falling under the Anglian Northern RFCC.

RFCCs are locally based bodies intended to provide a more informed assessment of flood and coastal erosion risk within their respective areas, enabling more effective local prioritisation than could be achieved through national decision-making alone. They influence the Environment Agency's allocation of national funding and oversee the setting of local levies.

IDB's in the Anglian Northern Region currently contribute to RFCC funding through a precept of approximately £2.2 million, which has remained unchanged since 2009. Additional funding comprises around £1.6 million from county and unitary authorities through local levies, with the remaining approximate third coming from the general drainage charge applied to agricultural land occupiers outside IDB boundaries. Although IDBs contribute over one-third of the RFCC's income, they do not have direct representation on the committee, aside from members with indirect IDB affiliations.

Mark Leggott confirmed that his final RFCC meeting will take place in July, with new appointees expected to be announced in due course. Appointments are made by a panel comprising the RFCC Chair, Environment Agency officers, and an RFCC member.

- Minute 2524 Website

The CEO updated the new Board website is currently being built with the payment method being tested today. The driving force for this activity was to ensure the website would be compliant with the new accessibility regulations for the public sector digital and technology platforms. Other pages that are being developed will make the whole website more aesthetically pleasing including pictures in the News feed making it more manageable. The aim is to launch the new site well before 1st April ready for the intake of drainage rate payments.

- Minute 2531 Court Case arising from the Northern Works Committee

The Chief Executive provided an update on the recent County Court proceedings involving a ratepayer from the Heckington area. The case related to the overtopping of a Board-maintained drain adjacent to the individual's property, which had required her to relocate her horses on two occasions during Storm Babet in October 2023 and again in January 2025. The Board's internal complaints process had been completed prior to the ratepayer issuing a formal claim through the County Court. Although the NFU and the Board's solicitors initially persuaded the claimant not to proceed, she later pursued the matter to a full hearing. The Board's insurer appointed counsel, and the trial took place last Thursday. The claimant elected to have her husband act as a lay representative, a decision that was not well-received by either the judge or counsel; however, the trial continued and lasted about two hours. The Court found that Internal Drainage Boards operate under permissive powers with respect to drainage and flood risk management and do not have a statutory duty to undertake such works, as set out under Section 14A of the Land Drainage Act 1991. A written judgment is awaited.

The Environment Agency has expressed interest in the outcome, which is expected to clarify the application of permissive powers nationally and will be shared with other IDBs in due course. Although the claimant suggested the matter was "not over," counsel advised that no leave to appeal is likely to be granted. The claimant may attempt further recourse through the Local Government Ombudsman or the Lands Tribunal, although the latter would have been the appropriate route initially.

The judgment, once issued, is expected to stand and will provide a helpful precedent.

No application for costs was made, as it was considered unlikely that the Court would award them as legislation limits recoverability for local authorities.

- Minutes 2573 AOB Fens 2100

The Chief Executive provided an update on the FENS 2100 Project, a multi-agency partnership led by a dedicated Environment Agency team and involving representatives from local authorities, Natural England, ADA and Internal Drainage Boards. The project is examining the long term future of the Fens, with particular focus on the funding and sustainability of ageing flood risk management infrastructure. The Chief Executive confirmed his participation on the Programme Board alongside senior representatives from the Environment Agency and other partner organisations. Additional IDB representation includes Innes Thompson (ADA), Karen Daft (Welland

area) and Paul Burrows (Great Ouse area), collectively ensuring strong sector involvement. Significant work has been completed on the development of baseline reports, assessing the current condition, economic value and national importance of the Fens including agriculture, transport, energy and wider infrastructure. These detailed assessments feed into a 20 page Case for Change document, setting out the urgent need for strategic investment in existing systems to prevent long term land loss and to secure sustainable funding models. The baseline summary and Case for Change documents are scheduled for release on 18 March, with a formal launch event to be held at Westminster, hosted by ADA, to engage MPs and key stakeholders. The Chief Executive advised that these are the principal documents members should review, noting that the remaining technical papers are extensive and primarily for detailed reference

2591 To receive the unconfirmed Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on the 21st January 2026, copies of which had been circulated. - Agenda Item 6

The Chairperson of the Executive Committee presented the unconfirmed Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on the 21st January 2026, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the Minutes should be received.

- Minutes 2579 Original Minute 2021 10-year Plant Budget

- (i) Energreen Alpha

- The Projects Director reported that the new Energreen Alpha machine has undergone an initial PDI inspection and will receive a further inspection once it has been put into operational use. At present, all indications are that the machine is performing as expected. It was further confirmed that the existing machines have been traded in in accordance with the terms of the purchase.

- (ii) Ride on Mower

- The Projects Director confirmed that the Board has now purchased the new ride-on mower. Delivery is expected within the next couple of weeks, and the machine will be registered for road use from 1 March, ensuring it is ready for the start of the forthcoming cutting season.

- Minutes 25812026/27 Budget and Ten-Year Estimates

- The Chief Executive reported that, following longstanding difficulties in securing the installation of an electricity meter for the EE mobile equipment on our mast, an issue ongoing since 2016, the meter has now been successfully fitted. Once the supplier has calculated historic energy usage, a backdated payment is expected covering the period from 2016 to the present, after which billing will proceed on an actual-usage basis. The Chief Executive will provide a further update upon receipt of the backdated sum and advise on proposals for its allocation.

- Minute 2585 (c) RSPB Frampton Marsh

- The Chief Executive reported on discussions with John Badley, Manager at RSPB Frampton Marsh, regarding ongoing difficulties with water management at the site. The RSPB's pumps failed during the previous summer; these units, which transfer water from the Board's drain into the above-ground reservoir that supports key bird habitats, had been replaced, however, the new pumps were installed without the

required dry-run protection, causing them to operate without water and subsequently burn out. They are currently being repaired under warranty.

The Chief Executive noted that the RSPB pumps operate at approximately 140 litres per minute, a relatively low rate, and have been out of action for over nine months. As a result, water levels at Frampton Marsh are significantly depleted, with much of the site resembling mudflats rather than open water. This has been exacerbated by one of the driest summers on record. Maximum water levels are normally reached by the end of March, but the continued pump failure has left the site severely short of water, posing a risk to breeding waders and associated food sources.

The Board has capacity within the environmental budget, and the Executive Committee has agreed to loan a mobile six-inch pump to the RSPB. This unit is capable of moving approximately 85 litres per second, vastly exceeding the throughput of the existing RSPB pumps. It is estimated that, with this support, water levels could be restored within a couple of weeks.

The Chief Executive highlighted that this assistance will not only support the immediate ecological needs of the reserve but will also strengthen collaboration with the RSPB as they progress wider landscape recovery initiatives, which may benefit the Board in relation to future schemes and system improvements.

The Chairman noted that the modest cost to the Board, approximately £4,100, represents good value in light of the potential long-term benefits of enhanced partnership working with the RSPB.

(a) The following reports were considered and noted by the Board:

(i) 2026/27 Budget and Ten-Year Estimates Report

Mr V Barker enquired when the new access culverts for Gosberton Clough and Swaton will be completed. Mr S Harrison confirmed this will be as soon as possible after April. The funding has been secured.

(ii) Budget with 10 Year Estimates

(iii) 2026/27 Summary budget by month

(iv) 2026/27 Detailed budget by month

(v) 10 Year Schemes Budget

Mr V Barker enquired where he can find the Barn Owl Box Maintenance information. The Chairperson confirmed the Environment Committee papers are on the website.

(vi) 10 Year Plant replacement budget

(vii) 2026/27 Cumulative Solar Panel Report

(viii) October 2025 Electricity Analysis

2592 To receive the Quarter 3 Forecast and Period 09 Management Accounts - Agenda Item 7

(a) Quarter 03 Forecast

The Finance & Admin Director reported that grant income for the current financial year is forecast to be approximately £3.8 million below budget, due to

several structural repair schemes proving undeliverable within the year. These schemes will therefore be carried forward into future years.

It was further noted that additional schemes will extend into 2026–27, as priority has been given to the completion of the current IDB Fund projects. Three schemes supported by the IDB Fund have submitted additional funding requests, and an overspend is anticipated, although responses to those requests have not yet been received.

The forecasted figures for pumping station maintenance also include the cost of the 5G telemetry upgrade, approved at the recent Executive Committee meeting. Overall, an underspend of £2,609 is currently projected for the year.

Period 09 Management Accounts

The Finance & Admin Director presented the management accounts for the period ending 31 December. £19,000 of the outstanding drainage rates is subject to agreed payment plans. Solar income is currently £1,000 above budget, although two sites are presently not communicating; these issues are being investigated. The schemes programme is showing an apparent underspend of over £5 million within the accounts; however, this is largely attributable to timing differences. Drain maintenance showed an underspend of approximately £60,000 at the end of December, though it is expected that some of this variance will reduce as the year progresses in line with the forecast.

2593 To review the Risk Register - Agenda Item 8

The CEO noted there had been no changes since the risk register was presented at the last Board meeting (9th December 2025). As there were no comments, the Board RESOLVED that this report be noted.

2594 To consider reports on the following – Agenda item 9

(a) Monthly Accounts: (November 2025 – January 2026)

The monthly accounts for November 2025 to January 2026 were presented.

The Board RESOLVED that this report be noted.

(b) Monthly Accounts: Woldmarsh

The Board's monthly Woldmarsh invoices, inclusive of October 2025 - December 2025, were presented.

The Board RESOLVED that this report be noted.

(c) Update on Enforcement Actions Taken from November 2025)

The Chief Executive presented the update on Enforcement actions from November 2025.

The Board RESOLVED that this report be noted.

(d) Schedule of Consents from November 2025.

The Schedule of Consents was presented.

The Board RESOLVED that this report be noted

(e) Rainfall

The rainfall figures at Swineshead and Black Hole Drove were presented, copies of which had been circulated.

The Board RESOLVED that this report be noted.

2595 To receive the draft minutes of the Joint ADA Lincs / Welland and Nene Branch Meeting held on 23rd October 2025. - Agenda Item 10

The draft minutes of the Joint ADA Lincs / Welland and Nene Branch Meeting held on 23rd October 2025 were noted.

2596 To authorise the Chairperson and Finance Director to seal the Rate for 2026/27 – Agenda Item 11

It was RESOLVED that the Chairperson and Chief Executive be authorised to seal the Drainage Rate and Special Levies for the year 2026/27 as follows:

(a) Drainage Rates

	<u>Rate in the £</u>	<u>Estimated Amount of Drainage Rates Payable</u>
Sub-District No 1 – Being so much of the said Internal Drainage District as comprises the area of the Borough of Boston as constituted and in existence immediately before 1 st April 1974.	10.21p	<u>£1,685,690</u>
Sub-District No 2 – Being the remainder of the Internal Drainage District.	20.41p	

(b) Special Levies

Boston Borough Council	£ 1,357,420.12
South Holland District Council	£ 257,039.46
North Kesteven District Council	£ 155,912.19
South Kesteven District Council	£ 99,110.14
	<u>£ 1,780,120.02</u>

2597 Any Other Business - Agenda Item 12

There was no other business.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 14:33

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of a meeting of the Environment Committee

held at the offices of the Board on
3rd March 2026 at 2pm

Members

Chairperson - * Mr R Needham

Mr W Ash	*	Mr G Atkinson
* Mr P Holmes	*	Cllr A Hagues
* Mr M Rollinson	*	Mr P Robinson
* Mr R Welberry	*	Mr M Taylor
* Cllr C Rylott		

* Member Present

In attendance: Mr D Withnall (Chief Executive)
Mr S Harrison (Maintenance Director)
Miss E Askew (Environment Officer)

Guests: Mrs M Haggerty (Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership)
Ms Louisa Williams (Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust)
Mr Ed Kirby (Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust)
Mr Mark Tarttelin (Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust)

2598 Recording the meeting - Agenda Item 1

Board Members were informed that the meeting would be recorded.

2599 Apologies for absence and welcome guests - Agenda Item 2

There were apologies for absence from Mr W Ash,

The Chairperson welcomed and introduced guests; Mrs M Haggerty (Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership) plus, Mrs L William, Mr E Kirby & Mr Mark Tarttelin (all from the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust).

2600 Declarations of interest - Agenda Item 3

There were no declarations of interest.

2601 Minutes of the last meeting - Agenda Item 4

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 4th March 2025, copies of which had been circulated, were considered. It was AGREED that they should be signed as a true record.

2602 Matters arising - Agenda Item 5

There were no matters arising.

2603 To update on Biodiversity Action Plan action progress 2025/26 - Agenda Item 6

The Environment Officer updated the Action Progress for 2025/26. The report was taken as read with anything notable to be addressed within the environmental report.

Mr R Welberry noted there was a colony Daubenton bats living underneath the Claydyke pump and he was interested if they were still using this pump as their habitat.

The Environment Officer was unsure and will make investigations.

2604 To review the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 2026/31(Policy No.11)-Agenda Item 7

The Chairperson offered thanks to Officers from Black Sluice IDB and Mrs M Haggerty from GLNP who helped produce the Biodiversity Action Plan and make it a readable document.

The Environment Officer updated and gave an overview of how the Biodiversity Action Plan was put together to make it a more digestible report than before. The species were prioritised differently so we know what to focus on specifically and the categories of **must**, **should** and **could** were introduced.

- **Must** refers to species that are impacted directly by the Boards work, they are protected species that live in the drainage channel.
- **Should** refers to species that are declining and we should be supporting them.
- **Could** refers to species that do not need help, and the Board would like to support them as they exist within the district. These species might be easy wins for the Board in terms of Biodiversity targets.

There is a more comprehensive Species and Habitat audit compared to the previous Biodiversity Action Plan. This covers a wider range of Habitats that may be present in the Boards area going into more detail especially with the invasive and non-native species. There have been more photographs added and specific detailed maps to make it more engaging. The actions are precise and achievable actions that are more targeted and relevant compared to the ones in the old plan which were unattainable and irrelevant to the work of the Board. This copy of the Biodiversity Action Plan can be taken as read unless there are any comments or anything notable to add or share.

Mr P Holmes questioned if there had been any success with the nesting in the artificial kingfisher habitats.

The Environment Officer stressed there is kingfisher activity in the area, yet it's not known if there is nesting activity yet. She added it can take up to 2 years for nesting in artificial habitats to occur. The monitoring will continue over the next few years.

The Maintenance Director pointed out the artificial kingfisher nesting would take some time to re-establish after the considerable repairs to the bank.

The Committee RESOLVED to recommend that the Biodiversity Action Plan (Policy No. 11) be approved at the next Board meeting.

2605 To receive a report on environmental work completed in 2025/26 and recommendations for proposed works for 2026/27 - Agenda Item 8

The Environment Officer and Maintenance Director presented this agenda item, highlighting particular points as follows:

1 Owl Boxes

There is no good news to report as it has been the worst year on record within the whole of the southern half of England. With a harsh wet winter leading into a dry hot spring / summer prey numbers were down so there was nothing for the owls to feed on. Due to staffing challenges, we were not able to monitor all the Owl boxes as fully as normal. However, it is unlikely the results would have been different. The owls themselves weren't nesting or producing eggs. Those that were laying eggs were giving up on them very quickly. Further, it was a bad year for Kestrels and out of the 34 boxes we only had 1 brood of kestrels. We hope for better results this year.

Mr R Welberry questioned if the jackdaws made any difference to the owl numbers.

The Environment Officer noted jackdaws can take over but this was not the issue this year.

Mr R Welberry noted there was a different design of owl box.

The Environment Officer pointed out this box hadn't been successful and therefore was not adopted.

2 Early Flailing Works

The Maintenance Director updated work is progressing with early season cutting and flailing on major pump drains. Plus, work is continuing for the Environment Agency contract for medium consequence watercourses to do the H&S cuts and to do their early season cuts as well.

3 Control of Mink

The Environment Officer updated the Board continues to partner with Waterlife Recovery Trust on mink eradication. The Board no longer holds any responsibility for managing any traps. Mrs M Haggerty asked if the Board would make a financial contribution to the Waterlife Recovery Trust.

4 RSPB Water Abstraction for Frampton Marsh.

The CEO updated he met with the Manager of RSPB Frampton Marsh recently. Water levels are low when they should be at their peak at the end of March. They are experiencing problems with their broken pump and coupled with one of the hottest, driest summers in 2025 all this means the nesting birds are short of a food source. A proposal was made to the Executive Committee to use the underspend from the Environmental budget to loan the RSPB the Boards 6-inch pump and top up the water as far as the funds would stretch. This was approved and RSPB Frampton Marsh welcomed working in partnership with the Board.

The Maintenance Director updated he met with the manager of RSPB Frampton Marsh and agreed a location for the pump to go onto site. The RSPB have obtained

a new extraction licence as the one in place is too restrictive for our higher capacity pump. Currently, they are just waiting for the Eel rose from the EA. Then the pump will be moved to Frampton Marsh next week to start filling the reservoir back up again.

Mr R Welberry remarked on the amount of rain we have had it is surprising the water levels are low.

5 Operation Fly Swat

The Maintenance Director updated on this situation which is not improving. The Board pays a contribution to this service, yet due to the perceived contravening of a Health & safety policy the flyswat operatives will not retrieve litter from dykes and drains. Therefore, the Black Sluice operatives are asked to retrieve the rubbish. There is a not only a waste transfer issue plus a waste storage issue as Black Sluice are asked to store what could potentially be contaminated waste in their yard. This is unacceptable. The Maintenance Director highlighted he would like to meet with the council to discuss it and suggest they write a new Health & safety method statement for their operatives.

Mr P Holmes noted as an individual he could contact the council to report fly tipping without having to contribute.

The CEO queried with the Boston Borough Council representatives if there would be scope to discuss this matter with the new administration.

Cllr C Rylott agreed this could be possible and to contact the leader of the council Cllr D Broughton and the portfolio holder Cllr C Butler who are probably both unaware of any issue.

Mr P Holmes suggested that the Board don't pay the contribution.

The CEO echoed this sentiment unless things return to the original partnership.

6 Bat boxes and Surveys

The Environment Officer updated we are in a turnaround period with regards to bat boxes which had been installed in inappropriate locations. However, this has been resolved in the new BAP with actions including the installation of Bat boxes in carefully considered locations. Currently, we are steadily removing old Bat boxes. Bat boxes can only be removed once a survey has been completed. Going forward the positions for Bat boxes will be more considered and well thought out.

During the Summer of 2025 there were 9 confined space detailed surveys completed at 9 pumping stations by an external consultant. These were carried out as the Board was completing some work in the lower pump rooms underground. There were no Bats detected or even any signs of bats. The areas surveyed were deemed as negligible for Bat roosts, so they are an unlikely habitat for bats in the future. This gave a valuable insight into the locations of Bat boxes and the potential value for bat roosting. New boxes can be considered for locations going forward.

7 Eel Screens

The CEO updated this time last year the Board had been given some exemptions for eel screens. They were for only one year and with the condition that we agreed

with the Area Fisheries Officer by 30th September 2025 how we were going to fit the fish & Eel less damaging pumps. We now have a long-term exemption which is dated to the December following the year we have planned for refurbishment. The refurbishment will include fish and eel friendly pumps which are less damaging and more expensive to fit. Currently we are trialling these pumps at Chain bridge and Donington North Ings which will allow us to report the difference in cost of refurbishment compared to the cost of fitting the new pumps. Ultimately all of the refurbishments are reliant on attracting Flood Defence Grant in Aid funding from the EA and DEFRA.

9 Grass Snake Nesting Sites

The Environment Officer updated in spring last year we designed, created and installed two new reptile hibernacula sites which are for hibernation and artificial incubators. The nesting sites are upcycled old gabion baskets filled with different natural materials which will breakdown and create a warm, moist environment. The new design is more appropriate and better reflects their requirements and natural needs of the snakes. This is the first winter for the new nesting sites, which are located at Great Hale and Kirton Marsh. After examination of the site at Great Hale the signs are positive and definitely shows signs of usage. As the weather turns warmer more monitoring can be done.

10 Wildflower Meadow

The Environment Officer updated that an area of land adjacent to Cooks Lock is being managed as a wild meadow area. We were supported by Boston Seeds who created specific seed mixes for the soil type. It was hoped this would increase the chances of it becoming a better habitat. Unfortunately, this was an unsuccessful venture, largely due to the quality and condition of the soil. However, in the next few months we will look at doing something there again.

Mr R Welberry noted that wildflower seed is very difficult to germinate and suggested plugs may have been more successful although it is more costly.

11 Bug Hotel

The Environment Officer pointed out the Bug Hotel is adjacent to the office. There is nothing to report it will just continue to be maintained.

12 Badger Sets

The Environment Officer updated that annually Badgers continue to present the same concerns and problems for the Board. One current health and safety concern which poses a risk and ultimately a financial cost for the Board can be seen within a bank near Surfleet. Due to the nature of that environment the Board can only operate on one side of the bank. Badgers have started to take over that side of the bank and most of the Sets are forming and appearing from the top where the Board needs access. This poses a long-term health and safety risk as well as a hazard to the integrity of the bank. The operations department are looking to do something to stabilise the bank. However, from February to April, is the sensitive breeding season so currently no work can take place. However, we can consider our options from May onwards. Due to the locations of the Badger sets the Board would have to obtain a license from Natural England to mitigate the badgers which would incur a charge. Over the coming months the Board will have to explore our options but currently we cannot do anything.

13 Pollution Incidents

The Environment Officer updated there were no major incidents over the last year. There is a small-scale issue currently on Villa Lane which is on-going. There is a small amount of pollution discharging into one of the small ditches which has been reported to the EA and is waiting for them to inspect this. In terms of a different type of pollution there had been an issue with littering at Chain Bridge by B&M Home Stores. This was caused by the deliveries taking place outside and therefore litter was becoming a problem blocking the weed screen. Environmentally, this impacted on the nesting swans. Once this had been persistent for a couple of years a positive solution unfolded when B&M and the Board worked together for a conclusion. B&M now accept deliveries in a compound which has removed the litter problem.

14 Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (GLNP)

This Partnership and its funding will continue.

16 Artificial House Martins Nests

Taken as read with no Changes.

18 The Wash & North Norfolk Marine Partnership (WNNMP)

Taken as read with no changes.

19 The Environmental Good Governance Guide for Internal Drainage Boards.

This ADA document is available upon request or can be found on the ADA website.

[Good-Governance-Guide-V2-Digital.pdf](#)

20 Environmental Tracker Reports

The Environment Officer updated the map of the environmental tracker report which is prompted by reports from the workforce on their GPS tracker. Some species have only been added in the last year so it will take some time to build up a stronger report.

Proposed Works and Environmental Involvement in 2026/27

1 Biodiversity Surveys

Biodiversity surveys will continue this year but will be slightly different with the introduction of the thermal drone. The new drone is proving effective at improving ecological surveying for nesting bird and Badgers.

2 Winter Bushing and Cleansing

The Maintenance Director updated the Board continues with the bushing activity as normal and hopes to be completed by end of March.

3 Summer Cutting and Vegetation Clearance

The Maintenance Director updated the Board continues with the cutting and vegetation clearance as normal and hopes to be completed by end of March.

4 Owl Boxes

The Environment Officer updated there are no significant changes here with the budget remaining the same. The cost of Owl boxes has remained stable. We continue to assess if any boxes need changing and purchase a couple of boxes should there need to be any replacements.

5 Recording by Machine Drivers

The Maintenance Director updated the Board is looking to purchase three new TomTom units for the new machines.

6 Water Levels

Taken as read with no changes.

7 Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) and Biosecurity

The introduction of Biosecurity policy and protocol and reporting of Non-Native Species is all quite new to the Board. This is just something that long term records will develop. We will just remind the workforce what the species look like. Any non-native species that are found will be reported to the Environment Agency. It may be the landowner's role to address this issue. But it is the Boards role to ensure we don't spread any Non-Native Species.

Mr M Rollinson queried which invasive species are recorded on the Environmental Tracker Reports Map and does this refer to Chinese Mitten Crabs.

The Environment Officer noted the invasive species the drivers are confident recording are likely to be plants like Himalayan Balsam. The Board doesn't have any personal reports of Chinese mitten crabs or in our areas. Although they are present in neighbouring Boards.

Mr R Welberry noted that was good news then queried if there were any crayfish.

The Environment Officer confirmed the Board doesn't have any reports of crayfish either.

Mr M Tarttelin noted the Chinese Mitten crabs were in the SFFD they are very invasive and in large numbers and are difficult to control.

The Chairman and Mr M Rollinson agreed they understood that, from the ADA Environmental Day.

Mrs M Haggerty questioned if there is any budget for supporting the Waterlife Recovery Trust for their work with mink who do work on your behalf.

The CEO stressed the Board used to contribute and also used to provide Volunteers, but the Trust were keen to manage themselves.

Mrs M Haggerty pointed out the Trust doesn't make a point of asking for a contribution but most IDB's they are working with are providing a contribution and it is appreciated.

The Chairperson asked how many traps are managed by the Trust rather than other individuals other than the Boards.

Mrs M Haggerty stressed that most of the traps are managed by Volunteers the Waterlife Recovery Trust pay for the equipment and employ project officers to support the Volunteers. They also fund the scientific work.

Mr R Welberry praised the Waterlife Recovery Trust stating they do a very good job.

8 Operation Fly Swat Partner

Taken as read with no changes to the predicted contribution.

9 Grass Snake Nesting Sites

The Environment Officer updated the budget has been increased as the aim is to build another three hibernacula sites for nesting this year and maintain the sites that we have currently.

10 Wildflower Meadow – Cooks Lock Project

Taken as read with no changes. The Board will be looking at opportunities to be more successful this year.

11 Pollinator Projects

This is in line with some actions on the Biodiversity Action Plan. The proposed funds have been allocated for Butterfly projects at pumping stations for pollinator planting at the specific sites.

12 The Wash & North Norfolk Marine Partnership (WNNMP)

Taken as read with no changes.

13 Kingfisher Nests

Funds have been budgeted for Kingfisher habitat creation. Previously the artificial habitat was created at Rippingale when the bank was being reprofiled. We will look at different alternatives and projects that have a head start.

14 Hirundine Bird Boxes and Sound Systems

The nest boxes are located at two pumping stations but unfortunately, there has not been any success. It is proven that sounds can attract the birds to the sites and they are more likely to uptake the nest. Funds will be allocated for setting up a sound system and some more nest boxes.

15 Lincolnshire Bat Group

Other Boards are members of their local community Bat Groups. In return the IDB's receive support and advice with Bat surveys and habitat enhancements. This is a good new networking opportunity for bat conservation.

16 Slip Repairs Seed

This budget has slightly increased in line with new actions in the Biodiversity Action Plan and guidance received from our partners at the Butterfly Conservation. In the Biodiversity Action Plan, we stress we will create specific Butterfly and pollinator friendly seed mixes for when we are already reseeding banks after reprofiling a bank. The recommendations from our Partners are to use only species that are no problem, don't impact negatively on the IDB, are easy to manage and enhance the work we are doing now.

17 Environmental Training

Taken as read with no changes.

18 Total Budget Allocation

The Committee AGREED the budget as below:

Environment and GIS Officer	£	25,879
Operation Fly swat partner	£	4,400
Fly Swat Labour & Plant	£	4,000
Fish relocation for winter cleansing	£	2,000
Barn Owl Box Maintenance	£	2,100
Tom Tom Repairs and Updates	£	1,700
WNNMP	£	400
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust / GLNP Service Level Agreement	£	300
Biosecurity	£	2,000
Ecological Training	£	1,000
Reptile hibernacula sites	£	2,000
Slip Repairs Seed	£	800
Lincolnshire Bat Group Membership	£	10
Cooks Lock Project	£	1,600
Hirundine Bird Boxes and Sound Systems	£	1,000
Kingfisher Nests	£	1,000
Butterfly Projects for Pumping Stations	£	800
TOTAL	£	50,989

2606 To receive a report on Barn Owl Nesting Boxes for 2025 - Agenda Item 9

The Environment Officer presented the Barn Owl Report for 2025 to be taken as read.

2607 To receive the 2025 butterfly report from Windmill Lodge Butterfly Conservation and Wildlife area, Amber Hill - Agenda Item 10

The 2025 butterfly records from Windmill Lodge Butterfly conservation and wildlife area at Amber Hill were presented and noted by the BOARD.

Mr R Welberry left the meeting

2607 To receive a report on the mink progress for 2025 / 26 – Agenda item 11

The Environment Officer updated the report on mink progress. The eradication of Mink continues with 48 traps used across our district and only 6 Mink were caught in 2025 with a total of 9 Mink caught in the Black Sluice district. Fewer traps are going out compared to other areas and the Mink are moving to more northern areas.

Mr M Rollinson questioned if the traps from our area will be moved eventually.

Mrs M Haggerty confirmed this was the case, once it's established the area is free of Mink. A skeleton network will remain in place.

The Chairperson questioned how many Mink has been caught by Mr M Rollison on the SFFD.

Mr M Rollinson confirmed it was none this year but three last year.

The Chairperson noted that young Otters can be mistaken for Mink this time of year.

2608 To receive a presentation from Mark Tartelin on Bourne Fen Wetland Project - Agenda Item 12



River Glen & Bourne Eau

Mr M Tartelin referred to the presentation on screen and confirmed the Bourne North Fen site is in the very bottom of the Black Sluice IDB area between Baston Fen and Willow Tree Fen. It is strategic with its connections to several watercourses: the Glen on the south side and the Bourne Eau which runs into Bourne and the Wierdyke which runs into the top of the SFFD. Theoretically, you can run water from Rutland Water down to Boston. The stewardship has been on site over 20 years which brought on the aquatic plants which are part of the scheme today going forward. We are putting in a bank around the entire site to isolate it from the surrounding hydrology and allow us more control of the water within the site.

Phase one is being carried out now with the objective to have a wetland, and it has been pretty wet on site in the last couple of months with a challenge to continue working. We have been careful to avoid the Water Voles on the drain and Materials

are being transported carefully around the bank, which has incurred additional expense but created habitat through the process.

The bulk of the work will be completed this month then we will rest the site for it to recover. There will have more control when the new drain flows round the site. Some areas are a foot above sea level. The term fenland derives botanically from a number of species and certain conditions. Looking at the biodiversity of the site, the plans are 26 years on comes from Biodiversity plans from the late 1990's. The historic fen we had 1000 square kilometres in Lincolnshire which was reduced to 35 hectares by the end of the 1990's. We have put back 0.1% with Willow Tree Fen and Bourne North Fen will put back 0.03%. Nevertheless, it's a 30% increase in Lincolnshire Biodiversity assets for this kind of habitat. Then a study by the Environment Agency will be completed to look at the wider water control of this area in liaison with the Black Sluice. It is expected to take a year to complete the study AND Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust have been awarded funding.



Reedbeds where there is hoped Bittern will thrive

The CEO queried if there were any suggestions for the Board what might be done to develop the Board owned pit nearby or should it be left alone.

Mr M Tarttelin considered this, largely it could be left alone as it is in a good state, relatively small and isolated. A more detailed plan could be considered in a year or two.

Finally, we are making substantial progress thanks to the Lidar Mapping from Lincoln University and walking over the site there are new things every time. The funding for the works onsite largely comes from the Government Climate Change funding reducing the impact from oxidising peat. The Bourne North Fen site is worth approx. 250 households per year from the carbon emitted from the site through peat oxidization. But most of the peat on the top has gone. If the funding was just for surface peat, the LWT would not have achieved the amount funding to complete the works. Because underneath the surface there is clay and more peat that made the Bourne Fen Farm site eligible for the category in the funding. Over the years peat levels have altered with the peat under the surface oxidizing and the expanse of this reaches as far as Spalding and Crowland and oxidisation occurring on the banks of the Witham. This oxidisation is caused by the bacteria in the peat and the oxygen in the ground drains. This doesn't sound like too much of an issue, but it can a drop in the landscape by as much as a meter. It is critical to preserve the water table levels in summer and in the winter the levels are maintained.

The CEO queried the suggestion that more LAPSIP funding may become available for peat.

Mr M Tarttelin confirmed there is another round of funding. However, the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust cannot apply for any funding on this site again and the deadline for completing the work is the end of this month.



Great White Egrets that are larger than a Heron

Habitat wise the site is grassier in the south. It's a habitat for Egrets, Marsh Harriers, Red Kites, Swans and Roe Deer. This was a site for large cuppa Butterflies which could be reintroduced.

All of these works are partnership works which is the only way to make substantial progress.

The Chairperson questioned if the rodens would be covered in peat.

Mr M Tarttelin confirmed they would.

The Chairperson thanked Mr M Tarttelin for his interesting presentation.

2609 To receive changes working to the Badger Policy (Policy No 55)- Agenda Item 13

The Committee RESOLVED to recommend that the Working Near Badgers (Policy No. 55) be approved at the next Board meeting.

2610 Any Other Business - Agenda Item 14

There was no other business.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 15:33

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

Policy No: 55

Badger Policy

Review Dates:

Original Issue	24 th June 2025
Board Approved	23 rd June 2026

1. Introduction

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board (BSIDB) is committed to the protection and conservation of badgers (*Meles meles*) and their habitats. This policy has been put in place to ensure the legal and ethical management of badgers during the boards drainage operations.

The policy outlines the Board's recognition of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, and its requirements for working in areas where badgers may be present. All works affecting badgers or their setts, will be conducted with due consideration for their welfare and in accordance with legal obligations, particularly those specified under the CL27 licence. The board holds a high-level of responsibility to prevent harm and disturbance to badgers, their setts and their foraging habitats.

2. Legal Framework

The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 is the primary legislation for the protection of badgers and their setts in the United Kingdom. Unlike other species legislations, the Badger Act 1992 is unique in that it is in place to protect badgers from cruelty and harm, focusing on animal welfare compared to enhancing numbers and conservation.

Under the Act, it is an offence to:

- Kill, injure, or take a badger.
- Disturb a badger while it occupies a sett.
- Damage, destroy, or obstruct access to a sett.

3. Natural England CL27 Badger License

The Natural England CL27 Licence allows drainage boards to interfere with badger setts for watercourse and drainage purposes. The licence is held by all operatives and staff of BSIDB that work in the field and may encounter badgers and their setts as part of their daily duties. Full terms and regulations of the license and its usage can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/badgers-licence-to-interfere-with-setts-for-drainage-purposes>.

Following CL27, drainage operatives and their registered assistants are able to interfere with a badger sett by means of:

- Cutting bank vegetation with hand tools or tractor mounted flail

- Cutting bank vegetation and processing with a purpose-built harvester
- Cutting mid-channel vegetation with a 360 excavator
- Reforming banks with a 360 excavator
- Desilting drainage beds with a 360 excavator
- Maintaining low-level drainage culverts with a 360 excavator

All field operatives and staff who may come into contact with badgers and their setts will hold a registered CL27 licence issued by Natural England.

3. Responsibilities of BSIDB

BSIDB holds numerous responsibilities to ensure the protection of badgers and their habitat, to act as good environmental stewards, and to abide by the regulations set out by Natural England as holders of the CL27 license. Failure to follow these regulations, can result in the removal of licences and potential further penalties.

The board will also follow the latest good practice guidance set out by ADA for working around badgers, which can currently be found at: [https://www.ada.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/ADA CL27 Badger Class Licence Advice Note Sept 2021.pdf](https://www.ada.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/ADA_CL27_Badger_Class_Licence_Advice_Note_Sept_2021.pdf)

3.1 Avoiding Disturbance

The board will ensure that no sett is disturbed, destroyed or blocked unless authorised under the CL27 license. In the first instance, all cases will be assessed to try and prevent working near a badger sett. Planning ahead can prevent and minimise potential legislation breaches. For example, working from the opposite side of the bank from an active sett.

Where avoiding disturbance is not possible, the board will operate under the strict regulations of the CL27 license and preserve the badger sett to as full extent as possible, and only destruct a sett in a last resort circumstance to preserve public health and safety. The board will restrict channel works around setts to as short a time frame as possible to minimise disturbance.

3.2. Surveying and Monitoring

Excluding routine channel maintenance (e.g., vegetation cutting), prior to any planned work a badger survey will be conducted by the boards Environment Officer or a suitably licensed ecologist to identify the presence of badgers or their setts within the proposed work area.

During the course of any work conducted where there is a badger sett, continuous monitoring will be undertaken to ensure no disturbance outside of what is legally permitted under license occurs. For large projects, post-completion surveying will be undertaken to measure any lasting impacts on the badger population.

Field operatives of BSIDB will contribute to the long-term monitoring of badgers and their setts within the boards area, by reporting any sightings via remote TomTom trackers. This data will be analysed and contribute towards project planning and the boards Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).

3.3 Training and Awareness

BSIDB will routinely provide badger specific training to all staff who operate in the field, and any external contractors involved with a project. Staff will be trained and competent in identifying badgers, their setts and field signs to ensure they are alert and operating safely. Staff will also understand the legal protections afforded to badgers under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 and the potential penalties that may come from disobeying legislation. Field workers will also remain trained in how to report any sightings of badgers and their setts through remote trackers in order to keep the boards records accurate and up to date.

3.4 License Reporting

When the board is going to conduct works that interfere with badgers and their setts under licence, the board will contact Natural England at least 5 working days in advance to action being taken, with the following information:

- Site name
- Location address
- Map of the site (with an indication of where badger setts are located)

Detailed records of all surveys, licence applications, and mitigation measures will be kept by BSIDB. These records will ensure compliance with legal obligations and serve as a point of reference for future work.

All staff holding a CL27 license are responsible for recording and reporting details when operating under the licence, and a return of the records must be sent back to Natural England by January 31st each year. Returns are to be made even if the licence has not been used in a given year.

3.5 Timing of Works

Works will be scheduled, where possible, to avoid the badger breeding season, which typically spans December to June. Any activity within this period that may disturb setts or badger activity will require special attention to minimise risk and comply with licence conditions.

Under CL27 licence conditions, the board will not conduct bank reformation and desilting operations where there are badger setts during the months of February, March or April as this is the most sensitive breeding time for badgers.

3.6. Emergency Protocol

If a badger or a sett is unexpectedly encountered during works, all activities will cease immediately. BSIDB will consult with the Environment Officer or a licensed ecologist to evaluate the situation and determine the best course of action.

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
MINUTES

of the proceedings of a Meeting of the
Southern Works Committee

held at the Offices of the Board on the
24th March 2026 at 2pm

Members

Chairperson - * Mr C Wray

* Mr W Ash	Mr G Atkinson
* Mr V A Barker	Mr M Mowbray
* Mr J Casswell	* Mr R Dorrington
* Mr K Casswell	* Cllr M Geaney
* Cllr Z Lane	* Mr A Mair
* Mr M Taylor	*Mr D Leverton

(* Member Present)

In attendance: Mr D Withnall (Chief Executive)
Mr P Nicholson (Projects Director)
Mr S Harrison (Maintenance Director)
Mrs A Chamberlain (Finance & Admin Director)
Mr P Holmes (Chairperson of the Board)
Mr M Rollinson (Executive Committee)
Cllr P Bedford (Executive Committee)
Cllr S Evans (Executive Committee)

2612 Recording the Meeting - Agenda Item 1

Members were informed that the meeting would be recorded.

2613 Apologies for absence - Agenda Item 2

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R Needham, Mr M Mowbray, Mr G Atkinson, Mr R Start (invited guest), and Mr M Rollinson only attended the tour.

2614 Declarations of Interest - Agenda Item 3

There were no declarations of Interest.

2615 Minutes of the last meeting - Agenda Item 4

The Minutes of the Joint Works Committee, which was held on 7th October 2025, copies of which had been circulated, were considered. It was AGREED that the Minutes should be signed as a true record.

2616 Matters Arising - Agenda Item 5

Cllr M Geaney pointed out she thought she did attend the meeting on 7th October 2025 and it is marked she didn't attend. The CEO confirmed this will be investigated.

2617 Discuss the Operations Report and Inspection - Agenda Item 6

The Maintenance Director led discussions On the Operations report with an accompanying presentation.

1. Point of Interest – Excavator Access Routes and Proposed Culvert Installation.

The Maintenance Director updated the Board are constantly evaluating access points for the machines, cutting the cost of moving the machines and implementing alternative bank cutting in accordance with the Biodiversity Action Plan.

To cut the cost of moving the machines, which is quite costly, two sites have been identified and a budget of £31,750 has been approved to facilitate the installation of culverts. This will be completed in the next financial year from April up to the cutting season in August. The locations are behind the Europa Tyre depot in Gosberton and the other site in Swaton.

The Projects Director led discussions about the inspection, as follows, with an accompanying presentation.

2. View / discuss Donington Northings Pumping Station

Site visit: The site visit commenced with a discussion regarding the proposed contribution from Network Rail towards the roadway associated with the site. It was noted that the roadway had originally been installed using Internal Drainage Board (IDB) funding, following discussions that began over ten years ago concerning the need for a new access point. This requirement was driven not only by the deteriorating condition of the culvert but also by significant safety concerns at the level crossing, where there have been two fatalities. Ongoing negotiations with Network Rail were acknowledged as challenging and protracted, with efforts continuing to secure agreement, particularly in relation to the closure of the crossing and potential financial contributions. It was emphasised that the crossing is no longer required operationally and is used only by the Board, and that it is now considered unsafe. A proposal was put forward to reduce the height of the culvert while retaining the box structure to avoid destabilising the railway embankment, with a request for Network Rail to contribute financially to these works.

The discussion then moved on to the pumping station refurbishment scheme. Members were informed that a budget of £2 million had been allocated for refurbishment works at this site and at Wyberton Chain Bridge. The planned works include the installation of new pumps and motors, all of which must meet fish and eel-friendly requirements. While restrictions posed by existing infrastructure, particularly outfall pipe configurations, were acknowledged, it was confirmed that the new pumps would incorporate less damaging fish and

eel impellers. The project has reached the tender stage, with three contractors invited to proceed and site inspections scheduled imminently. Due to pump lead times and operational constraints, installation is anticipated to begin from May of the following year.

Further details of the refurbishment were provided, including the installation of a new Motor Control Centre (MCC) to improve automation and control. Additional works include structural steel refurbishment, where corroded support stanchions have been replaced, and shot blasting and repainting have been carried out across most sites. Gosberton pumping station remains outstanding due to difficulties in installing a new access door, pending input from structural engineers. Site improvements at the current location also include enhanced access to the lower pump room and general refurbishment of internal structures, alongside planned upgrades to crane operations within the building.

Discussion also covered water management proposals, specifically the potential installation of a tilting weir across two gravity channels discharging into the South Forty Foot Drain. This would allow improved control of water levels, which are currently dictated by downstream conditions. However, there remains uncertainty as to whether such works are eligible under grant funding criteria, and further investigations are ongoing. Members also discussed operational improvements, including the introduction of variable speed drives for pumps, which would enhance efficiency and reduce energy consumption compared to the current fixed-speed operation. It was noted that existing pumps operate on an on/off basis and cannot adjust output dynamically, whereas new systems would provide greater flexibility and improved operational efficiency.

Further technical discussion addressed system design considerations, including the positioning of pumping stations relative to drainage channels and the implications for efficiency. It was concluded that while right-angle configurations may not significantly affect larger stations, they can have greater impacts in smaller systems. Members also discussed the benefits of increased capacity in new pumps to account for climate change projections, with a minimum uplift of approximately 10%. However, it was recognised that increased pumping capacity may not yield benefits if downstream capacity is constrained.

At the committee's meeting later: Discussion returned to matters concerning Network Rail and the culvert at the crossing. It was noted that engagement with Network Rail has been difficult and fragmented, with limited progress despite over a decade of discussions. While the Board had initially anticipated that Network Rail would undertake or fund much of the work associated with closing the crossing and providing alternative access, this has not materialised. Concerns were raised regarding the structural stability of the railway embankment should the culvert be modified or removed, particularly given the risk of bank slippage if vegetation and existing structural support are disturbed.

Members debated possible approaches, including leaving the culvert in its current state until failure occurs, undertaking partial removal to mitigate immediate risks, or proactively modifying it while retaining sufficient structural

integrity. It was suggested that formally notifying Network Rail of intended works, rather than seeking prolonged discussion, may be a more effective approach. The ownership and responsibility for the culvert remained unclear, though it was believed to date from schemes implemented in the 1960s.

Safety concerns were emphasised, with consensus that the current condition of the crossing presents a hazard and cannot be left unaddressed indefinitely. Proposed interim measures included removing unstable elements such as loose blocks, retaining supporting structures on the railway side, and installing physical barriers to prevent use by vehicles. It was also suggested that Network Rail should formally close the crossing and install permanent fencing. Members acknowledged the need to balance cost, safety, and long-term liability, noting that failure of the culvert during high flow conditions could result in additional operational challenges.

3. Visit / discuss Horbling – Overflow Spillway

Site visit: The visit proceeded with a discussion on the Horbling spillway works. Members were reminded that the scheme had been undertaken approximately one year prior, around early spring. Reference was made to previous site discussions where the Board had outlined intended measures to mitigate overtopping onto the adjacent roadway. It was confirmed that the agreed works had now been completed; however, it was emphasised that these measures were not expected to fully resolve the issue. Instead, they were anticipated to provide only partial alleviation, as the fundamental problem of a low point in the road profile remains unchanged. It was noted that during high water events, water is still likely to overtop at this low point despite the implemented interventions.

Members were informed that feedback had been received from a local landowner, who reported observing water beginning to trickle over the bank following the works. While this provided some early insight into the scheme's performance, it was acknowledged that no sufficiently significant storm event had yet occurred to fully test the effectiveness of the solution. Consequently, a definitive assessment of the scheme's success could not yet be made. The Board reiterated that the completed works involved lowering the bank height to better manage overtopping flows, alongside the presence of an existing siphon beneath the road, which transfers water into the adjacent drain system. This siphon had been referenced in past correspondence from the landowner, and the matter itself has a long history, with previous considerations dating back to the early 2000s under successive Chief Executives.

Attention was drawn to a potential operational implication arising from the works, namely that additional water may now be diverted into the Horbling Fen catchment, potentially exceeding what would naturally occur. It was noted that under normal conditions, this water would be expected to flow toward the Environment Agency's main river system. Members clarified that the drain in question had been de-mained in 2018, transferring responsibility from the Environment Agency to the Board, which has since resulted in a more proactive management approach to the issue.

Further discussion considered potential future mitigation options should overtopping persist. Suggestions included raising the road level or installing

additional drainage features such as gullies; however, these options were acknowledged to be constrained by practical limitations. In particular, the absence of a roadside verge and the close proximity to the highway would necessitate involvement from the local highway authority (Lincolnshire County Council), and significant engineering challenges would likely arise. It was also noted that previous temporary measures by the Environment Agency had included the use of sandbags, though these were not considered a sustainable solution.

Members concluded that, while the implemented works represent a reasonable and proportionate response, they do not eliminate the underlying issue caused by the road's low point. It was also highlighted that the works had been carried out largely in response to the requests and proposals of the tenant landowner. The Board considered that it had fulfilled its obligations in undertaking the requested measures and that, should the scheme prove ineffective in future flood events, there may be limited further action available without causing adverse impacts elsewhere. Specifically, it was acknowledged that preventing overtopping in this location could potentially transfer flood risk to adjacent land, thereby creating wider management challenges.

4. View / discuss Gosberton Pumping Station

Site visit: The tour continued with a detailed briefing on the operational status and planned works at Gosberton Pumping Station. Members were informed that the station is broadly comparable to Donington, comprising a three-pump configuration with a similar overall capacity. However, it was noted that the Board is required to undertake significant investment at this site as part of its ongoing capital and maintenance programme. Specifically, the existing pumps are scheduled for refurbishment, which will be carried out sequentially to maintain operational continuity; each pump will be removed, refurbished, and reinstated before progressing to the next unit.

In addition to pump refurbishment, structural repair works are required at the site. While a budget has been allocated, progress has been delayed pending resolution of access constraints. The primary issue concerns the installation of a new access door from the weed screen deck to the lower pump room. The preferred location for this door was found to be directly beneath a structural support beam, raising concerns regarding structural integrity. Following a prolonged period awaiting guidance from consulting engineers (Stantec), it has recently been confirmed that the proposed location is not feasible. Consequently, alternative options are now being explored to identify a suitable position for the new access point.

The creation of a lower-level access door remains a priority due to the operational and safety benefits it would provide. At present, access to the lower pump room is via a hatch and internal steps, which constitutes a confined space. This necessitates adherence to strict confined space entry procedures, including additional personnel requirements for supervision and safety compliance. By installing a direct access door at low level, the site could eliminate the need for confined space entry protocols, thereby improving efficiency and reducing resource requirements for maintenance activities.

Members were advised that the Board has invested in specialist equipment, including a core drilling system, to facilitate the creation of new access openings through substantial concrete walls, typically 18–24 inches in thickness. This approach has already been implemented successfully at other sites, improving accessibility and operational efficiency, and it is intended that similar improvements will be made at Gosberton once a suitable design solution is agreed.

The discussion also highlighted broader refurbishment plans, noting that Gosberton will eventually be incorporated into a wider programme aligned with prioritisation criteria, particularly those relating to fish and eel compliance requirements. It was acknowledged that regulatory obligations are a key driver for these works, and failure to comply could expose the Board to potential legal challenges. As such, alignment with environmental standards and regulatory expectations remains a critical consideration in project planning.

Structural issues identified during inspections were also reviewed. In particular, corrosion and deterioration of steel support stanchions, especially at the base of I-beam sections within wet-dry zones, have been observed across multiple sites, including Gosberton. These elements have been or will be replaced as necessary to maintain structural integrity. While it was not considered that the deterioration posed an immediate risk of structural failure, members agreed that replacement was essential given the role these supports play in spanning significant widths within the pumping station structure.

Finally, members revisited the earlier discussion regarding recent plant acquisitions. The new Energreen Alpha machine, although delivered later than anticipated, is now operational and has not presented any issues to date. Similarly, the newly acquired mobile elevated working platform was discussed in more detail. While its maximum height capacity exceeds typical requirements, the key advantage lies in its extended outreach, which allows safe access to otherwise difficult-to-reach areas, particularly where physical proximity to structures cannot be achieved.

5. View / discuss Dunsby Fen Pumping Station - New Weed Screen Cleaners

Site visit: The meeting continued with a detailed update on planned works and operational improvements at Dunsby Pumping Station. Members were advised that provision has been made within the current budget to fully replace the existing weed screen cleaner, which has proven unreliable and subject to frequent breakdowns. It was noted that this unit operates inconsistently and often fails, and therefore full replacement is considered necessary to ensure dependable and efficient operation at the site.

Dunsby is also included within a wider programme of works covering five sites scheduled for upgrades to pump motors and associated control systems. One site, at Ewerby, has already been completed, while the remaining four sites, including Dunsby, are still to be delivered. The principal cause of delay was identified as constraints relating to electrical supply upgrades. The installation of larger pump motors incorporating variable speed drive technology requires an

enhanced power supply, necessitating the installation of new, higher-capacity transformers at each site.

At Dunsby, it was explained that the new transformer will be pole-mounted and will require an H-pole configuration due to its size. Two potential siting options have been identified by National Grid; however, only one location is considered suitable by the Board, as the alternative would adversely impact access to the pumping station and present safety concerns. Progress has been delayed pending the securing of necessary consents, including either a wayleave agreement or a Flood Risk Activity Permit (FRAP) from the Environment Agency, owing to the site's proximity to the South Forty Foot drain.

Members were informed that the FRAP application process has been a significant contributing factor to delays, with approximately one year having elapsed without meaningful progress. Despite this, all connection offers issued by National Grid have been accepted and paid for, and the Board is now awaiting the necessary approvals before works can proceed and installation dates can be confirmed.

The proposed upgrades are expected to deliver substantial operational benefits. The introduction of new motors and modern control panels will provide improved flexibility and efficiency in pump operation. In particular, the adoption of variable speed drives will enable pumps to operate at lower, sustained outputs during routine conditions, reducing the need for frequent start-stop cycles. It was noted that under the current system, pumps operate at full capacity for short durations before shutting down, leading to repeated restart cycles that are energy-intensive and costly. The upgraded system is therefore expected to reduce energy consumption and improve overall efficiency.

A suggestion was raised regarding the potential installation of a second, smaller pump to improve operational flexibility. While this was considered, it was noted that the planned upgrades already offer significant improvements in control and efficiency. Furthermore, it was explained that the original IDB funding programme required delivery within a single financial year, which constrained the ability to consider more extensive redesign options at the time. It was acknowledged that this timeframe was ultimately impractical, given the delays encountered, and that a longer funding window may have allowed for different design decisions. However, it was also recognised that, without external funding, the Board would not have been in a position to undertake any work.

At the committee's meeting later: Further discussion was held regarding the condition and replacement requirements of the weed screen cleaner at Dunsby Pumping Station. Members were informed that multiple attempts had been made to secure external funding for its replacement through the IDB funding streams; however, these applications had been unsuccessful. It was noted that this item was one of the few projects that did not receive approval under the initial funding round, and a subsequent application under Tranche 2 was also unsuccessful. Despite this, the need for replacement remains clear, as the existing weed screen cleaner is currently unreliable and fails more frequently than it operates effectively.

The operational importance of the weed screen cleaner was emphasised, particularly given the volume of weed accumulation experienced at the site. Although Dunsby is a single-pump station, the quantity of debris and weed present

can be significant, as evidenced by observed conditions at the site. As such, the proper functioning of the weed screen is critical to maintaining efficient pump operation and preventing blockages or reduced performance.

Members also discussed ongoing issues related to the electrical supply and pump performance at the station. It was highlighted that the current motors are susceptible to overheating and failure during periods of high water levels when the pumps are required to operate against a high hydraulic head. While Dunsby is not considered the most problematic site in this regard compared to others within the Board's network, it remains one where failures do occur and therefore requires attention as part of the wider upgrade programme.

5. Point of interest – Culvert Issue - Quadring

Mr V Barker declared an interest.

The Planning officer has set up a site meeting with LCC to discuss a way forward. The main issue is the concern of the culvert's restricted flow and the integrity of the downstream headwall.

6. Enforcement Issue – Gosberton Clough

Mr V Barker declared an Interest.

The Board has been proactive and has contacted the adjacent property owner who will remove the overhanging trees by April 2026. Once this has been completed the Board will be able to gain access and will be able to maintain the drain from either side.

7. Proposed New Culvert

This had been covered by the Maintenance Director in the Operations Report and Inspection.

8. Tilting Weir - LAPSIP

These are fully functional and operational now. The telemetry is sorted and will be used to control water levels as was agreed within the funding application.

During the discussion, Mr K. Casswell queried whether the scheme had been delivered within the approved budget. In response, the Projects Director confirmed that the works had been completed on budget, providing assurance to members regarding both financial control and effective project delivery.

9. Enforcement Issue

The Projects Director presented a report on a further enforcement matter, which had been brought to the Board's attention by a member present. Officers confirmed that an initial site visit had been undertaken following notification of the issue, with photographic evidence from the first inspection included in the meeting papers.

Subsequently, it was identified that a culvert had been installed within the watercourse as part of the ongoing works, prompting a second site visit to assess compliance with the approved specifications.

It was reported that the culvert installed by the contractor did not meet the required specification. While the installed pipe was believed to be no larger than 900mm in diameter, the approved specification required a 1500mm culvert. Despite initial observations suggesting that the workmanship appeared generally satisfactory and fit for purpose, the deviation from the agreed design was considered unacceptable. As a result of discussions with the contractor, it was confirmed that the undersized culvert has since been removed and replaced with a correctly sized pipe, with works being undertaken to ensure compliance with the original consent.

The Board confirmed that it will continue to monitor the situation closely to ensure that the reinstatement is carried out fully and in accordance with the approved specification. Ongoing oversight will be maintained to ensure compliance and to protect the integrity of the watercourse and surrounding infrastructure.

10. Wetland Project – Bourne Fen

The meeting received an update on progress at the Bourne Fen Wetlands project. Members were advised that works have been underway on site since late November to early December, with Board involvement ongoing throughout this period. Although a site visit had been undertaken by officers in early December, it was noted that one of the Board's machines has remained continuously deployed on site since mobilisation, supporting delivery of the scheme.

The project is being delivered in phases, with Phase One enabling a defined scope of works aligned with the funding currently secured. The Board has committed to supporting the scheme as previously agreed, including the provision of quotations for works undertaken and the supply of hired plant and equipment as required. It was noted that the current phase is expected to conclude by the end of the month, with a return to site planned for mid-May to continue with subsequent works. These will include further drainage operations, specifically the rerouting of the weir drain around the perimeter of the site.

During the discussion, Mark Taylor declared an interest in relation to the new cut associated with the weir drain and culvert levels. Concern was raised regarding the potential for raised water levels to adversely impact adjacent landholdings. In response, it was advised that any concerns should be formally raised at the earliest opportunity with the relevant parties, including the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, and through appropriate planning channels. It was emphasised that this stage of the project represents the appropriate opportunity to address such issues before works are finalised.

Members also considered the implications of allocating Board plant and labour resources to the project. A query was raised regarding whether this commitment was impacting delivery of the Board's own maintenance programme, particularly desilting works. It was confirmed that the Board currently has one machine and one operator assigned to the site; however, this does represent a proportion of available operational capacity. Despite this, officers confirmed that desilting activities are continuing, with mitigation measures implemented to maintain overall programme delivery.

It was further noted that the duration of plant deployment at Bourne Fen has exceeded initial expectations, largely due to delays associated with planning approvals. However, this had been anticipated within the Board's operational planning to some degree. Additionally, efficiency savings identified within the desilting budget, alongside the implementation of overtime working over recent weeks, have enabled the Board to recover productivity.

Officers confirmed that, based on current progress, all scheduled desilting works are expected to be completed by the end of April. Members were therefore reassured that, notwithstanding the allocation of resources to support the Bourne Fen Wetlands scheme, this has not resulted in any material delay to the Board's core maintenance obligations.

11. Proposed New Culvert

This had been covered by the Maintenance Director in the Operations Report and Inspection.

12. Cliff Beck

The Maintenance Director confirmed the Cliff Beck is classed as a low consequence system. It was confirmed that the watercourse is not included within the current year's maintenance programme due to its classification. However, members were advised that representations have been made to the Environment Agency to review this status in light of significant planned development within the catchment. In particular, it was highlighted that approximately 1,500 new homes are being constructed at the upper end of the system, and that, following changes in criteria effective from 1 April, post-2012 developments can now be considered when assessing watercourse classification. The Environment Agency has acknowledged this request and is reviewing the applicable methodology, with the potential for reclassification being considered, particularly in relation to the impacts on areas such as Handley Chase and the wider Quarrington and Silk Willoughby locality.

Members noted that the Board's drainage network receives flows from these developing areas, with particular reference to downstream impacts where previous issues have been recorded. It was considered important to monitor the effect of recent clearance works on the system, including the Cliff Beck and North Beck channels, as well as potential impacts on downstream villages should a significant rainfall event occur. It was confirmed that the North Beck has also been cleared by riparian landowners, which should improve conveyance capacity and provide a more continuous flow path through the system.

Further discussion addressed recent works undertaken to assess the condition of the watercourse. It was clarified that initial clearance had been carried out primarily to enable inspection and surveying, allowing officers to better understand the condition and identify required works. Members were advised that the condition of the watercourse was better than previously anticipated, with much of it found to be in reasonable order following clearance works undertaken by landowners. While some constraints remain—notably access difficulties, dense vegetation, and the presence of several mature willow trees within the channel—it was estimated that a relatively modest investment (approximately £55,000) would be sufficient to bring the watercourse up to an acceptable standard for potential adoption or ongoing

maintenance by the Board. This represented a significant reduction compared to earlier estimates, which had suggested substantially higher costs prior to inspection.

The meeting also considered the broader funding and governance context for maintaining such watercourses. It was noted that a paper is to be presented to the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) in April, proposing a review of the demanding arrangements implemented in 2018. Specifically, it was suggested that consideration be given to utilising the IDBs' collective precept contribution (approximately £2.2 million) to support maintenance of low consequence watercourses. This proposal aligns with current RFCC funding allocations, whereby an additional £1.5 million of local levy is being directed toward medium consequence watercourses. Members discussed the view that increased central government funding should support medium consequence systems, thereby allowing locally raised funds to be redirected to manage lower consequence assets more effectively.

2618 Receive the Engineer's Report - Agenda Item 7

The Projects Director updated much of the report was discussed during the tour and can be taken as read.

Graft Drain

Mr V Barker highlighted the Graft Drain has a full drain up to the tunnels that were put in at the Pinchbeck end. Is the assumption to be something is wrong or someone has made a mistake with the levels?

In response, it was suggested that the situation may be attributable to a combination of factors. Officers advised that the system operates across a relatively flat gradient, which inherently limits the efficiency of water conveyance. It was also noted that recent maintenance works have been completed across parts of the system, with remaining works at the upper end scheduled for completion within the current and following financial year, for which budget provision has already been made.

Members discussed the potential for improving flow within the system, including whether lowering levels within the drain might provide a more effective solution. However, it was confirmed that investigations into downstream culvert capacities had already been undertaken, and it was considered unlikely that enlarging these structures would significantly improve conditions. Instead, it was suggested that there may be a low point within the system, potentially contributing to water backing up and creating standing water. Comparisons were made with similar issues elsewhere in the catchment, where land settlement or shrinkage has resulted in depressions within the channel profile, further restricting flow.

The Board acknowledged that while recent works, including culvert replacements and channel improvements, have enhanced the condition of the drain compared to its previous state, water levels remain relatively high. This is compounded by substantial reed growth within the channel, which can further impede flow and reduce conveyance capacity.

A suggestion was made to install gauge boards both upstream and downstream of the affected section to provide a visual reference for water levels during future inspections. While it was noted that existing level data, including invert levels of

culverts, is already available and generally aligns with design expectations, members agreed that additional monitoring could provide a clearer understanding of system performance over time. Officers indicated that they would review this suggestion and consider appropriate measures, including further level surveys, to inform any future actions.

Dunsby Bank Repair

Mark Leggott raised concerns regarding the condition of the South Forty Foot bank in the vicinity of Dunsby Fen Pumping Station that the Environment Agency (EA) appeared to have effectively created a spillway by lowering and hardening a section of the bank with aggregate, thereby allowing water from the South Forty Foot drain to overtop into the adjacent fen. It was observed that the bank at this location appeared notably low and did not represent an improvement on the previous condition. It was suggested that this could result in increased flood risk to agricultural land and surrounding areas.

In response, officers acknowledged that similar concerns had been raised previously and that the Board shared reservations about the works undertaken. It was noted that the situation may appear more pronounced at present due to the absence of established vegetation, which previously masked the low point. However, it was accepted that the level of the bank remains questionable. Officers confirmed that, based on discussions with the EA, the works undertaken were not intended to represent an improvement but rather a reinstatement to what the EA considered to be the original condition. The bank had initially been raised to approximately 3.05m but was subsequently reduced to around 2.95m following EA instruction, on the basis that enhancements beyond the original level were not permitted under their guidelines.

Members expressed frustration with this approach, particularly as overtopping at this location results in water being redirected into the Board's drainage system, effectively creating a cycle of pumping water back into the same catchment. It was noted that the EA had undertaken the works primarily to stabilise the bank and prevent structural failure by armouring the surface, ensuring that, if overtopping occurs, the bank itself would not erode.

The broader rationale behind the EA's approach was discussed, with officers explaining that the Agency operates within strict regulatory and legal guidelines which prevent them from raising bank levels where doing so would transfer flood risk elsewhere. It was suggested that their strategy is to retain and manage known low points, allowing overtopping to occur in predetermined locations rather than risking uncontrolled flooding at unknown or potentially more sensitive locations. This approach was described by some members as effectively creating a "designated" or "stealth" floodplain, often to the detriment of agricultural land.

Members voiced significant concern that this policy places disproportionate impact on farmland, with the risk that repeated overtopping could adversely affect agricultural productivity and land value. It was emphasised that the Board has consistently sought parity between the protection of agricultural land and residential property; however, it was felt that the EA's current approach undermines these efforts. It was further noted that the precise identification of low points remains uncertain, with historical interventions elsewhere having failed to

demonstrate expected overtopping behaviour, suggesting that the system is not fully understood.

Officers confirmed that the Board has made repeated representations to the EA regarding this issue, both independently and alongside affected landowners, but that progress has been limited. It was acknowledged that the EA's position is largely constrained by policy, guidance, and legal advice, and that their ability to undertake enhancements is therefore restricted.

The possibility of undertaking independent surveying, including the use of modern technologies such as drones and remote sensing, was raised as a means of identifying critical levels and improving understanding of the system. However, it was concluded that while such data may provide additional insight, it would have limited practical value given that the Board does not have jurisdiction over the watercourse or the bank in question and therefore cannot act unilaterally. Resources were considered better directed toward the Board's own assets and responsibilities.

A further query was raised regarding the potential for landowners to undertake their own mitigation measures; however, it was noted that such matters would require careful consideration and should not be discussed in an open forum.

2619 Report on Rainfall - Agenda Item 8

The rainfall figures at Black Hole Drove were circulated. The Committee RESOLVED that this report be noted.

2620 Any Other Business - Agenda Item 9

The Chairperson queried the scheduling of the Southern and Northern Works Tours and why the usual arrangement, whereby the Southern and Northern Works Tours alternate their timing within the year, had not been followed. It was noted that, traditionally, one tour is scheduled earlier in the year whilst the other takes place later, typically in more favourable weather conditions.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 15:06

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of a meeting of the Audit & Risk Committee

held at the offices of the Board on
21st April 2026 at 2pm

Members

Chairperson - * Mr M Leggott

* Mr T Ashton	* Mr V Barker
Mr M Mowbray	Cllr Z Lane
* Cllr M Geaney	Cllr S Welberry

* Member Present

In attendance: Mr D Withnall (Chief Executive)
Mrs A Chamberlain (Finance & Admin Director)
Mr Chris Harris (Internal Auditor Lighthouse UK Consultancy Ltd)
Mr Steve Forsyth (Director Lighthouse UK Consultancy Ltd)

2621 Recording the Meeting - Agenda Item 1

Members were informed that the meeting would be recorded.

2622 Apologies for absence - Agenda Item 2

There were apologies for absence received from Mr M Mowbray, Cllr Z Lane and Cllr S Welberry. The Chairperson welcomed Mr C Harris and Mr S Forsyth to the meeting.

2623 Declarations of Interest - Agenda Item 3

Minute 2544 (original minute 2469) Board Watercourses being unable to convey water
Mr V Barker declared an interest.

2624 Minutes of the last meeting - Agenda Item 4

Minutes of the last meeting held on 28th October 2025, copies of which had been circulated, were considered and it was AGREED that they should be signed as a true record.

2625 Matters arising - Agenda Item 5

Minute 2544 (original minute 2469) Board Watercourses being unable to convey water

Mr V Barker declared an interest and would be useful to have a report of the meeting he didn't attend.

The Chairperson confirmed this had already happened.

Minutes 2547 The Catalogue of Board Policies with recommended approval dates

The Chief Executive updated the health & safety review will now be in the October Audit & Risk meeting.

Minutes 2548 Risk 1.1 (b)

The Committee noted an update in relation to Item 2548, concerning the Environment Agency modelling and simulation work. The Chief Executive reminded members that, at the time of the previous meeting, it had been anticipated that the results would be received by the end of the year, as indicated by the Environment Agency. However, he reported that this deadline had not been met. He outlined that subsequent updates had been provided by the Environment Agency at regular intervals.

The Chief Executive advised that this matter would be revisited later in the meeting under the relevant risk analysis discussion. The Chair acknowledged the update and noted that the delay, while disappointing, was not entirely unexpected. He thanked the Chief Executive for the clarification and confirmation of the current position.

2627 A Presentation from the Internal Auditor, Chris Harris, and to receive the following - Agenda Item 6

Steve Forsyth introduced the internal audit report and explained that his firm provides the Board's internal audit function. He noted that, while Chris Harris had previously operated largely on his own, the firm has now strengthened resilience by bringing in three additional experienced and qualified auditors to support the service. This is intended to ensure continuity, reduce reliance on one individual, and support future succession planning. Steve advised that these colleagues will gradually take on more work and may become more visible to the Board over time, with the precise approach to be worked through during the coming year. He concluded by emphasising that the purpose of these changes is to ensure a robust and sustainable internal audit service for the Board in future.

(a) Internal Audit Report 2025/26

Chris Harris thanked the Finance and Admin Director and Chief Executive for their assistance in providing the information needed to complete the audit work. He advised that, where competent staff and stable systems are in place,

significant recommendations are less likely to arise, although new systems would attract closer audit attention. He reported that additional experienced auditors had supported this year's work, particularly in the governance and risk sections, which were therefore more detailed. Chris confirmed that the financial controls had been reviewed to support sign-off of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return once year-end processes were complete. He noted that the report contained only one low-level recommendation, relating to clarification of the tendering process, and confirmed that this had already been addressed through a separate paper being presented later in the meeting.

(b) Audit programme 2026/27

The Internal Auditor presented the audit programme for 2026/27, the programme has been drawn up to comply with the following criteria required for the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). There is very little change to this year on year, but should there be any changes the Board want to make, this can be done within reason and will be accommodated in the existing fee. For an exercise that would take considerable time the Chief Executive would be advised it would incur extra charges, however the Internal Auditor is happy to take anything on board.

The Internal Auditor noted everything is covered but each year a different element is covered in more detail. This is rotated so all areas are covered by an in-depth examination.

The Chairperson thanked the Internal Auditor and Director of Lighthouse UK Consultancy Ltd, who stayed for the remainder of the meeting.

2628 To review the follow Board policies - Agenda Item 7

(a) Policy No 01: Risk Management Strategy, Policy and Analysis.

The Committee reviewed the Board's risk management strategy, policy and analysis and noted that the overall methodology remained unchanged, with the risk assessment matrix continuing to underpin decision-making.

1.1 Risk of being unable to Prevent Flooding to Property or Land

(a) Coastal flooding from failure or overtopping of defences

The Chairperson noted the inclusion of lobbying of Greater Lincolnshire Mayor.

All AGREED the potential impact of risk would now be level 3.

The Chairperson noted the Greater Lincolnshire Mayor has a pot of money and questioned how much would be offered to the IDB's.

The Chief Executive responded that none would be available as the Greater Lincolnshire Mayor has highlighted her priorities within flood risk management are flood risk and growth. With the pot of money running

her office and the Mayor will only be a lobbying voice in central government.

Cllr M Geaney highlighted the Mayor has been given more money and more staff. Plus, the Mayor has been given one third of the highways budget to operate some parts of the highways.

The Chairman pointed out that any newcomer to Lincolnshire would be wise to do the due diligence checks before they settled.

(b) Fluvial flooding from failure or overtopping of defences.

Members noted that the previous reference to water coming through the banks at four pumping stations following Storms Babet and Henk had been removed from the consequences section, as remedial work is ongoing. The Committee was advised that wider work is continuing through the Fens 2100 programme, including the recent publication of a baseline “case for change” report, presentations to parliamentarians at Westminster, and ongoing media and stakeholder engagement, with the Chief Executive representing the Lincolnshire branch of ADA on the programme board. It was further noted that the Environment Agency had reduced one bank repair level from 3.05 to 2.95 metres on the basis that raising it further could displace flooding elsewhere, although this provided little reassurance to affected landowners. Discussion also covered the possibility of a landowner constructing an additional bank on private land at their own expense. Having considered the updated position, members agreed that the potential impact of the risk remained high, the likelihood remained medium, and the overall risk score should remain at 6.

(c) Flooding from failure of IDB pumping stations or excessive rainfall

Members considered the risk of flooding arising from failure of IDB pumping stations or excess rainfall and agreed that the current risk rating of 6 should remain appropriate, reflecting the high potential impact and medium likelihood. Particular note was made of the ongoing issues at Swineshead Pumping Station, while it was also reported that structural reviews had identified other pumping stations requiring remedial works.

The Committee noted that a comprehensive refurbishment plan is being developed for all 34 pumping stations, including consideration of fish and eel compliance measures, with works to be prioritised according to need and aimed at extending asset life over the longer term. It was further noted that progress over the coming year would provide a clearer indication of the programme and any funding opportunities, and members agreed that, in the meantime, the risk should remain under close review.

It was AGREED to maintain the risk level of 6.

(d) Flooding from Sewers or riparian watercourses

Members considered the risk of flooding from sewers or riparian watercourses and agreed that the existing risk rating of 2 remained

appropriate, reflecting a medium potential impact and low likelihood. The Committee noted ongoing work with Lincolnshire County Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority, to improve coordination during emergency situations so that members of the public are not passed between organisations when reporting flooding issues. It was acknowledged that this had been a particular issue following recent flood events, with reports sometimes being redirected rather than taken forward by the first authority contacted. Members agreed that clearer joint working and ownership of reports by the relevant risk management authorities was needed to improve the public response during such incidents.

All AGREED to the risk level of 2.

(e) Fluvial Flooding from unscheduled Emergency Discharge of the Lincolnshire Reservoir

Members discussed the potential risk arising from any emergency discharge from the proposed reservoir into the South Forty Foot Drain and agreed that this should be treated as a separate risk within the register. It was noted that such a discharge could present a significant threat to the Board's system, particularly during wet periods when the drain may already be near capacity. The Chief Executive advised that a meeting had been secured with the relevant parties and that representations would also be made as part of the stage 2 consultation.

The Committee agreed that a new risk item should be created specifically covering overtopping of the South Forty Foot Drain due to an unscheduled emergency discharge from the reservoir, with an initial risk score of 6, reflecting high impact and medium likelihood, so that it remains under regular review by both the Committee and the Board.

1.2 Risk of loss of reputation or being found negligent due to Emergency Actions

The Board reviewed the risk concerning the potential loss of reputation arising from being found negligent in relation to emergency actions. The Chair noted that amendments had been made to the wording, including deletions and additions, and invited the Chief Executive to explain the rationale. He informed members that he had recently given evidence in a County Court case (Riley v Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board). The judgment clarified that Internal Drainage Boards operate under permissive powers with respect to drainage and flood risk management, rather than a statutory duty under Section 14A of the Land Drainage Act. As a result of this legal precedent, the previously recorded consequence relating to statutory duty had been removed from the risk register. He further advised that this judgment would provide clarity not only for the Board but also for other IDBs and the Environment Agency moving forward.

Members discussed the wider implications of the ruling. The Chief Executive confirmed that he had shared the outcome with local IDBs in Lincolnshire, leaving it to those organisations to disseminate further if

appropriate. Tom Ashton welcomed the outcome, particularly for the Board, but noted that the interpretation also suggested that the Environment Agency similarly operates under permissive powers rather than a statutory obligation when acting under the same legislation. The Chief Executive clarified that this is correct when the Agency is acting under the Land Drainage Act, although it may use other legislative provisions in some circumstances, distinguishing between Section 14 (applicable to the Environment Agency and Lead Local Flood Authorities) and Section 14A (applicable to IDBs).

Following discussion, the Chair sought agreement from members on whether the revised risk score of four remained appropriate in light of the clarified legal position and amended wording. Members indicated their agreement, and no objections or dissenting views were raised.

1.3 Risk of Loss of Electrical Supply

The Chief Executive noted there had been no experience of blackouts.

The Chief Executive further reassured members that proactive measures were being taken to mitigate this risk. Specifically, the Board is working to improve the resilience of its infrastructure by increasing the height of transformers and electrical switchgear as part of ongoing pumping station refurbishment programmes. This approach was noted as demonstrating the Board's awareness of the risk and its commitment to reducing vulnerability. Members indicated their agreement with the current risk score and the mitigation strategy in place.

All AGREED the risk level to be 3.

1.4 Risk of failure of Boards Pumping Stations

The Board considered Item 1.4, relating to the risk of failure of the Board's pumping stations. The Chair outlined that this risk carries a high potential impact with a medium likelihood, resulting in an overall risk score of six. He highlighted known issues, including specific concerns at Swineshead Pumping Station, as well as the general ageing condition of the Board's assets, some of which also present structural concerns. The Chair emphasised that maintaining the risk score at this level ensures the matter remains a priority for ongoing monitoring and future detailed consideration by the Board. Members confirmed their agreement with retaining the risk score at six.

A discussion then followed regarding long-term approaches to pumping station design and maintenance. It was noted that more modern pumping stations are increasingly constructed with pumps and motors located externally, potentially reducing costs and simplifying maintenance arrangements. The Chief Executive acknowledged this point and advised that such approaches would be considered for any new-build pumping stations going forward. However, he explained that for existing assets that are structurally sound, or can be made so, the current strategy is to maximise the use of existing civil engineering structures and install more

environmentally sensitive pumps, including those that are less harmful to fish and eel populations.

The Chief Executive further clarified that, at present, only the Swineshead Pumping Station is likely to require full replacement, with other sites scheduled for extensive refurbishment works. He confirmed that where future circumstances necessitate complete rebuilds, alternative and potentially more cost-effective designs, such as those incorporating modern pumping technologies, would be fully considered.

Members also reflected on examples of newer installations, including a recently completed pumping station where a more simplified design has improved operational efficiency and ease of maintenance access. While acknowledging the benefits of retaining existing structures in some cases, it was noted that there can be long-term advantages in replacing outdated infrastructure entirely to avoid the ongoing burden of maintaining ageing buildings. The Chief Executive indicated that he did not dispute this viewpoint and agreed it would be considered as part of future decision-making. The discussion concluded with confirmation that the agreed risk score of six remained appropriate.

All AGREED to this risk level.

1.5 Risk of Board Watercourses being unable to Convey Water

The Board reviewed minor amendments to the stated risk management measures. The Chair noted that the Chief Executive had clarified the wording to state that all watercourses are cleared of weed growth once each year where possible. The Chief Executive explained that this wording more accurately reflects operational reality, as there are locations where maintenance cannot be completed, and it is therefore important not to imply full coverage. He advised that detailed records have been compiled, supported by mapped information, identifying which watercourses have and have not been cleared, along with the reasons for any omissions. This approach ensures transparency and helps manage expectations from landowners, reducing the likelihood of misunderstandings or complaints.

The Chair also highlighted an additional clarification that watercourses are de-silted on a regular, prioritised basis. While noting that this activity has historically been undertaken by the Board, he acknowledged that the inclusion of the term “prioritised” better reflects the current, more targeted approach. The Chief Executive explained that, whereas de-silting was previously carried out on a fixed ten-year rotational programme, the Board now uses improved surveying techniques, including GPS-based engineering assessments, to identify actual need within individual drains. This allows resources to be allocated more effectively, with higher priority watercourses addressed more frequently and lower priority ones attended to as required, rather than on a rigid timetable.

The Chair summarised that this approach ensures resources are not wasted and that maintenance is undertaken where it is most needed, rather than simply adhering to historical cycles. Following discussion, members confirmed their agreement that the risk level of four remained appropriate in light of these clarified and improved management arrangements.

1.6 Risk of Operating Machinery to Maintain Watercourses

The Board considered the risk relating to operational hazards, including the potential for machinery to strike overhead or underground electrical services, equipment entering watercourses, and parts of machinery causing injury to operatives, members of the public, or damage to other vehicles. The Chair noted that the management of this risk is primarily addressed through robust health and safety procedures, alongside the regular servicing and maintenance of all machinery.

In outlining the assessment, the Chair advised that the potential impact of the risk is considered medium, while the likelihood is low, resulting in an overall risk score of two. Drawing on his role within the Health and Safety Committee, the Chair provided assurance to members that health and safety remains a primary focus for both operatives and the Board. He confirmed that training is carried out regularly and to a high standard, and that appropriate procedures are consistently followed to minimise risk.

On the basis of these controls and the current operating environment, the Chair expressed his view that the risk score of two is appropriate. Members indicated their agreement with this assessment, and no objections were raised.

1.7 Risk of Claims from Third Parties for Damage to Property or Injury

The Board considered the risk of claims from third parties for damage to property or personal injury. The Chair outlined that the potential impact of such a risk is assessed as medium, while the likelihood is considered low, resulting in an overall risk score of two. He noted that, based on operational experience, staff and operatives are familiar with known risk areas, including locations where work is undertaken in close proximity to electrical infrastructure or private property. He emphasised that appropriate mitigation measures are implemented in line with established health and safety procedures to minimise the likelihood of incidents occurring.

During the discussion, Mr V Barker raised a query regarding liability in circumstances where the Board's machinery causes structural damage while undertaking work on behalf of the Environment Agency. He declared an interest in relation to this point. In response, the Chair suggested that such incidents would likely be covered by the Board's insurance arrangements, given that the Board would be responsible for the works undertaken, although he acknowledged that the specific provisions within agreements with the Environment Agency would need

to be confirmed. The Chief Executive indicated that this matter could be explored further outside the meeting if required.

Following discussion, and noting the mitigation measures in place, members confirmed their agreement that the risk score of two remained appropriate.

1.8 Risk of Third Parties damage to Board Maintained Assets

The Board considered the risk of third-party damage to Board-maintained assets. The Chair outlined that risk management in this area is supported through the maintenance of assets, enforcement of Board byelaws, and appropriate insurance arrangements. He further noted that the majority of pumping stations are now secured with fencing, significantly reducing the likelihood of unauthorised access and potential damage.

In assessing the risk, the Chair advised that the potential impact is considered medium, while the likelihood remains low, resulting in an overall risk score of two. He expressed the view that this score accurately reflects the current level of exposure, given the mitigation measures in place. The Chair invited members to comment on the proposed assessment, and no alternative views were put forward. Members therefore confirmed their agreement that a risk level of two remains appropriate.

1.9 Risk of Unplanned Loss of Senior Staff

The Board considered Item 1.9, relating to the risk of unplanned loss of senior staff. The Chair outlined that the potential impact of such a risk is assessed as medium, while the likelihood is considered low, resulting in an overall risk score of two. He commented positively on the Chief Executive's approach to staff development, noting that there has been a strong emphasis on training and upskilling across the organisation.

The Chair advised that, in the event of the loss of a senior member of staff, the Board would be able to continue operating effectively for a period, as other members of staff possess sufficient competence and training to provide cover and maintain key functions. He further highlighted that formalised arrangements are in place to share staff resources with other Internal Drainage Boards, ensuring additional external support is available where internal capacity may be limited.

The Chair concluded that these measures provide appropriate resilience and continuity planning. Members indicated their agreement with this assessment and confirmed that a risk score of two remains appropriate.

1.10 Insufficient finance to carry out works

The Board considered the risk relating to insufficient finance to carry out required works. The Chair highlighted that this item had been subject to significant amendment, particularly in relation to how the risk is managed. He outlined that the potential impact remains high, with the likelihood previously assessed between medium and low, resulting in a proposed

reduced risk score of three. The Chair drew attention to the strengthened mitigation measures, including the development of a ten-year budget to ensure adequate funding, a commitment to increasing reserves to a level sufficient to cover electricity costs in the event of two consecutive years of wet conditions, and updates to the Board's financial regulations. In addition, the long-term financial planning aims to achieve the general reserve forecast by 2030–31, alongside ongoing liaison with precepting councils.

The Chair noted that the proposed reduction in risk score, from six to three, was a recommendation from the Chief Executive and invited members' views. Tom Ashton commented that, given the Board's strong financial management, a reduction in likelihood could reflect the progress made, provided the current reserve position and financial outlook support that assessment. He emphasised, however, that this position should be kept under review and adjusted if circumstances change, particularly if reserves were eroded in future years.

Margaret Geaney raised concerns regarding the broader economic climate, including pressures on businesses and the agricultural sector, and queried whether there was a risk of reduced income through non-payment of drainage rates. The Chief Executive acknowledged that while this is a risk, it is currently considered very small. He reported that outstanding drainage rates stood at approximately £11,000 against a total of £1.8 million, which remains a relatively low proportion and is expected to be largely recovered. Margaret Geaney further expressed concern about potential future increases in non-payment due to rising costs and ongoing economic uncertainty, suggesting this should be monitored closely.

The Chair, speaking from experience within the agricultural sector, acknowledged the financial pressures faced by landowners, including rising fertiliser and fuel costs, but noted that drainage remains essential to maintaining productive land, and therefore payment of drainage rates is generally prioritised. He did, however, accept that hardship cases may arise and would need to be addressed appropriately.

Tom Ashton then raised a broader concern regarding the potential impact of local government reorganisation on the Board's financial sustainability. He highlighted the risk that, under a reduced number of unitary authorities, council-appointed members could be more easily influenced to constrain Board budgets, potentially affecting income from special levy. Both the Chair and Margaret Geaney supported this concern, noting the uncertainty surrounding local government reform and its potential implications.

In response, the Chief Executive offered an alternative perspective, suggesting that the creation of a single or fewer unitary authorities could, in fact, reduce financial risk by increasing the overall funding base, thereby decreasing the proportional burden of the Board's levies.

However, he identified a separate risk relating to governance, namely a reduced pool of councillors available to serve on boards, which could impact member attendance and engagement.

The Chair acknowledged both perspectives but maintained that, given the current level of uncertainty around local government reform and broader financial pressures, insufficient finance remains a significant strategic risk. Margaret Geaney reiterated her preference for a cautious approach, recommending that the risk level remain at six and be closely monitored over the next 12 months as the situation develops. This view was supported by Tom Ashton.

Following discussion, the Chair concluded that there was a clear majority in favour of retaining the higher risk level. It was therefore agreed that the risk score would remain at six. The Chief Executive also agreed to include an additional item within the risk management framework to monitor the impact of local government reform, specifically the potential for all appointed members to come from a single authority and for competing expenditure priorities to affect funding for drainage and flood risk management.

1.11 Reduction in staff performance

The committee considered the risk relating to a reduction in staff performance. The Chair outlined that the potential impact of this risk is assessed as medium, with a low likelihood, resulting in an overall risk score of two. He expressed confidence in the current management arrangements, noting that there is a strong emphasis on maintaining staff motivation and performance. The Chair advised that any staff experiencing difficulties are able to access support through the Chief Executive and their respective line managers, ensuring that concerns are addressed promptly and appropriately. On this basis, he indicated that the current risk score remained suitable.

The Chief Executive informed members of proposed future work to further strengthen staff wellbeing and performance, specifically through the introduction of an Employee Assistance Programme. He explained that this would provide a range of support services, including counselling, mental health support for issues such as anxiety, access to debt advice, legal guidance, a confidential helpline, online GP services, and family care support. The Finance and Admin Director, added that such programmes typically include 24-hour access to services, which enhances their value to employees. The Chief Executive emphasised that the initiative is aimed at improving staff wellbeing, maintaining morale, and reducing potential distractions that could impact performance. He further noted that the provision is relatively low cost and could contribute to reduced sickness absence and improved overall productivity.

The Chair welcomed the proposal, describing staff as one of the Board's greatest assets and supporting measures that make it easier to maintain

their wellbeing and effectiveness. Margaret Geaney raised a query in relation to recent employment legislation and its potential impact on staff management. The Chief Executive clarified the current position, confirming that while certain employment rights apply from day one, the qualifying period for unfair dismissal claims has been reduced to six months rather than immediate application. This provided reassurance to members regarding the Board's ability to manage performance issues within the appropriate legal framework.

The Chair concluded that the existing controls, together with the proposed enhancements, provide a strong framework for managing the risk. Members confirmed their agreement that the risk score of two remains appropriate.

1.12 Insufficient Staff Resources

The committee also considered the related risk of insufficient staff resources. The Chair outlined that this carries a medium potential impact but a low likelihood, resulting in a risk score of two. He noted that the Board continues to improve its approach to staff support and development and remains compliant with all relevant employment legislation. Members indicated their agreement with the assessment and confirmed that the risk score of two should be maintained.

2.1 Risk of Prosecution for not Adhering to Environmental Legislation

The Committee considered the objective to conserve and enhance the environment wherever practicable, ensuring no net loss of biodiversity. The Chair referred to earlier updates from the Chief Executive, noting that environmental considerations are incorporated into operational activities, particularly in relation to pumping station refurbishments. He highlighted that works will continue to align with relevant eel and fish legislation wherever possible, supporting the protection of aquatic species.

The Chair also drew attention to the development of a new, personalised and targeted Biodiversity Action Plan, which is scheduled for adoption in 2026. He commented that this demonstrates the organisation's ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship. Members noted that a range of practical measures are already being implemented, including the installation of bat boxes, creation of grass snake habitats, and the provision of fish refuges within watercourses. The Chief Executive confirmed that such initiatives are intended to support biodiversity and create more resilient ecosystems.

The Chair expressed his view that the organisation is fulfilling its environmental responsibilities and that biodiversity considerations are appropriately embedded within policies and operational practices. Members indicated their agreement with this assessment and confirmed that a risk score of two remains appropriate.

2.2 Non-Delivery of Objectives

The Committee then considered the risk relating to the non-delivery of environmental objectives, including those set out within the Biodiversity Action Plan. The Chair outlined that this risk is managed through structured project delivery, including the capital programme, annual environmental budgeting, and formal reporting of Biodiversity Action Plan actions to the Environment Committee, where oversight and scrutiny are provided.

On the basis of these controls and the current level of assurance, the Chair proposed that this be considered a very low risk, with a score of one. Members confirmed their agreement with this assessment, and no objections were raised.

3.1 Emergency Plan Inadequate or Not up to Date

The Committee considered Item 3, relating to the provision of a 24-hour, 365-day emergency response for the community. The Chair outlined that the key risk is that emergency planning may be inadequate or not kept up to date. He noted the importance of effective coordination with external bodies, including local authorities, and commented that improved referral arrangements, such as directing enquiries appropriately to the organisation, would support maintaining the current low risk assessment.

The Chief Executive clarified that the focus of this risk is specifically on the adequacy and currency of the emergency plan itself. He advised that the plan is formally reviewed by the Committee on a periodic basis, typically every five years, but is also subject to review following any emergency event in which it is deployed. This allows for practical learning to be incorporated, with any identified shortcomings addressed and effective measures reinforced. He explained that, following an incident, the plan is revisited and updated to reflect what worked well and what improvements may be required, before being reported back to the Board.

The Chief Executive expressed confidence that this iterative approach has strengthened the organisation's emergency planning arrangements over time, contributing to the current low risk rating. The Chair agreed with this assessment and, having invited comments, confirmed that members were satisfied that a risk score of one remains appropriate.

3.2 Insufficient Resources (Staff and Equipment)

The Committee considered Item 3.2, relating to the risk of insufficient resources, including staff and equipment, to deliver emergency response functions. The Chair outlined that the potential impact of this risk is assessed as medium, with a low likelihood, resulting in an overall risk score of two. He advised that the risk is mitigated through the Board's established approach to resource management, including the sharing of staff and equipment with partner organisations, and the ability to hire additional resources when required to ensure operational needs are met.

The Chief Executive highlighted that additional context had been included within the risk assessment, noting workforce commitment and morale as relevant factors influencing resource availability. He further advised that future work in this area includes consideration of the introduction of an Employee Assistance Programme, which could support staff wellbeing and help mitigate the impact of factors such as long-term sickness absence. He noted that the current position includes a small number of staff on long-term sick leave, which has the potential to affect resource availability.

The Chair sought clarification as to whether such absences were work-related but acknowledged the Chief Executive's position that specific details could not be discussed in a public meeting. He further observed that operational pressures, such as prolonged pumping periods, could contribute to staff fatigue, although he accepted that this was not necessarily the cause in the current circumstances. The Chair concluded that staff wellbeing is actively monitored and appropriately managed.

On the basis of the mitigation measures in place and the additional considerations outlined, members confirmed their agreement that the risk score of two remains appropriate.

3.3 Risk of Critical Incident Loss of Office

The Committee considered Item 3.3, relating to the risk of a critical incident resulting in the loss of the office. The Chair outlined that the potential impact of such an event would be high, while the likelihood remains low, resulting in an overall risk score of three. He noted that existing mitigation measures include improved data resilience, particularly through the implementation of remote backups to external servers, which has strengthened the organisation's ability to maintain continuity in the event of a disruption.

Vic Barker raised a query regarding the availability of backup power, referring to his own experience of having a generator capable of supporting key operations. He asked whether similar arrangements were in place, or could be considered, for the office and workshop to provide resilience in the event of a power outage.

The Chief Executive advised that this matter has been explored previously, including consideration of both the hire or installation of a generator and the potential use of battery storage linked to existing solar panels as a backup power source. However, it was concluded that the cost of implementing such solutions would outweigh the benefits, given the nature of the operations carried out at the office. He confirmed that Uninterruptible Power Supply systems are already in place for critical telemetry systems, ensuring that these would continue to operate provided there is power at the pumping stations. Beyond this, the Chief Executive indicated that most other functions could continue from alternative locations if necessary and are not solely dependent on the office.

The Chair thanked members for their contributions and concluded that, in light of the mitigation measures and previous considerations, the risk score of three remains appropriate.

4.1 Risk of Injury to Staff and Subsequent Claims and Losses

The Committee considered Item 4, relating to the objective of providing a safe and fulfilling working environment for staff. The Chair noted that there are extensive measures in place to manage this risk, including a comprehensive health and safety framework. He advised that the Health and Safety Committee receives strong engagement from staff and that the organisation maintains a thorough health and safety policy, which is formally reported annually. The risk was assessed as having a medium potential impact and a low likelihood, resulting in a risk score of two. Based on his experience and involvement, the Chair expressed confidence in the current arrangements and confirmed his view that the score remains appropriate. Members indicated their agreement, and the risk score of two was retained.

4.2 Risk of not complying with Health & Safety Legislation

The Committee then considered the risk of non-compliance with health and safety legislation. The Chair highlighted that the potential consequences of such failure could be significant, including enforcement action, cessation of works, delays to operational programmes, and potential prosecution of officers. The risk was assessed as having a high potential impact and a low likelihood, resulting in a risk score of three. He acknowledged that, while robust procedures are in place, there is always a possibility of human error, such as operatives failing to follow training or complete appropriate risk assessments before commencing work.

Vic Barker raised concerns based on personal observations, noting that there had been occasions where he felt operational practices were not as safe as they should be, although he had not intervened directly. The Chair responded by encouraging members to report any such concerns to the Chief Executive, emphasising that issues can then be addressed appropriately through training or toolbox talks without singling out individuals. He supported this approach with an example from his own experience, where a safety concern had been raised and subsequently addressed through a general reminder to all staff, reinforcing safe working practices without attributing blame.

The Chief Executive reinforced the importance of reporting such concerns, noting that both officers and members share a responsibility for maintaining safe working practices. He stressed that, in the event of a serious incident, accountability would extend to those aware of unsafe practices who had not taken action. He emphasised that the organisation is continuing to develop a positive health and safety culture, supported by the Health and Safety Committee and ongoing training. He also identified specific areas where continued vigilance is required, including working near water, use of safety equipment such as life vests and

restraint systems, operation of machinery, and working in confined spaces.

The Chair concluded that maintaining open communication around health and safety concerns is essential to achieving the objective of providing a safe working environment. Members agreed that, in light of the controls in place and the importance of continued vigilance, the risk score of three remains appropriate.

5.1 Risk of Loss of Cash

The Committee considered the risk of loss of cash. The Chair outlined that the potential impact and likelihood of this risk are both assessed as low, resulting in an overall risk score of one. He noted that the organisation does not typically hold significant amounts of cash on the premises, with only limited petty cash retained and occasional cash payments received for drainage rates.

The Finance and Admin Director, confirmed that cash holdings are minimal.

The Chair emphasised that robust financial controls are in place and supported by a strong and effective accountancy function. On this basis, he expressed confidence that the risk is being appropriately managed. Members indicated their agreement, and it was confirmed that the risk score of one remains appropriate.

5.2 Risk of Loss of Money Invested in Building Societies & Banks & Managed Funds.

The Committee considered the risk of loss of money through investments held in building societies, banks, and managed funds. The Chair invited discussion on this item and noted that the Executive Committee regularly reviews the Board's investment portfolio as part of its risk management arrangements, with the next review scheduled for early June.

Vic Barker reflected on previous decisions to pursue higher-return investments and expressed concern about current market conditions, particularly in relation to exposure to North American markets. He noted that he had personally withdrawn funds from investments with significant exposure to the United States due to declining values and broader economic uncertainty and queried whether similar concerns should be considered in relation to the Board's portfolio.

The Chair acknowledged these concerns and reiterated that the Board's investments are subject to regular oversight. Margaret Geaney sought clarification on whether the Chief Executive has the authority to act quickly in response to changing market conditions. The Chief Executive confirmed that, while formal approval would be required, decisions could be progressed through the Executive Committee within a short timeframe, typically within 24 hours, without needing to wait for a scheduled meeting.

The Chief Executive provided a summary of the current investment allocations, outlining that the Board holds approximately £119,000 in North American equities, £63,000 in overseas bonds, £45,000 in UK bonds, and £56,000 in UK equities. He noted that, while exposure to overseas markets exists, it remains proportionate within the overall investment portfolio and is considered manageable. He further advised that he is scheduled to meet with the Board's investment managers, Brewin Dolphin, for the annual review, and confirmed that any concerns raised during the discussion would be taken forward as part of that process.

The Chair added that a recent review with fund managers had already resulted in a shift from very low-risk investments to a more moderate risk approach in order to achieve improved returns, reflecting a balanced and considered investment strategy. He emphasised that professional advice will continue to guide investment decisions and that the portfolio can be adjusted as required.

Following discussion, the Chair asked members to confirm their agreement with the proposed risk score. Members indicated their satisfaction with the current arrangements and confirmed that a risk level of three remains appropriate.

5.3 Risk of Fraud by Senior Officers

The Committee considered the risk of fraud by senior officers, including the potential consequence of financial loss. The Chair outlined that the risk is mitigated through a number of established financial controls. These include the requirement for all transactions to be authorised by at least two officers, ensuring appropriate oversight and accountability. In addition, all purchase ledger transactions are subject to review by the Board, providing a further layer of scrutiny, and the organisation maintains adequate insurance coverage.

The Chair expressed the view that these arrangements are comprehensive and provide a strong framework for managing the risk. On this basis, he proposed that the risk should be assessed as low, with a risk score of one. Members indicated their agreement, and the risk score of one was confirmed.

5.4 Risk of Inadequacy of Internal Checks

The Committee considered the risk of inadequacy of internal checks leading to incorrect payments being made. The Chair outlined that this risk is managed through a range of established financial controls, including the requirement that all items resulting in payments are checked prior to processing. He further noted that all payments made through the Board's bank accounts must be authorised by two authorised signatories in accordance with the financial regulations, and that additional independent verification checks are carried out with suppliers to mitigate the risk of mandate fraud.

The Chair advised that the potential impact of this risk is assessed as medium, with a low likelihood, resulting in a proposed risk score of two. He commented that, given the strength of the controls in place, there could be an argument for a lower risk score. However, the Chief Executive clarified that the financial thresholds applied to the risk categories support the current assessment, noting that medium impact reflects potential losses in the range of £20,000 to £100,000. He added that, given the Board regularly processes payments within and above this range, including significant electricity costs, the categorisation as medium impact is appropriate.

The Chair acknowledged this explanation and agreed that the current assessment accurately reflects the level of financial exposure. He invited further comment from members, and no alternative views were put forward. Members therefore confirmed that the risk score of two remains appropriate.

5.5 Fraudulent use of Credit Cards

The Committee considered the risk of fraudulent use of credit cards. The Chair outlined that access to Board-issued credit cards is limited to senior officers, and that appropriate safeguards are in place to manage the risk. These include defined card limits, with individual limits set at £5,000, £5,000, £2,500 and £2,500 respectively, alongside the provision of insurance to cover unauthorised use.

The Chair further advised that all card expenditure is subject to monthly reconciliation and is formally certified by both the Chief Executive and the Projects Director, providing an additional layer of financial control and oversight. He assessed both the potential impact and likelihood of this risk as low, resulting in a proposed risk score of one.

The Finance and Admin Director, confirmed that these arrangements accurately reflect current practice and expressed her agreement with the assessment. The Chair invited any further comments from members, and no objections were raised. It was therefore agreed that the risk score of one remains appropriate.

6.1 Risk to Board Members

The Committee considered the objective of ensuring that all actions taken comply with current UK and EU legislation. The Chair outlined that this risk is managed through a combination of appropriate insurance cover, including corporate liability, and reliance on qualified and experienced staff to advise the Board and ensure compliance across all areas of operation.

The Chair also highlighted the significant role of the Chief Executive in maintaining compliance, noting that he has undertaken extensive training, particularly in relation to health and safety and recent employment legislation. He commented that the Chief Executive has a

strong understanding of the evolving regulatory environment and is well positioned to ensure that the organisation remains compliant with applicable legal requirements.

The Chair concluded that the organisation is fully aware of the relevant risks and has appropriate controls in place to manage them effectively. He expressed his satisfaction with the current arrangements and invited comments from members. No concerns were raised, and members indicated their agreement with the assessment.

6.2 Risk of not complying all Employment Regulations and Laws

The Committee then considered the risk of not complying with employment regulations and legislation. The Chair acknowledged that there is an inherent risk in this area but advised that the potential impact is assessed as medium, with a low likelihood, resulting in a risk score of two. He expressed confidence that the organisation remains up to date with relevant legal requirements, noting that the Chief Executive maintains a strong awareness of legislative changes affecting the Board, including those relating to employment law and wider regulatory frameworks.

The Chief Executive informed members that both he and the Maintenance Director have recently completed ACAS training on the handling of grievances and disciplinary procedures, and that further training is planned for other directors and managers. He also confirmed that he has undertaken training relating to the Employment Rights Act 2025 and will continue to engage with further updates as additional elements of the legislation come into force in stages.

The Chair noted that the introduction of new legislative requirements is being phased over time and acknowledged that the organisation is actively monitoring these developments. On the basis of the controls in place and the ongoing commitment to training and compliance, the Chair confirmed that he was satisfied with the current risk assessment. Members indicated their agreement, and it was confirmed that the risk score of two remains appropriate.

7.1 Risk of Collecting Insufficient Income to Fund Expenditure

The Committee considered the objective of delivering a cost-efficient Internal Drainage Board that provides value for money. The Chair outlined that the primary risk relates to the adequacy and sustainability of funding arrangements, and highlighted that this is currently managed, in part, through engagement with a special interest group of local authorities operating via the Local Government Association. The Chief Executive clarified that this group is actively lobbying central government for reform of the way special levies are calculated and funded and has already engaged with Members of Parliament on several occasions. He further advised that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is undertaking a review that includes consideration of alternative funding mechanisms.

The Chief Executive noted that, in light of these ongoing developments, there is a greater degree of uncertainty than previously recognised, particularly in relation to the potential outcomes of both the lobbying activity and wider government review. He also confirmed that the implications of local government reorganisation have been incorporated into the assessment, reflecting earlier discussion within the meeting.

The Chair acknowledged that this aligns with concerns previously raised by both Tom Ashton and Margaret Geaney regarding financial uncertainty and structural change. He indicated that, while the likelihood of risk had previously been assessed as low, there is merit in taking a more cautious approach given the evolving external environment. Tom Ashton commented that he remained sceptical regarding the effectiveness of the special interest group, suggesting that it may face challenges in agreeing a unified position or securing outcomes that are beneficial to Internal Drainage Boards, given that it is led by local authority finance representatives rather than those directly involved in drainage operations.

The Chief Executive added that local government reorganisation may ultimately have a more significant impact than the outcomes of the special interest group. The Chair agreed with this view and concluded that, in light of the uncertainties identified, it would be appropriate to increase the risk score. Members indicated their agreement, and it was confirmed that the risk level would be increased from one to two, with the position to be kept under review as further information becomes available.

7.2 IDB abolished or taken over

The Committee considered the risk of the Internal Drainage Board being abolished or taken over. The Chair outlined that both the potential impact and likelihood of this risk are assessed as low, resulting in an overall risk score of one. He expressed a clear view that such an outcome is highly unlikely and does not present a significant concern to the organisation at the present time.

Members indicated their agreement with the assessment, and it was confirmed that the risk score of one remains appropriate.

8.1 Risk of Loss of Telemetry

The Committee considered the risk of loss of telemetry. The Chair outlined that the potential impact of such a failure is assessed as medium, while the likelihood is low, resulting in an overall risk score of two. He noted that, while his own technical knowledge in this area is limited, it is recognised that there is always a possibility of system outages or failures within IT and communications infrastructure, and therefore the risk cannot be regarded as negligible.

The Chief Executive highlighted that measures have been taken to strengthen system resilience, including the introduction of radio backup alongside upgraded 4G and 5G telemetry systems. He emphasised that the organisation has made concerted efforts to ensure continuity of data and operational monitoring through these enhancements.

A member sought clarification regarding the reference to directors being trained in the use of telemetry, the Chief Executive confirmed that this applies to himself and the three operational directors. He explained that, in emergency situations, these individuals form part of a rota system to provide 24-hour monitoring of telemetry data when required, ensuring appropriate oversight during periods of heightened operational demand.

The Chair thanked members for the clarification and confirmed that, in light of the controls and arrangements in place, the risk score of two remains appropriate. Members indicated their agreement, and no objections were raised.

8.2 Risk of loss Telephone Communications

The Committee considered the risk of loss of telephone communications. The Chair outlined that both the potential impact and likelihood of this risk are assessed as low, resulting in an overall risk score of one. He noted that the organisation's resilience in this area is supported by practical arrangements, including the provision of mobile telephones to staff and the use of a separate broadband connection for telephone systems, independent from the main network.

The Chair expressed the view that these measures provide sufficient assurance that communication can be maintained in most circumstances, even in the event of a failure affecting part of the system. On this basis, he confirmed that a risk score of one remains appropriate. Members indicated their agreement, and no objections were raised.

8.3 Risk of loss of internet connections

The Committee considered the risk of loss of internet connectivity. The Chair outlined that the potential impact of this risk is assessed as medium, with a low likelihood, resulting in an overall risk score of two. He noted that, similar to the loss of telemetry, there is always an inherent risk of internet outages which could disrupt operations, and therefore it is appropriate that the risk score remains above the lowest level.

The Chief Executive emphasised the increasing reliance on internet-based systems across the organisation, highlighting that many core functions are now conducted online. He advised that a loss of connectivity would have a significant operational impact, including the ability to process payments and manage financial transactions, which reinforces the assessment of the impact as medium.

The Chair acknowledged this point and reiterated that, given both the likelihood of disruption and the growing dependence on digital systems,

the current risk score of two is justified. Members indicated their agreement, and it was confirmed that the risk score of two remains appropriate.

8.4 Risk of Network Failure

The Committee considered the risk of network failure resulting in all computers and information becoming inaccessible. The Chair outlined that the potential impact of such an event would be high, while the likelihood is assessed as low, resulting in an overall risk score of three. He noted that a loss of network access would significantly disrupt operations, given the organisation's reliance on digital systems.

During discussion, the Chief Executive remarked on the reliance of staff on digital systems for day-to-day operations, reinforcing the extent to which business activities are dependent on network availability. The Chair acknowledged this point and sought confirmation from members that the proposed risk score remained appropriate.

On the basis of the discussion and the existing mitigation measures, the Chair concluded that a risk score of three remains appropriate. Members indicated their agreement, and no objections were raised.

8.5 Risk of Breach in Cyber Security Inc. Risk of Virus being introduced to Network

The Committee considered Item 8.5, relating to the risk of a cyber security breach, including the introduction of viruses or malicious software to the network. The Chair noted that extensive controls are in place, as detailed within the risk register, to mitigate this risk.

The Chief Executive provided a comprehensive update on recent cyber security performance data, explaining that approximately 154 million interactions across the firewall had been monitored, with 15.8 million individual elements scanned. He highlighted that the most significant outcome was that no breaches had occurred, with all attempted intrusions successfully prevented. He further reported that a number of attempted network attacks had originated from overseas sources, including approximately 2,000 from China, 57 from Russia, and 13 from Ukraine. Of nine identified attempts to gain access to the system, all nine were successfully blocked. He explained that many of these attempts are automated or opportunistic in nature, often seeking to exploit systems for financial gain through methods such as encryption and ransom demands.

The Chair emphasised that the absence of successful breaches is a key indicator of the effectiveness of the Board's current cyber security arrangements. He acknowledged that a previous risk score of six had reflected heightened concern following incidents affecting neighbouring organisations but noted that subsequent system reviews and ongoing improvements have strengthened resilience. These measures include regular system monitoring, external consultancy support, quarterly

proactive security reviews by IT specialists, and the implementation of cyber insurance cover.

Tom Ashton observed that while the evidence presented demonstrates strong system performance, it is important to recognise that no system can be entirely immune from attack, particularly where highly resourced or targeted threats may arise. The Chair agreed, noting that the organisation continues to invest in maintaining and enhancing its cyber defences in line with evolving threats, including consideration of further system upgrades.

The Chief Executive confirmed that staff awareness and training also form an important part of the organisation's defence, with regular updates, online learning, and guidance provided through banking partners, insurers, and IT providers. He advised that cyber security awareness is included within staff induction processes and reinforced periodically throughout employment.

Vic Barker expressed his appreciation for the detailed update and the level of assurance provided, noting that the information presented gave members confidence in the robustness of the organisation's approach to cyber security.

In light of the significant controls in place, the strong performance data, and the ongoing commitment to system improvements, the Chair proposed that the risk score be reduced from six to three, reflecting a high potential impact but a now low likelihood of occurrence. Members indicated their agreement with this revised assessment, and it was confirmed that the risk score of three is appropriate.

8.6 Risk of Network Security Breach

The Committee considered Item 8.6, relating to the risk of a network security breach. The Chair noted that, in light of the detailed discussion under Item 8.5 regarding cyber security risks and the decision to reduce that risk score to three, it would be appropriate and consistent to align the assessment for this closely related risk.

8.7 Risk of Loss of Accounting Records

The Committee considered the risk of loss of accounting records. The Chair outlined that both the potential impact and likelihood of this risk are assessed as low, resulting in an overall risk score of one. He noted that the organisation relies heavily on these records for financial management but expressed confidence in the controls and systems in place to protect them. The Finance and Admin Director confirmed that the arrangements are sufficient to support the effective management of accounting records. Members indicated their agreement, and it was confirmed that the risk score of one remains appropriate.

8.8 Risk of Loss of Rating Records

The Committee then considered Item 8.8, relating to the risk of loss of rating records. The Chief Executive explained that this area has recently been strengthened following the transition to a new rating management system. He advised that, in accordance with the Land Drainage Act, the Board continues to maintain physical records, including land registers and maps, which are securely stored on-site. In addition, electronic records are now held on a remote drainage management system hosted by an external provider, with access facilitated via a secure connection. This provides enhanced resilience, as the hosting provider maintains appropriate cyber security measures and ensures that system updates are applied centrally.

The Chief Executive further outlined that the remote hosting arrangement allows for ongoing system improvements without additional burden on internal resources. He also noted that, while certain historic paper records are retained, core statutory information could be recreated from the digital systems if required. Margaret Geaney queried whether the physical storage arrangements provided adequate protection, particularly in relation to fire risk. The Chief Executive confirmed that records are stored securely, although he noted that the critical statutory information is now primarily safeguarded through the electronic systems. The Chair acknowledged that the combination of physical record retention and enhanced digital storage provides a robust approach to managing this risk. He noted that, while some historical records may not be fully recoverable if lost, the key legal and operational data could be reproduced if necessary. On this basis, the potential impact was assessed as high, with a low likelihood, resulting in a risk score of three. Members confirmed their agreement that this remains an appropriate assessment.

The Chair concluded the review by thanking members for their input, noting that the Committee had completed a thorough consideration of the risk register. Chris Harris, acting in his capacity as auditor, commented that he was impressed with the thoroughness and level of detail demonstrated during the review. He observed that the Committee's approach compared favourably with other organisations, noting that the depth of scrutiny applied was particularly commendable and refreshing from an audit perspective.

The Chair invited any final observations or identification of any areas that may have been overlooked. Chris Harris confirmed that he was satisfied that all relevant matters had been appropriately considered and advised that he would have intervened had any issues required further attention.

The Chair concluded by reiterating the importance of maintaining a thorough and robust approach to risk management and thanked all members for their contributions to the discussion.

The Committee RESOLVED to recommend that the Risk Management Strategy, Policy and Analysis Policy (No. 01) be approved at the next Board meeting.

(b) Policy No 04: Procurement Policy.

The Committee considered Policy No. 4, the Procurement Policy. The Chair invited the Chief Executive to introduce the item. The Chief Executive explained that, although the review had originally been prompted by an audit recommendation, the process had developed into a more fundamental revision of the policy. He advised that the previous version had become overly complex, with multiple layers and exceptions, and that the revised document seeks to simplify and streamline the approach, making it more practical and easier for staff to follow.

The Chief Executive highlighted the introduction of a clearer structure, including a visual representation of levels of responsibility within the organisation. He explained that all relevant staff with purchasing authority are now clearly grouped, with management, directors, and senior responsibility levels defined more transparently. The revised document has also been reviewed by staff to ensure clarity and usability, with formatting improvements made to enhance readability.

The Committee discussed specific changes within the policy. The Chief Executive drew attention to the requirement for estimated values to be recorded on orders where precise costs are not known at the outset, such as equipment servicing. This aims to improve financial control and auditability by ensuring that all purchase orders include a defined value, even where this is initially indicative. He also noted a revision to authorisation procedures, whereby invoices will now be approved by a director rather than solely by the Finance and Admin Director, addressing a practical gap where approvals could otherwise be delayed.

Further discussion focused on the restructuring of financial thresholds for procurement. The Chief Executive explained that thresholds had been devised reflecting current costs and inflation. In particular, the revised approach establishes clearer requirements for quotations. For lower-value purchases, flexibility is retained, while for mid-range expenditure a minimum of three quotes is required, and for higher-value purchases, three formal written quotations must be obtained and retained for audit purposes. He confirmed that this approach reflects audit recommendations while remaining practical for operational delivery.

The Chief Executive also explained that supporting data had been analysed to inform the revised thresholds, with examples of recent transactions used to ensure that the new bandings are realistic and proportionate. He noted that unnecessary complexity had been removed, particularly in relation to exceptions, to create a more consistent and understandable framework. The Chair welcomed this, observing that the revised policy provides a clearer and more consistent approach across all procurement activity.

Members considered the structure and clarity of the revised document. Tom Ashton commented that the updated policy demonstrates the effectiveness of the audit process in identifying areas for improvement and supporting the development of more robust and streamlined procedures. Margaret Geaney agreed, noting that the revised format is clear and easy to follow.

The Chair concluded that the revised Procurement Policy represents a significant improvement in clarity and usability. He asked members to confirm whether they were content to recommend the policy for approval by the Board. Members indicated their agreement. The Chair also sought the view of the auditor, Chris Harris, who confirmed that he was satisfied with the revised policy and noted that it would be subject to review as part of future audits.

The Committee RESOLVED to recommend that the Procurement Policy (No.04) be approved at the next Board meeting.

(c) Policy No 10: Delegation of Authority.

The Chair thanked the Chief Executive for the work undertaken in updating the policy and recorded the Committee's appreciation for the effort involved in its revision.

The Chief Executive advised that this item forms part of the routine review cycle; however, minor amendments had been made to ensure alignment with the previously considered Procurement Policy. He explained that the only changes proposed were to incorporate the updated procurement thresholds and authorisation arrangements into the Delegation of Authority framework, ensuring consistency between the two policies.

The Chair noted that, as the Committee had already reviewed and supported the revised Procurement Policy, it was logical to support the corresponding amendments within the Delegation of Authority. He invited members to comment on whether any further revisions were required.

No additional comments or amendments were proposed.

The Committee RESOLVED to recommend that the Delegation of Authority Policy (No. 10) be approved at the next Board meeting.

2628 To receive the Risk Register - Agenda Item 8

The Committee received the Risk Register, noting that the version presented reflected the standing summary format and did not yet incorporate the amendments agreed during the course of the detailed review undertaken at the meeting. The Chief Executive confirmed that the document would be updated to reflect all agreed changes prior to submission to the Board.

The Chair reminded members that the Committee's approach includes an annual detailed review of all high-level risks, particularly those previously

scored at level six, and noted that, following the current review, a number of these risks had been reduced. This would result in a smaller number of high-level risks requiring detailed scrutiny at the next annual review.

Members were invited to comment on the register as presented. Chris Harris identified an inconsistency in the scoring of the risk relating to insufficient finance to carry out works, noting that it had not been updated in line with the Committee's earlier decision. This was acknowledged, and it was confirmed that the risk score should reflect the revised assessment of high impact and medium likelihood, resulting in a risk score of six. The Chief Executive confirmed that all such amendments would be thoroughly checked and corrected before the final version is presented to the Board.

The Chair summarised that, subject to the agreed updates being incorporated, the Risk Register accurately reflects the Committee's discussion and risk assessments.

The committee AGREED that the Risk Register be accepted (with the changes to be made as per the Risk Management Strategy).

2629 To receive the Catalogue of Board Policies with recommended approval dates - Agenda Item 9

The Committee considered Item 9, being the review of the Board's catalogue of policies, including the schedule of review frequencies and dates. The Chair noted that this provides oversight of when each policy is due for review and ensures that all governance documents remain current and compliant.

The Chief Executive highlighted that the Health and Safety Policy, which had been identified for review, has been deferred to the September meeting. He explained that this will allow it to be presented alongside the Board's byelaws, which are also due for their five-year statutory review. He advised that, while the byelaws will be formally reviewed, they are largely standard documents and any amendments would require approval from the DEFRA Minister rather than the Board, making any changes unlikely.

The Chief Executive further noted that the Health and Safety Policy is a substantial document, approximately 50 pages in length, incorporating a wide range of detailed procedures and requirements. As such, it will require careful and thorough review by members. The Chair acknowledged this and emphasised the importance of allowing sufficient time for proper consideration in advance of the meeting.

In response, the Chief Executive confirmed that the policy documentation would be circulated to members at least two weeks prior to the September meeting, rather than the usual one-week timeframe, to allow adequate time for review. He also reminded members that the policy is available via the Board's website.

The Chair thanked the Chief Executive for the update and noted the Committee's appreciation of the need for extended review time for such a

significant policy. Members indicated their agreement with the proposed approach to the review timetable.

The Committee AGREED that the Catalogue of Board Policies be adopted

2700 Any Other Business - Agenda Item 10

Tom Ashton proposed that the Committee formally record its appreciation for the work of the Chief Executive, the Finance and Admin Director, and the wider team in achieving a strong audit outcome. He noted that the Committee, and the Board more broadly, should take pride in receiving a positive and thorough audit result, describing it as a “clean bill of health.” He further suggested that consideration be given to how this level of diligence and responsible financial management might be communicated more widely, to demonstrate to the public the care taken in managing funds and fulfilling the Board’s responsibilities.

The Chair thanked Tom Ashton for his comments and confirmed that the Committee’s appreciation would be formally recorded. He echoed these sentiments, acknowledging the significant amount of work undertaken behind the scenes to achieve such outcomes.

There being no further formal business, the Chair thanked Chris Harris and Steve Forsyth for their attendance and contributions, acknowledging the detailed nature of the discussions, particularly in relation to the comprehensive review of the risk register. He also thanked all members for their input and participation.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 15:54

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

Risk Management Strategy

Risk Management Policy

Risk Analysis

Updated	A&R 21 April 2026
Board Approved	
Due for Review	23 rd June 2026

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- A – Risk Management Strategy Statement
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- C – Risk Analysis
- D – Risk Register

Risk Management Strategy

1. Purpose, Aims and Objectives

1.1 The purpose of the Boards Risk Management Strategy is to effectively manage potential opportunities and threats to the Board achieving its objectives. See attached Risk Management Policy Statement, Appendix A.

1.2 The Boards Risk Management Strategy has the following aims and objectives;

- Integration of Risk Management into the culture of the Board
- Raising awareness of the need for Risk Management by all those connected with the delivery of services (including partners)
- Enabling the Board to anticipate and respond to changing social, environmental and legislative conditions
- Minimisation of injury, damage, loss and inconvenience to staff, members of the public, service users, assets etc. arising from or connected with the delivery of the Board services
- Introduction of a robust framework and procedures for identification, analysis, assessment and management of risk, and the reporting and recording of events, based on best practice
- Minimisation of the cost of risk

1.3 To achieve these aims and objectives, the following strategy is proposed;

- Establish clear accountabilities, roles and reporting lines for all employees
- Acquire and develop the necessary skills and expertise
- Provide for risk assessment in all decision making processes of the Board
- Develop a resource allocation framework to allocate (target) resources for risk management
- Develop procedures and guidelines for use across the Board
- Develop arrangements to measure performance of Risk Management activities against the aims and objectives
- To make all partners and service providers aware of the Boards' expectations on risk, both generally as set out in its Risk Management Policy and where necessary in particular areas of the Boards' operations.

1.4 The Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board has adopted the following definition of Risk:

'Risk is the threat that an event or action will adversely affect the organisation's ability to achieve its objectives and to successfully execute its strategies'.

2. Accountabilities, Roles and Reporting Lines

2.1 A framework has been implemented that has addressed the following issues:

- The different types of risk – Strategic and Operational
- Where it should be managed
- Roles and accountabilities for all staff.
- The need to drive the policy throughout the Board
- Prompt reporting of accidents, losses, changes etc.

2.2 In many cases, risk management follows existing service management arrangements.

2.3 Strategic risk is best managed by the Board.

2.4 The Board's Chief Executive will be responsible for the Board's overall risk management strategy, and will report directly to the Board.

2.5 The Board's Chief Executive will be responsible for the Board's overall Health and Safety policy and will report to the Board.

2.6 It is envisaged that the development of a risk management strategy will encourage ownership of risk and will allow for easier monitoring and reporting on remedial actions / controls.

3. Skills and Expertise

3.1 Having established roles and responsibilities for risk management, the Board must ensure that it has the skills and expertise necessary. It will achieve this by providing Risk Management Training for Employees and Board Members, where appropriate providing awareness courses that address the individual needs of both the manual workforce and office staff.

3.2 Training will focus on best practice in risk management, and awareness will also focus on specific risks in areas such as the following:

- Partnership working
- Project management
- Operation of Board vehicles and equipment
- Manual labour tasks e.g. Health and Safety issues

4. Embedding Risk Management

Risk management is an important part of the service planning process. This will enable both strategic and operational risk, as well as the accumulation of risks from a number of areas to be properly considered. Over time the Board aims to be able to demonstrate that there is a fully embedded process.

This strategy and the information contained within the appendices provides a framework to be used by all levels of staff and Members in the implementation of risk management as an integral part of good management.

5. Risks and the Decision Making Process

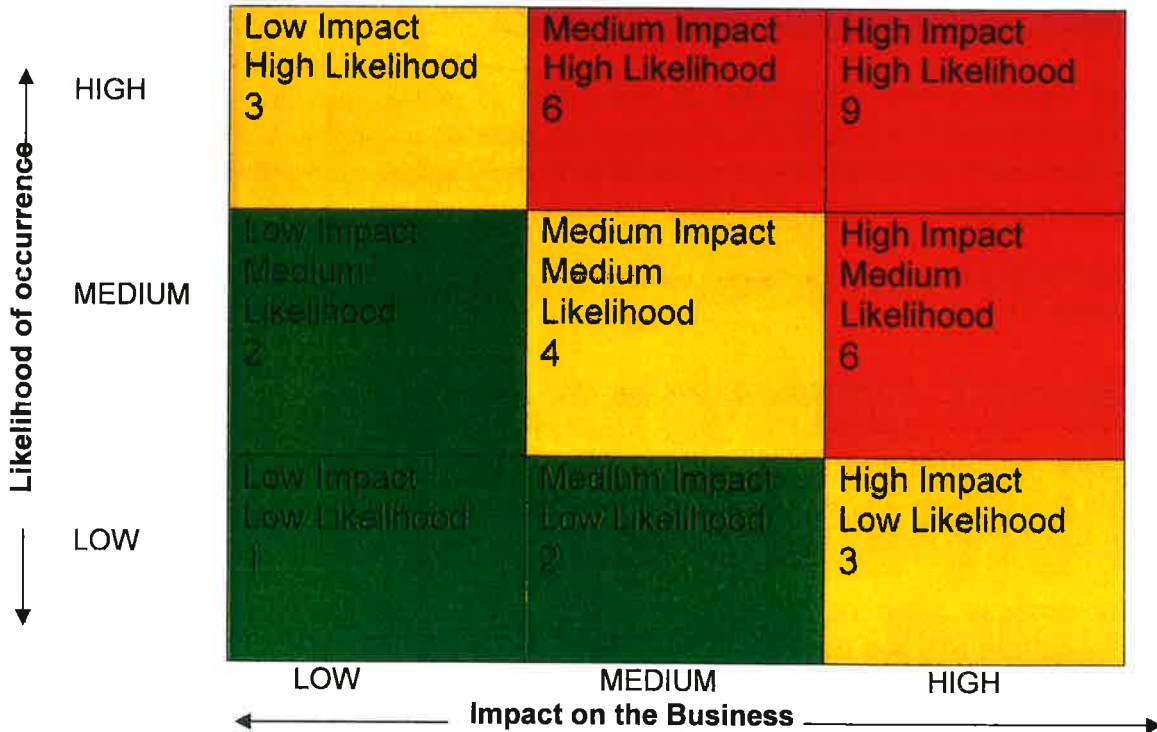
- 5.1 Risk needs to be addressed at the point at which decisions are being taken. Where Members and Officers are asked to make decisions they should be advised of the risks associated with recommendations being made. The training described in the preceding section will enable this to happen.
- 5.2 The Board will need to demonstrate that it took reasonable steps to consider the risks involved in a decision.
- 5.3 There needs to be a balance struck between efficiency of the decision making process and the need to address risk. Risk assessment is seen to be particularly valuable in options appraisal. All significant decision reports to the Board (including new and amended policies and strategies) should include an assessment of risk to demonstrate that risks (both threats and opportunities) have been addressed.
- 5.4 This process does not guarantee that decisions will always be right but it will demonstrate that the risks have been considered and the evidence will support this.

6. Supporting Innovation and Improvement

- 6.1 Managers have been made aware that there are a number of tools that can be used to help identify potential risks:
- Workshops.
 - Scenario planning.
 - Analysing past claims and other losses.
 - Analysing past corporate incidents/failures.
 - Health & safety inspections.
 - Induction training.
 - Performance Review & Development interviews.
 - Staff and customer feedback.
- 6.2 Having identified areas of potential risk, they must be analysed by:
- An assessment of impact.
 - An assessment of likelihood.

This is to be done by recording the results using the risk matrix below:

RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX



The high, medium and low categories for impact and likelihood are defined as follows:

IMPACT

- *High* – will have a catastrophic effect on the operation/service delivery. May result in major financial loss (over £100,000). Major service disruption (+ 5 days) or impact on the public. Death of an individual or several people. Complete failure of project or extreme delay (over 2 months). Many individual personal details compromised/revealed. Adverse publicity in national press.
- *Medium* – will have a noticeable effect on the operation/service delivery. May result in significant financial loss (between £20,000 and £100,000). Will cause a degree of disruption (2 – 5 days) or impact on the public. Severe injury to an individual or several people. Adverse effect on project/significant slippage. Some individual personal details compromised/revealed. Adverse publicity in local press.
- *Low* – where the consequences will not be severe and any associated losses and or financial implications will be low (up to £20,000). Negligible effect on service delivery (1 day). Minor injury or discomfort to an individual or several people. Isolated individual personal detail compromised/revealed. NB A number of low incidents may have a significant cumulative effect and require attention.

LIKELIHOOD

High	Very likely to happen	Matrix score 3
Medium	Likely to happen infrequently and difficult to predict	Matrix score 2
Low	Most unlikely to happen	Matrix score 1

7. Risk Control

7.1 Using the risk matrix produces a risk rating score that will enable risks to be prioritised using one or more of the “four T’s”

Tolerate	Score <= 2	Accept the risk
Treat	Score 3 to 5	If possible take cost effective in-house actions to reduce the risk.
Transfer	Score 6 to 8	Let someone else take the risk (eg by Insurance or passing responsibility for the risk to a contractor).
Terminate	Score 9	Agree that the risk is too high and do not proceed with the project or activity.

7.2 Risk assessment and risk matrices provide a powerful and easy to use tool for the identification, assessment and control of business risk. It enables managers to consider the whole range of categories of risk affecting a business activity. The technique can assist in the prioritisation of risks and decisions on allocation of resources. Decisions can then be made concerning the adequacy of existing control measures and the need for further action. It can be directed at the business activity as a whole or on individual departments/sections/functions or indeed projects.

8. Supporting Innovation and Improvement

8.1 Risk Management will be incorporated into the business planning process for the Board with a risk assessment of all business aims being undertaken as part of the annual Estimates process.

8.2 The Board’s internal auditor will have a role in reviewing the effectiveness of control measures that have been put in place to ensure that risk management measures are working.

RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT

The Board believes that risk is a feature of all businesses. Some risks will always exist and can never be eliminated: they therefore need to be appropriately managed.

The Board recognises that it has a responsibility to manage hazards and risks and supports a structured and focused approach to managing them by approval each year of a Risk Management Strategy.

In this way the Board will improve its ability to achieve its strategic objectives and enhance the value of services it provides to the community.

The Boards Risk Management objectives are to:

- Embed risk management into the culture and operations of the Board
- Adopt a systematic approach to risk management as an integral part of service planning and performance management
- Manage risk in accordance with best practice
- Anticipate and respond to changing social, environmental and legislative requirements
- Ensure all employees have clear responsibility for both the ownership and cost of risk and the tools to effectively reduce / control it

These objectives will be achieved by:

- Establishing clear roles, responsibilities and reporting lines within the organisation for risk management
- Incorporating risk management in the Board's decision making and operational management processes
- Reinforcing the importance of effective risk management through training
- Incorporating risk management considerations into Service / Business Planning, Project Management, Partnerships & Procurement Processes
- Monitoring risk management arrangements on a regular basis

The benefits of Risk Management include:

- Safer environment for all
- Improved public relations and reputation for the organisation
- Improved efficiency within the organisation
- Protect employees and others from harm
- Reduction in probability / size of uninsured or uninsurable losses
- Competitive Insurance Premiums
- Maximise efficient use of available resources.

RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY DOCUMENT

In all types of undertaking, there is the potential for events and consequences that may either be opportunities for benefit or threats to success. Internal Drainage Boards are no different and risk management is increasingly recognised as being central to their strategic management. It is a process whereby Internal Drainage Boards methodically address the risks associated with what they do and the services which they provide. The focus of good risk management is to identify what can go wrong and take steps to avoid this or successfully manage the consequences.

Risk management is not just about financial management; it is about achieving the objectives of the organisation to deliver high quality public services.

The failure to manage risks effectively can be expensive in terms of litigation and reputation, the ability to achieve desired targets, and, eventually, the level of the drainage rates.

Internal Drainage Boards need to keep under review and, if need be, strengthen their own corporate governance arrangements, thereby improving their stewardship of public funds and providing positive and continuing assurance to ratepayers. The Board already looks at risk as part of their day to day activities but there is now a need to look at, adapt, improve where necessary and document existing processes.

Members are ultimately responsible for risk management because risks threaten the achievement of policy objectives. As a minimum, the members should, at least once each year:

- a) take steps to identify and update key risks facing the Board;
- b) evaluate the potential consequences to the Board if an event identified as a risk takes place; and
- c) decide upon appropriate measures to avoid, reduce or control the risk or its consequences.

This Risk Management Policy document is designed to be a living document which will be continually updated when new risks are identified or when existing risks change.

The assessment of potential impact will be classified as high, medium or low. At the same time it will assess how likely a risk is to occur and this will enable the Board to decide which risks it should pay most attention to when considering what measures to take to manage the risks.

After identifying and evaluating risks the responsible officer will need to decide upon appropriate measures to take in order to avoid, reduce or control the risks or their consequence.

RISK ANALYSIS

1. TO PROVIDE AND MAINTAIN STANDARDS OF NEEDS BASED SUSTAINABLE FLOOD PROTECTION

1.1 Risk of Being Unable to Prevent Flooding to Property or Land

The Board's main objective is to provide satisfactory water level management within the Board's area.

Flooding could occur in the following ways:

- From failure of coastal defences which are maintained by EA
- From EA watercourses
- From IDB watercourses
- From riparian watercourses
- From sewers maintained by other authorities
- From surface water

(a) Coastal flooding from failure or overtopping of defences

Consequence: Land and Properties could be subjected to flooding (EA Risk) and IDB Pumping Stations could be required to deal with substantial additional flows

How risk is managed: Board works with lead local flood authority, Environment Agency and the Wash Frontage Group.

Future Work: Lobbying of government representative MP
Lobbying of Greater Lincolnshire Mayor

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
HIGH	Low	3

(b) Fluvial flooding from failure or overtopping of defences

Consequence: Land and Properties could be subjected to flooding and IDB Pumping Stations could be required to deal with Substantial additional flows

~~Given the increased overtopping experienced from Storm Babet and Storm Henk in Winter 2023/24, and the water entering our system through the banks of 4 of our northerly pumping stations, I suggest the likelihood be increased until the identified low spots are raised/repaired~~

How risk is managed: Board works with lead local flood authority
Pumping Stations Additional Resilience Partnership working with EA including PSCA
Agreement with EA to remotely implement emergency profile levels as per the emergency plan, if levels reach 2.7m ODN at Black Hole Drove PS.
EA Management Plan on the operation of the sluice and nav lock at Black Sluice Pumping Station included as an appendix to the Emergency Response Plan.

Future Work: To engage with the Lower Witham Flood Resilience Project.

To engage and support the Fens 2100+ project developing options for the Fens to achieve future flood resilience. Baseline Report and Case for Change published and presented to MPs & Lords.

Work with the Environment Agency to raise bank levels where overtopping has been experienced including but not limited to Dunsby PS, Quadring PS, Screddington, Helpringham Footbridge, Threkingham, (Quadring returned to previous level, Dunsby has been repaired, but only to 2.95m. EA position is to only repair to previous levels to not move the flooding from future events elsewhere.

Working with the EA to create a computer simulation based on actual events from January 2024 and January 2025 that led to the overtopping of the SFFD to compare to the modelling used to justify the decommissioning of the Black Sluice Pumping Station. Still waiting

~~Develop options to submit the Outline Business Case to achieve funding to repair the banks below the pumping stations where water flows through when levels are high.~~

Almost complete

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
HIGH	MEDIUM	6

(c) Flooding from failure of IDB pumping stations or excess rainfall

Consequence: Land and Properties could be subjected to flooding and IDB Pumping Stations could be required to deal with Substantial additional flows
Structural Integrity of the Boards ageing Pumping Stations following concerns raised in relation to Swineshead Pumping Station following an inspection by a Structural Engineer.

How risk is managed: Board works with lead local flood authority
Comprehensive programme of refurbishment works is being developed with a long-term aim of completing full refurbishments of all pumping stations in priority order.
PTO gear boxes and generator connections.

Further Work: ~~Consider if additional surveys are required at all our Structures and identify funding.~~

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
HIGH	MEDIUM	6

(d) Flooding from Sewers or riparian watercourses

Consequence: Small areas of land and maybe some properties could be subjected to flooding
During the storms of 2023/24 we saw an increase in contact from the general public seeking advice and assistance. This could be due to being more accessible than other Risk Management Authorities or they had been told it wasn't their responsibility and they were sent our way.

How risk is managed: Board works with lead local flood authority
The Board has permissive powers for the supervision of drainage in the Board's catchment and in the extended catchment on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council under PSCA.

Further Work: Increase the profile of the Board and manage the expectations of the general public.
Engage with partners to agree methods to pass information between Risk Management Authorities instead of directing the member of the public to contact another public body. Whilst LLFA is supportive of this, they revert to the standard passing between RMA's by giving contact details.

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
MEDIUM	LOW	2

1.2 Risk of loss of reputation or being found negligent due to Emergency Actions

Under Section 14A of the Land Drainage Act 1991 the Board has permissive powers to complete ~~drainage works to further drainage, reduce flood risk~~ “flood risk management work” ~~or to maintain and enhance the environment~~. The Board uses these permissive powers to pump water away from the Board’s catchment. Section 14A does not impart a Statutory duty on the Board as confirmed in Riley v Black Sluice IDB in the County Court of Boston in March 2026.

The Board has an agreement with Environment Agency to remotely implement emergency profile levels as per the Boards emergency plan, if levels reach 2.7m ODN at Black Hole Drove PS. This effectively switches off the pumps for a period until the water level in the watercourses reaches a pre-determined level for each pump when the pumps automatically switch back on and attempt to pumps levels down by 300mm. This stores water in the Black Sluice IDB system and reduces the pressure on the Environment Agency controlled South Forty Foot Drain, reducing the risk of overtopping and breach.

- Consequence: The public perception could be that any flooding was caused by these actions
~~A court could find these actions to be negligible~~
- How risk is managed: Legal protection is included with our insurance policy
Emergency Plan is reviewed regularly and after every incident where it is invoked
- Further Work: Engage with the public to educate on our work and emergency processes through engagement events and liaison with local flood groups.

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
MEDIUM	MEDIUM	4

1.3 Risk of Loss of Electrical Supply

The Board relies on electrical power for all pumping stations. Loss of supply could be encountered for a number of reasons in the future.

- Consequence: Pumping stations would fail to operate
Office and Depot would be unable to function
Telemetry system fails to operate
- How risk is managed: Dual drive gearboxes installed at pumping stations to enable pumps to be operated by a tractor
Large pumping stations have generator connections but the Board would have to hire in generators which may be in short supply
UPS system fitted to telemetry computer, Main server and Phone System

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
HIGH	LOW	3

1.4 Risk of failure of Board's Pumping Stations

This risk has been expanded to cover any circumstance where a Board Pumping Station may fail to operate whether it be through structural failure, mechanical failure or overwhelmed by high water levels.

Consequence: High water levels and possible flooding
Extra expenditure on pumping station maintenance
Unable to access the pumping station in an emergency

How risk is managed: Pumping **Station Manager** checks at regular intervals
Refurbishment of plant is continuously programmed
Continued investment planned for pumping stations
Permit to work scheme implemented where risk to people due to structural concerns.

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
HIGH	MEDIUM	6

1.5 Risk of Board Watercourses being Unable to Convey Water

Consequence: High water levels and possible flooding from over topping
Extra expenditure on drain maintenance
With increased flows we are seeing more Culverts failing blocking water courses.

How risk is managed: Asset conditions are shown on a database
All watercourses are cleared of weed growth once each year, **where possible**
All watercourses are desilted on a regular **prioritised** basis
Board regularly check and clear out culverts

Further work: Continue to review asset conditions in asset database
Programme of desilting to be developed prioritised following surveying.

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
MEDIUM	MEDIUM	4

1.6 Risk of Operating Machinery to Maintain Watercourses

The Board operates excavators and tractor mounted machines to remove weed growth and silt from watercourses. There are risks in operating this machinery.

- Risk:** Hitting overhead electrical services
Hitting underground electrical services
Machines falling into watercourse
Parts of machine hitting people or other vehicles
- Consequence:** Damage to Third parties
Damage to plant & vehicles
Injury to staff
- How risk is managed:** Machinery is regularly serviced
Machinery is checked twice each year by a qualified engineer, to comply with LOLER.
Health & Safety committee formed to monitor and address issues
Health and Safety Policy, reported annually to the Board
Health and Safety Consultant employed
All drivers are suitably trained
All drivers are provided with the required safety equipment
All machinery is insured by the Board

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
MEDIUM	LOW	2

1.7 Risk of Claims from Third Parties for damage to property or injury

- Risk:** The Board could cause damage to property or injury due to their actions
Hitting overhead/underground electrical services
Machines falling into watercourses
Damage to Third parties
Damage to plant & vehicles
- Consequence:** Injury to staff
Uninsured costs
Extra work for staff
- How risk is managed:** The Board has adequate insurance including legal cover
The Board train staff to undertake works safely
Risk assessments are carried out

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
MEDIUM	LOW	2

1.8 Risk of Third Parties damage to Board maintained assets

Risk: Damage to Board Maintained Assets
Damage to Board Owned Assets

Consequence: Assets not performing as they are designed to.

How risk is managed: Managed Assets – Board Byelaws
Owned Assets - Insurance

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
MEDIUM	LOW	2

1.9 Risk of Unplanned Loss of Senior Staff

Consequence: Inability to operate efficiently

How risk is managed: Should staff from the Emergency response Team not be available during a prolonged event, cover should be implemented as per the emergency response plan
Hire in temporary staff from Agencies or other local Drainage Boards
Formalised arrangements to share staff from other drainage boards

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
MEDIUM	LOW	2

1.10 Insufficient Finance to Carry Out Works

Consequence: Watercourses not maintained in satisfactory condition
Pumping Stations more at risk of failure
Increased risk of poor drainage and flooding
Significant unexpected costs to respond to incidents or extended periods of wet weather.
Excessive Electricity Costs

How risk is managed: Ten year budget to ensure adequate funding
Reserves to be increased to a level that would allow electricity bills to be paid if wet conditions experienced for two consecutive years. Financial Regulations updated.
Aims for the General Reserve forecast to be met by 2030/31 therefore consider reducing likelihood? IDB Fund has improved the forecast considerably.
Ongoing continuous liaison with Precept paying Councils

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
HIGH	MEDIUM	6
HIGH	LOW	3

1.11 Reduction in Staff Performance

Consequence: Reduced standards of maintenance

How risk is managed: Ongoing continuous supervision, advice, training, line management motivation and appraisal.
Management systems

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
MEDIUM	LOW	2

1.12 Insufficient Staff Resources

Consequence: Reduced standards of maintenance
Reduced value for money
~~Environment Consultants are in short supply following retirements.~~
Unable to deliver funded capital works

How risk is managed: Review by senior management
Reports to Executive Committee
Terms of Employment regularly reviewed to remain competitive
Employed a qualified Environment Officer

Further Work: Recruitment of Project Manager to deliver funded capital works

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
MEDIUM	LOW	2

2. TO CONSERVE AND ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT WHEREVER PRACTICABLE AND POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THERE IS NO NET LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY

2.1 Risk of Prosecution for not Adhering to Environmental Legislation

The Board have responsibilities to promote nature conservation and the environment

Consequence: Prosecution for damage to habitat
Injury or death of fish, birds or mammals
~~Environment Consultants are in short supply following retirements~~

How risk is managed: Qualified Environment Officer employed
Workforce are trained in environmental matters
~~Working within the restraints of the Board's Biodiversity Action Plan~~
New personalised and targeted Biodiversity Action Plan developed for adoption in 2026.
Environmental clean-up liability Insurance (£1m)
Environmental Impairment Liability Insurance (£2m)

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
MEDIUM	LOW	2

2.2 Non Delivery of Objectives

Consequence: Biodiversity Action Plan not complied with

How risk is managed: Projects included in capital plan
Annual Environment Budget
Biodiversity Action Plan Actions reported to Environment Committee.

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
LOW	LOW	1

3. TO PROVIDE A 24 HOUR/365 DAY EMERGENCY RESPONSE FOR THE COMMUNITY

3.1 Emergency Plan Inadequate or Not up to Date

Consequence: Difficulties in emergency situation

How risk is managed: Regular review of plan
Plan reviewed following use

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
LOW	LOW	1

3.2 Insufficient Resources (Staff and Equipment)

Consequence: Inability to provide adequate response
Unable to recruit sufficient workforce

How risk is managed: Shared resources with neighbouring Boards
Use local farmer/landowner resources
Review resources available
Review remuneration considering local circumstances

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
MEDIUM	LOW	2

3.3 Risk of Critical Incident Loss of Office

Consequence: Risk of an incident preventing the use of anything at the offices

How risk is managed: Insurance for additional cost of working/business interruption (£500k over a 12 Months period)
Remote Backups to HBP servers
Well-practiced procedures for working from home by all office-based staff if required. Invested in technology to enable.

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
HIGH	LOW	3

4. TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND FULFILLING WORKING ENVIRONMENT FOR STAFF

4.1 Risk of Injury to Staff and Subsequent Claims and Losses

Consequence: Injury to staff
 Claims for losses
 Senior staff liable under Corporate Manslaughter Legislation

How risk is managed: Health and Safety Policy, reported annually to the Board
 Health & Safety Committee formed to review and monitor Safety Management System including all levels of personnel in the Board from Board member to Drainage Operative.
 Health and Safety Consultant employed
 Staff are trained for the duties that they are required to perform
 Risk assessments are carried out for all activities
 Employers Liability Insurance (£15m)

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
MEDIUM	LOW	2

4.2 Risk of not complying with Health & Safety Legislation

If Health & Safety legislation is not complied with there is a risk of work being stopped and officers being prosecuted.

Consequence: Fines and serious delays in work programme

How risk is managed: A health and safety consultant is employed to advise on policy, monitor legislation and to monitor the overall Safety Management System.
 Health & Safety Committee formed to review and monitor Safety Management System including all levels of personnel in the Board from Board member to Drainage Operative.
 Board Health & Safety policy is regularly reviewed by the Health & Safety committee and the Board.
 Regular training of all staff
 Insurance for Manslaughter Costs and Safety Legislation costs (£1m each)

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
HIGH	LOW	3

5. TO MAINTAIN FINANCIAL RECORDS THAT ARE CORRECT AND COMPLY WITH ALL RECOMMENDED ACCOUNTING PRACTICE

5.1 Risk of Loss of Cash

Very little cash collected or held at office

Consequence: Loss of income

How risk is managed: Money placed in safe and banked as soon as possible
Insurance (£500 out of safe overnight to £5,000 during business hours)
A maximum of £500 petty cash is held

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
LOW	LOW	1

5.2 Risk of Loss of Money invested in Building Societies & Banks & Managed Funds

Consequence: Loss of income

How risk is managed: Money is placed with known Building Societies and banks on the FCA Register
A maximum of £300,000 is invested in an individual organisation as per the Investment Policy
Maximum of £500,000 invested in a managed fund.
The Executive Committee of the Board reviews the investments on a regular basis

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
HIGH	LOW	3

5.3 Risk of Fraud by Senior Officers

Consequence: Loss of money

How risk is managed: Two Officers always have to sign/approve each mandate for a transaction
All purchase ledger transactions are reviewed by the Board
The Board has adequate insurance

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
LOW	LOW	1

5.4 Risk of Inadequacy of Internal Checks

Consequence: Risk of incorrect payments being made

How risk is managed: All items resulting in payments being made by the Board are checked before being processed
All Payments made through the Board's Bank Accounts are authorised by two authorised signatories as per the Financial Regulations
Additional independent checks carried out with supplier to avoid "Mandate fraud"

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
MEDIUM	LOW	2

5.5 Fraudulent use of Credit Cards

Consequence: Loss of money

How risk is managed: Only Directors hold Board Credit Cards
The Board has insurance for Unauthorised use of credit cards £10,000 (Card limits £5k, £5k, £2,500 & £2,500)
Card expenditure is reconciled monthly and certified by both CEO & Projects Director

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
LOW	LOW	1

6. TO ENSURE THAT ALL ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE BOARD COMPLY WITH ALL CURRENT UK AND EU LEGISLATION

6.1 Risks to Board Members

There are 23 Board Members who make decisions on the operation of the Board

Risk: Board Members make decisions that involve the Board in extra expense

Consequence: Liability of Board Members

How risk is managed: Insurance (£3m Executive Liability & Company Reimbursement, £3m Corporate Liability)
Qualified and experienced staff advise the Board

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
LOW	LOW	1

6.2 Risk of not complying with all Employment Regulations and Laws

There is a risk that the Board may not comply with all regulations and laws.

Consequence: Claims against the Board

How risk is managed: **Ongoing training for managers/directors**
Insurance (£1m Employment Practices Liability Cover)
Advice from consultants and solicitors and the industry
The Board employs a Qualified HR Adviser

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
MEDIUM	LOW	2

7. A COST EFFICIENT IDB THAT PROVIDES VALUE FOR MONEY SERVICE

7.1 Risk of Collecting insufficient Income to Fund Expenditure

Consequence: Inability to pay staff and creditors
Inability to maintain drains and pumping stations in a satisfactory condition

How risk is managed: **Special Interest Group set up and lobbying government for a different method of funding for IDB's in relation to special levies from councils which makes up over 50% of the Boards guaranteed income.**
Local Government Reorganisation expected to abolish District/Borough Councils in favour of Unitary Authorities which could disrupt Special Levy income.
Monthly finance reports sent to Members of Executive Committee
Reports to Board Meetings
Cash flow forecasting by Finance & Admin Director
Comprehensive Annual Budgets and ten-year estimates produced
Ongoing continuous liaison with Precept paying Councils
Reserves to be increased to a level that would allow electricity bills to be paid if wet conditions experienced for two consecutive years. Financial Regulations updated.
Targets forecast to be met by 2030/31.

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
LOW	LOW	1
MEDIUM	LOW	2

7.2 IDB abolished or taken over

Consequence: Loss of direction from local members

How risk is managed: Association of Drainage Authorities lobbies on behalf of IDB's
Regular dialogue with local MP's

Further work: Monitoring developments with unitary devolution and establishment of the mayoral authority.

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
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8. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATIONS

8.1 Risk of Loss of Telemetry

Consequence: If the telemetry fails then it will be more difficult to manage the pumping stations

How risk is managed: Continual review of hardware and software
 Back up computers
 Workmen already assigned to pumping stations can be sent to check on conditions
 High Capacity UPS (Battery Backup) in place in case of power cut
 Upgraded the Telemetry Systems including the ability for remote operation. **Pumping Stations upgraded to 4G/5G system with Radio only a backup.**
 All Directors trained during winter 2023/24 storms

Further Work: Continue to maintain trained staff to monitor telemetry

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
MEDIUM	LOW	2

8.2 Risk of Loss of Telephone Communications

Consequence: Inability to communicate decisions

How risk is managed: All staff have mobile telephones
 Soft Phones available via an app on computers and mobiles
 UPS (Battery Backup) on Communications Cabinet
 Phones on separate Broadband line and network as rest of the network

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
LOW	LOW	1

8.3 Risk of Loss of Internet Connections

Consequence: Unable to remotely connect to office and Telemetry resulting in Employee having to be on site in an event
 Unable to make bank payments
 Unable to access information on internet

How risk is managed: Fibre to Premises (FTTP) and backup Fibre to cabinet (FTTC) with different providers.
Contribution to Directors & Pumping Station Manager to maintain internet connection at home for Emergency working.

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
MEDIUM	LOW	2

8.4 Risk of Network Failure

Consequence: All computers and information inaccessible

How risk is managed: Proactive IT Maintenance Contract with external consultants including disaster recovery
4 hour response for server or Network failure
Staff with limited training and remote support

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
HIGH	LOW	3

8.5 Risk of Breach in Cyber Security inc. Risk of Virus being introduced to Network

Consequence: All computers and information inaccessible
Risk of Data Protection Breach
Security of Information
Malicious damage to hardware and information by various types of virus

How risk is managed: Proactive IT security Contract with external consultants
4 hour response for server or Network failure
Staff with limited training and remote support
Staff Training (All staff have completed classroom and online training provided by our IT consultants and Defender AV as a minimum)
WatchGuard Firewall and Microsoft Defender AV system installed and subscription maintained
All information taken off site digitally is encrypted and password protected
Remote Backups to HBP servers
Introduction of Electronic Information and Communication Systems Policy (was part of the 'White Book' previously)
Dual Authentication system for any access to the Board's Network or Microsoft Cloud systems
Hard Firewall installed to prevent unauthorised person introducing virus
Emails filtered off site by Microsoft 365 Spam Filtering to reduce likelihood of malicious attachments
Cyber Insurance Policy arranged from 2025.

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
HIGH	MEDIUM	6
HIGH	LOW	3

8.6 Risk of Network Security Breach

Consequence: Unauthorised access to the Network and information stored on the network

How risk is managed: WatchGuard and Microsoft Defender AV installed and subscription maintained
Dual Authentication system for any access to the Board's Network or Microsoft Cloud systems

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
HIGH	LOW	3

8.7 Risk of Loss of Accounting Records

All of the Board's records are retained on the main server in the communications room

Consequence: Inability to pay staff
Inability to pay creditors
Difficulty in finalising accounts

How risk is managed: Insurance for Business interruption £100k for up to 12 months
Computer systems are regularly reviewed by trained staff and external IT consultants
Remote Backups to HBP servers

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
LOW	LOW	1

8.8 Risk of Loss of Rating Records

All of the Board's **physical** records are retained in **locked filing cabinets in the Board's Offices**. The **digital records are kept** on the main server in the communications room, for mapping records, and on **Water Management Alliance's (WMA) Server for billing records, as they provide the maintained software.**

Consequence: Inability to check who has paid rates
Loss of income
Loss of records of occupiers of land

How risk is managed: Insurance for Business interruption £100k for up to 12 months
Volume Shadow software copies back up every six hours
Computer systems are regularly reviewed by trained staff and by external IT consultants
Remote Backups to HBP servers
Drainage Rate System updated on to most up to date Microsoft platform **and managed by WMA.**

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
HIGH	Low	3

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

Policy No: 4

Procurement Policy

Review Dates:

A&R Reviewed	21 April 2026
Board Approved	23 rd June 2026

1 INTRODUCTION

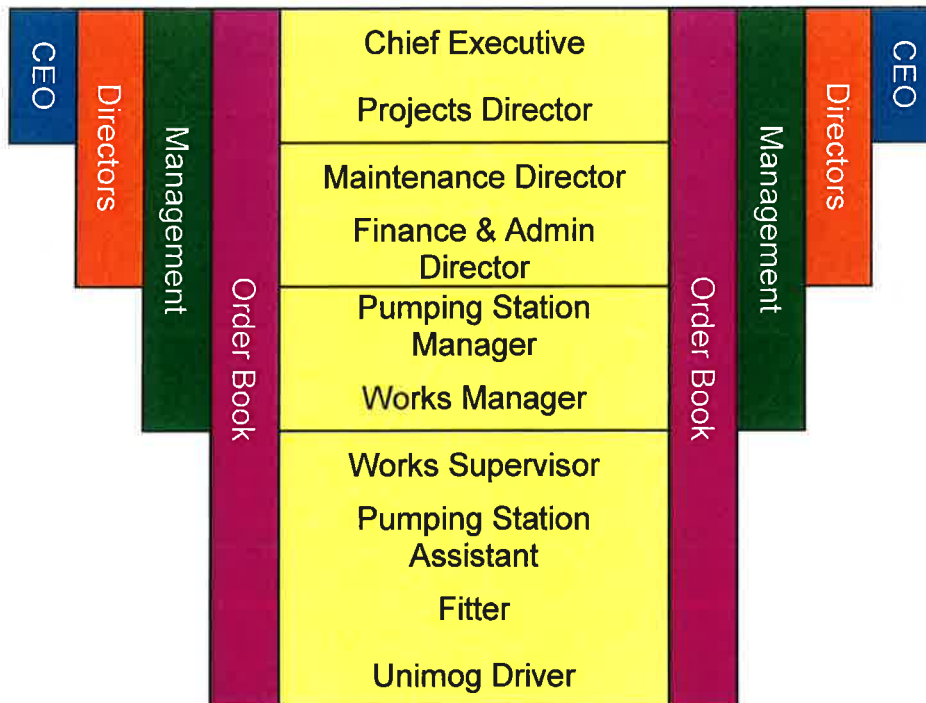
The Board approve an annual budget in February for all expenditure by the Board. Items of expenditure are discussed and approved by the Executive Committee, the Works Committees and the Board.

There has been a culture of the Board approving major items of expenditure which brings with it value for money.

2 THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS

Whatever the cost of an item or service that the Board purchases the following process is followed through to payment of that item: -

- 2.1 A Board order form must always be completed for any purchase made by the Board, except for purchases made using the internet or for items purchased by the Woldmarsh Group.
- 2.2 The following people are authorised to be issued with order books:



- 2.3 The order form should be filled out at the time of order and signed by the person who is organising the order and countersigned as required.
- 2.4 The order is given to the supplier with, where possible, the agreed price of the item or service, **or estimate where not possible.**
- 2.5 The green copy of the order form is given to the Finance Assistant. If additional quotations for the goods have been obtained, then these should be noted on this copy.
- 2.6 When a delivery note is obtained this should be given to the Finance Assistant.
- 2.7 When the Finance Assistant receives an invoice for the goods they are to attach the order and the delivery note to this.
- 2.8 The invoice is approved by **a Director** before payment is made.
- 2.9 A report is made to every Board Meeting of the invoices paid by the Board.

3 BASIS OF PROCUREMENT POLICY

- 3.1 The policy sets out guidelines for procurement for four bands of expenditure:-
 - **Greater than £25,000**
 - **Between £5,000 and £25,000**
 - **Between £2,500 and £5,000**
 - **Between £1,000 and £2,500**
 - **Below £1,000**
- 3.2 The Policy for Delegation of Authority gives the following authorities:
 - (a) Executive Committee to approve any item of expenditure up to a value of **£50,000**.
 - (b) The Chief Executive or Projects Director to approve expenditure up to a value of **£25,000** which is included in annual estimates and regular budgeted expenditure (e.g. electricity) in excess of **£25,000**.

4 PROCUREMENT POLICY

4.1 Items with a value greater than £25,000

These items will typically be:

- Large items of plant
- Machinery and electrical equipment for pumping stations
- Substantial repair contracts
- Large contracts
- Insurance policies

- (a) **Authorisation:** These items will be included in the annual budgeted expenditure and through this method the expenditure will be approved by the Board.
- (b) **Quotes:** Three **written** quotations **are to** be obtained and the lowest bona fide quotation should be accepted, should less than three quotations be obtained or other than the lowest is to be accepted, then the matter should be referred to the Executive Committee, by email, **and evidenced on the office copy of the order and quotes filed with the invoice.**
- (c) **Exceptions:** In the case of an emergency where it is not possible to obtain alternative quotations the Chairperson or the Vice Chairperson of the Board shall authorise the purchase.

Some monthly utility payments, particularly electricity bills, will be included in this category. These payments will be approved by the Chief Executive or their deputy.

Where the Board has a specific preferred brand, with a single supplier, the requirement for more than one quotation will be negated to allow full compatibility. E.g. Electrical Panels in pumping stations, pump motors, environmental hydraulic oil, weedscreen cleaners.

4.2 Items between £5,000 and £25,000

These items will typically be:

- Items of new plant
- Large repairs to plant
- Monthly payments to electricity companies.
- Large amounts of pipes, steel piles and other materials for stock

- (a) **Authorisation:** This level of Procurement will be authorised by the CEO or their deputy.
- (b) **Quotes** A minimum of 3 written quotations are to be obtained. This is to be detailed on the office copy of the order and quotes filed with the invoice.
- (c) **Exceptions:** This will only be relaxed in an emergency situation or if other alternative providers are not available

Repairs of plant and pumping station equipment need to be progressed without delay and will normally be carried out by contractors or suppliers who regularly carry out work for the Board.

Plant and Machinery are to be serviced by the main dealer they were bought from.

Where the Board has a specific preferred brand, with a single supplier, the requirement for more than one quotation will be negated to allow full compatibility. E.g. Electrical Panels in pumping stations, pump motors, environmental hydraulic oil, weedscreen cleaners.

4.3 Items between **£2,500** and **£5,000**

These items will typically be:

- Repairs to plant
- Repairs to equipment at pumping stations
- Purchase of pipes, steel sheet piles and other construction equipment for stock.
- Consultancy services
- Contracts for maintenance works

(a) Authorisation: This level of Procurement will be authorised by a Director.

(b) Quotes: A minimum of 3 written quotes are to be obtained. This is to be detailed on the office copy of the order and quotes filed with the invoice.

(c) Exceptions: This will only be relaxed in an emergency situation or if other alternative providers are not available.

Repairs of plant and pumping station equipment need to be progressed without delay and will normally be carried out by contractors or suppliers who regularly carry out work for the Board.

Plant and Machinery are to be serviced by the main dealer they were bought from.

Where the Board has a specific preferred brand, with a single supplier, the requirement for more than one quotation will be negated to allow full compatibility. E.g. Electrical Panels in pumping stations, pump motors, environmental hydraulic oil, weedscreen cleaners.

4.4 Items between **£1,000** and **£2,500**

These items will typically be:

- Purchase of small items of plant
- **Servicing of Plant and Equipment**
- Hire of plant and machinery
- Repairs to plant and machinery
- Purchase of spare parts for machinery
- Material for construction
- Computers and office equipment

(a) Authorisation: This level of procurement will be authorised by a member of the Management Team

(b) **Quotes:** A minimum of 3 quotes are to be obtained. This is to be detailed on the office copy of the order.

(c) **Exceptions:** It is accepted that unexpected purchases required to complete works on site or emergency repairs will be purchased from the most appropriate local supplier, and this is to be noted on the office copy of the order.

4.5 **Items below £1,000**

These items or services are typically spare parts for machinery, office materials and other similar goods.

(a) **Authorisation:** Anyone authorised to hold an order book.

(b) **Quotes:** Value for money will be achieved by obtaining at least one other quotation or by comparing the price with previous purchases of similar goods or services. This is to be detailed on the office copy of the order.

(c) **Exceptions:** It is accepted that unexpected purchases required to complete works on site or emergency repairs will be purchased from the most appropriate local supplier, and this is to be noted on the office copies of the order.

5 **ITEMS PURCHASED BY CREDIT CARD**

5.1 Credit cards have been issued to the Chief Executive, Projects Director, Maintenance Director, and Finance and Admin Director for use in purchasing goods and services for the Board.

5.2 Payments made by credit card will be reviewed by the Chief Executive on a receipt of the card statements. Projects Director to review the Chief Executive's. Receipts for all payments are to be reconciled to the statements and no one officer should review their own expenditure.

5.3 These purchases will be subject to the same guidelines as normal purchases, whenever possible.

6 **ITEMS PURCHASED BY WOLDMARSH GROUP**

6.1 The Board is a member of the Woldmarsh Buying Group which works on behalf of its members to procure goods and services at preferential prices.

6.2 If goods or services are required a member of staff, authorised in para 2.2 above to be issued an order book, will contact Woldmarsh who will procure the items on behalf of the Board within the authorised limits for the individual. An official Board order form will be completed as above to include the agreed prices and the analysis for the accounts.

6.3 As soon as Woldmarsh have completed an order to the suppliers a confirmation of the order is sent to the Chief Executive, Projects Director, Maintenance Director and Finance and Admin Director for review and oversight.

6.4 Woldmarsh submit an invoice for payment once per month for all of the goods and services purchased for the Board, analysis of this invoice is to be reported to the Board at each meeting.

7 SCAPE ACCESS AGREEMENT FOR THE PUBLIC SECTOR

- 7.1 The Board has signed up to a Scape Access Agreement. The Agreement sets out the rules which govern how the authority may use the framework and details the responsibilities undertaken by Scape and the authority.

Full details of an Access Agreement can be found at Appendix 1 (Scape Access Agreement for the Public Sector Compliance and Guidance Note).

8 SUMMARY

- 8.1 The above policy is not exhaustive and is written as a guide to the appropriate level of authorisation for the level of procurement required.
- 8.2 Members of staff should always liaise with members of the management team to ensure that procurement of materials and services give satisfactory value for money.
- 8.3 Staff should look for every opportunity to make bulk purchases with other authorities to achieve additional value for money.
- 8.4 Consideration is always to be given in relation to maintaining expenditure within budgets. If budgets have been, or are likely to be, exceeded for a particular scheme or general maintenance then the authorisation of the Chief Executive Officer or the Projects Director to be sought before the order is placed.



ACCESS AGREEMENT

FOR THE PUBLIC SECTOR

COMPLIANCE AND GUIDANCE NOTE



INTRODUCTION

Public sector bodies (such as local authorities, central government departments, NHS trusts, schools and other educational establishments which are majority public funded) must comply with public procurement rules when they enter into contracts for supplies, works or services. The overall rules post Brexit for England, Wales and Northern Ireland are currently set out in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015; in Scotland, the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015.

The rules mean that to discharge their transparency obligations, public sector bodies (contracting authorities) must advertise on the UK Government's "Find a Tender Service" (FTS) when they want to contract with a provider for works, goods or services and the value of that contract is above a specified value. There are strict procedures with which contracting authorities must comply when choosing a provider.

However, the rules do allow for a contracting authority to go through a procurement process to choose one or more providers to provide supplies, works or services on a framework. In other words, the procurement process is not to choose a provider for a specific project: It is to choose providers with the required levels of experience, quality and financial standards and who provide the best value (in terms of how they meet the specifications that will be required for projects under the framework and price).

When the contracting authority needs a provider for a specific project of a type covered by the framework, it can choose a provider on that framework for the project without having to carry out a full procurement process. It can call off the works/services required under the Framework Agreement.

The rules also provide that a contracting authority can act as a central purchasing body by entering into Framework Agreements which can be used by other contracting authorities.

Scape has procured and entered into a number of Framework Agreements. Contracting authorities are able, in principle, to use Scape's Framework Agreements to call off works/services from the framework providers.

Each Framework Agreement (which is entered into by Scape and the framework provider) sets out the rules for operating the relevant framework, as between Scape and the framework provider.

The framework provider enters into an individual project agreement with each contracting authority which wants to engage that provider to carry out works/services on a specific project. There is a "model" format of the delivery agreement set out in each Framework Agreement.

WHAT IS AN ACCESS AGREEMENT?

An Access Agreement is entered into by Scape and each contracting authority wanting to use a Scape framework. The Agreement sets out the rules which govern how the authority may use the framework and details the responsibilities undertaken by Scape and the authority.

WHAT DOES THE ACCESS AGREEMENT INVOLVE?

In summary, the Access Agreement sets out:

- The procedure the client must use if it wants to call off services under a Framework Agreement;
- What information Scape will provide to the client;
- The reporting information the client must provide to Scape if it calls off services under a Framework Agreement;
- How the Scape fee charged to the framework provider works;
- Warranties from each party;
- Limits on each party's liability;
- Confidentiality obligations;
- The term of the Access Agreement and how it can be terminated by either party;
- Various standard provisions (e.g. the governing law of the agreement, the way in which the parties communicate with each other).



WHY DO YOU NEED TO SIGN AN ACCESS AGREEMENT?

Once signed, the Access Agreement enables access to any of Scape's frameworks and you will receive detailed information about the frameworks and how to use them. The Access Agreement only needs to be signed once on behalf of an organisation and it carries no cost.

There is no commitment or obligation to use Scape's Frameworks once an Access Agreement has been signed. Signing an Access Agreement does not prohibit you from procuring a contract through any other route.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

A representative from Scape, or the delivery partner (framework provider) you have selected, will contact you to discuss your requirements. They will provide you with information regarding the framework and processes, Project Request Form, Project Order Form and Delivery Agreement, together with supporting information about the NEC contracts, which are incorporated into Delivery Agreements.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHO DELIVERS SCAPE FRAMEWORKS?

Frameworks are available in all areas of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. They are all delivered by our delivery partner(s) who are experts in their field and have been awarded their Framework Agreement following a competitive tender. Our delivery partner(s) form strong regional teams to focus on local delivery from within the community.

Learn more about our frameworks: [www.scape.co.uk/for-the-public-](http://www.scape.co.uk/for-the-public-sector)

sector WHO DO WE WORK FOR?

Frameworks are available to every kind of public body. If you are a local authority, school, academy, college, university, blue light service, NHS organisation, armed force or substantially funded by the public purse, you can benefit with Scape.

WHY USE SCAPE?

For over a decade, we have developed and managed highly successful frameworks. By bringing together the strongest delivery teams, Scape achieves measurable time, cost, quality and community benefits on every project. We have shaped an environment of collaboration and innovation, directly supporting our clients' need to achieve the highest possible standards.



Mark Robinson

Chief executive

Scape and Scape Scotland

Tel: 0115 958 3200

Email: enquiries@scape.co.uk

Web: www.scape.co.uk

Nottingham: 2nd Floor, East West Building, Tollhouse Hill, Nottingham, NG1 5AT
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Black Sluice IDB Procurement Policy Review

	Below £1,000	Between £1,000 & £2,500	Between £2,500 & £5,000	Between £5,000 & £25,000	Greater than £25,000
Delegated Authority	Authorised to have Order Book (a) Chief Executive (b) Projects Director (c) Maintenance Director (d) Finance & Admin Director (e) Pumping Station Manager (f) Works Manager (g) Works Supervisor (g) Pumping Station Assistant (h) Fitter (i) Unimog Driver	Management Team (a) Chief Executive (b) Projects Director (c) Maintenance Director (d) Finance & Admin Director (e) Pumping Station Manager (f) Works Manager	Directors (a) Chief Executive (b) Projects Director (c) Maintenance Director (d) Finance & Admin Director	CEO or Deputy CEO Chief Executive or Projects Director	Board or Executive Committee These items will be included in the annual budgeted expenditure and through this method the expenditure will be approved by the Board.
Examples of purchases	These items or services are typically spare parts for machinery, office materials and other similar goods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of small items of plant • Servicing of Plant and Equipment • Hire of plant and machinery • Repairs to plant and machinery • Purchase of spare parts for machinery • Material for construction materials. • Computers and office equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repairs to plant • Repairs to equipment at pumping stations • Purchase of pipes, steel sheet piles and other construction equipment for stock. • Consultancy services • Contracts for maintenance works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items of new plant • Large repairs to plant • Monthly payments to electricity companies. • Large amounts of pipes, steel piles and other materials for stock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large items of plant • Machinery and electrical equipment for pumping stations • Substantial repair contracts • Large contracts • Insurance policies
Quotation / Tender Process	Value for money will be achieved by obtaining at least one other quotation or by comparing the price with previous purchases of similar goods or services. This is to be detailed on the office copy of the order.	A minimum of 3 quotes are to be obtained. This is to be detailed on the office copy of the order.	A minimum of 3 written quotations are to be obtained. This is to be detailed on the office copy of the order and quotes filed with the invoice.	A minimum of 3 written quotations are to be obtained. This is to be detailed on the office copy of the order and quotes filed with the invoice.	Three written quotations are to be obtained and the lowest bona fide quotation should be accepted, should less than three quotations be obtained or other than the lowest is to be accepted, then the matter should be referred to the Executive Committee, by email, and evidenced on the office copy of the order and quotes filed with the invoice.
Exceptions	It is accepted that unexpected purchases required to complete works on site or emergency repairs will be purchased from the most appropriate local supplier, and this is to be noted on the office copy of the order.	It is accepted that unexpected purchases required to complete works on site or emergency repairs will be purchased from the most appropriate local supplier, and this is to be noted on the office copy of the order.	This will only be relaxed in an emergency situation or if other alternative providers are not available Repairs of plant and pumping station equipment need to be progressed without delay and will normally be carried out by contractors or suppliers who regularly carry out work for the Board. Plant and Machinery are to be serviced by the main dealer they were bought from. Where the Board has a specific preferred brand, with a single supplier, the requirement for more than one quotation will be negated to allow full compatibility. E.g. Electrical Panels in pumping stations, pump motors, environmental hydraulic oil, weedscreen cleaners.	This will only be relaxed in an emergency situation or if other alternative providers are not available Repairs of plant and pumping station equipment need to be progressed without delay and will normally be carried out by contractors or suppliers who regularly carry out work for the Board. Plant and Machinery are to be serviced by the main dealer they were bought from. Where the Board has a specific preferred brand, with a single supplier, the requirement for more than one quotation will be negated to allow full compatibility. E.g. Electrical Panels in pumping stations, pump motors, environmental hydraulic oil, weedscreen cleaners.	In the case of an emergency where it is not possible to obtain alternative quotations the Chairperson or the Vice Chairperson of the Board shall authorise the purchase. Some monthly utility payments, particularly electricity bills, will be included in this category. These payments will be approved by the Chief Executive or their deputy. Where the Board has a specific preferred brand, with a single supplier, the requirement for more than one quotation will be negated to allow full compatibility. E.g. Electrical Panels in pumping stations, pump motors, environmental hydraulic oil, weedscreen cleaners.

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

Policy No: 10

Delegation of Authority Policy

Review Dates:

Reviewed	Audit & Risk Committee 21 st April 2026
Board Approved	23 rd June 2026

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO COMMITTEES

Executive Committee

1. Approve salary levels for members of staff.
2. Recruitment of Senior Officers.
3. Set levels of rents for Board's property and land.
4. Approve awards of large contracts following tender or quotation submission.
5. Approve orders for plant expenditure in excess of **£25,000** within annual budget estimate.
6. Approve any changes to the investment portfolios of the Board and Bourne Fen Farm Account.
7. Any formal consent which requires determination before the next Board Meeting, which officers cannot approve.
8. Approve any item of expenditure up to a value of £50,000.

Minutes of all actions taken by the Executive Committee should be presented to the following meeting of the Board

Works Committees

1. Any formal consent which requires determination before the next Board Meeting which officers cannot approve.
2. Approve any individual works or scheme up to a value of £25,000.

Minutes of all actions taken by the Works Committees should be presented to the following meeting of the Board.

Structures Committee

1. Determine applications for the renewal of Bridges and Culverts and the level of any contribution required from the ratepayer

Minutes of all actions taken by the Bridges & Culverts Committee should be presented to the following meeting of the Board.

Environment Committee

1. Approve expenditure of the Environmental budgets to the level set in the annual budgets.

Minutes of all actions taken by the Environment Committee should be presented to the following meeting of the Board.

Audit & Risk Committee

1. To investigate any activity within its responsibilities
2. To seek any information that it requires from any Officer or employee of the Board and all employees are directed to cooperate with any request made by the Committee
3. To obtain outside legal or independent professional advice, and secure the attendance of outsiders with relevant experience and expertise if it consider this necessary

Minutes of all actions taken by the Audit & Risk Committee should be presented to the following meeting of the Board.

Nominations Committee

1. Prepare nominations for approval of the Board in the Board meeting following an election and any vacancies mid-term.

Minutes of all actions taken by the Nominations Committee should be presented to the following meeting of the Board.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Chairperson of the Board

1. Sign agreements on behalf of the Board.
2. Negotiate purchases and sales on behalf of the Board.
3. Approve expenditure and arrangements for inspections, meetings, visits and other similar items.
4. Setting the agenda, type and tone of the Board discussions and chairing Board meetings, to promote effective decision making and constructive debate;
5. Providing leadership to the Board;
6. Taking responsibility for the Board's composition and development;
7. Ensuring proper information is made available to the Board;
8. Planning and conducting Board meetings effectively;
9. Getting all Board members involved in the Board's work;
10. Promoting effective relationships and open communication, both inside and outside the Boardroom, between the non-executive Board members and the Executive Committee;
11. Overseeing the induction and development of Board members;
12. Ensuring the Board focuses on its key tasks;
13. Engaging the Board in assessing and improving its performance;
14. Ensuring effective implementation of Board decisions;
15. Establishing a close relationship of trust with the Chief Executive and Directors, providing support and advice, while respecting executive responsibility;
16. Representing the Board and presenting the Board's aims and policies to the outside world;
17. Understanding the views of ratepayers, contributing councils and key stakeholders and ensuring that effective lines of communication exist with the board;
18. Ensuring that the Board engages effectively with the community they represent;

19. Ensuring Board compliance with legislative and Governance requirements;
20. Reviewing value for money and setting benchmark targets.
21. Approve discretionary payments to employees over the overtime limit.

Chairpersons of Works Committees

1. Approve minor works.
2. Approve consents for relaxing Bye-Laws:
 - Relaxation to 4.5 metres from the centre line when a watercourse is piped.
 - Relaxation to 6.0 metres if a clear strip of land is left clear adjacent to the watercourse for the sole use of the Board.
 - Relaxation to allow bushes to be planted 4.5 metres and trees 6.0 metres from the brink of a small or medium sized drain.

Chief Executive

1. Day to day operation of the Board.
2. Recruitment of staff and workforce.
3. Approve expenditure up to a value of **£25,000** on maintenance of plant and items which are included in annual estimates, and regular budgeted expenditure (e.g. Electricity) in excess of **£25,000**.
4. Sign Board cheques and instructions to the bank with the Finance and Admin Director, with the Capital Projects Director and/or the Maintenance Director if required.
5. Sign agreements and consents on behalf of the Board as set out in the Board's policies.
6. Delivering the operational performance of the IDB, as dictated by the Board's overall strategy;
7. Formulating and successfully implementing Board policy;
8. Developing strategic operating plans that reflect the longer term corporate objectives and priorities established by the Board;
9. Maintaining an ongoing dialogue with the Chairperson of the Board;
10. Ensuring that the operating objectives and standards of performance are not only understood but owned by the management and other employees;
11. Providing leadership to the management and employees;
12. Assuming full accountability to the Board for all IDB operations;
13. Building and maintaining an effective executive management;
14. Deriving and delivering improved value for money.
15. Closely monitoring the operating and financial results against plans and budgets;
16. Taking remedial action where necessary and informing the Board of significant changes;
17. Representing the IDB at meetings with major ratepayers contributing councils, professional associations and key stakeholders;
18. Advising the Board on changes in legislation or regulations that affect the operation of the Board;
19. Arranging for the review and audit of the IDB processes and procedures.
20. Responsible Financial Officer. Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.
21. Board's Data Protection Officer, as per the Data Protection Act 2018.
22. Approve the write-off of Drainage Rates up to a value of £250.
23. Approve the investment of Board funds in accordance with the Board's Financial Regulations.

Directors (Projects, Finance and Admin, Maintenance)

1. Capital Projects Director only: Approve expenditure up to a value of **£25,000** on maintenance of plant and items which are included in annual estimates, and regular budgeted expenditure (e.g. Electricity) in excess of **£25,000**.
Other Directors: Regular purchases of equipment, materials and services agreed in a scheme of work or for maintenance operations within budgets up to **£25,000**.
2. Sign Board cheques and instructions to the bank with the Chief Executive.
3. Ensuring that adequate operational planning and financial control systems are in place;
 - (a) Closely monitoring the operating and financial results against plans and budgets;
 - (b) Taking remedial action where necessary and informing the Chief Executive, who will inform the Board of significant changes;
4. Representing the IDB at meetings with major ratepayers contributing councils, professional associations and key stakeholders;
5. Advising the Board on changes in legislation or regulations that affect the operation of the Board;
6. Sign agreements on behalf of the Board as set out in the Boards policies.



Internal Audit 2025/26

FINAL Audit Report

Prepared by:

Chris Harris - Associate Principal Auditor
Lighthouse UK Consultancy Limited

For: **Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board**

Report Control:

Audit Manager

Steve Forsyth

Auditors

Chris Harris – Lead Auditor

Darren Wright – Principal Auditor

Report Status

Draft Report Issued – 4th March 2026

Final Report Issued – 23rd March 2026

Draft Report Distribution

Amy Chamberlain-Hanger – Finance and
Admin Director

Daniel Withnall – Chief Executive

Final Report Distribution

Amy Chamberlain- Hanger – Finance and
Admin Director

Daniel Withnall – Chief Executive

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1 Executive Summary

1.1 Scope and Background of Audit

1.1.1 Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) are required annually to have an independent internal audit of their governance, risk and control framework. In addition, the Annual Governance and Accountability Return requires an Annual Internal Audit report that prescribes some 14 Objectives for the internal auditor to test and comment upon.

The 2025/26 audit of the IDBs accounts and records will review and test sufficient areas of operation to enable the auditor to sign off the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for Internal Audit.

1.2 Summary of Audit Findings

1.2.1 Following our detailed internal audit work we can report that the audit the governance, risk and control framework at Black Sluice IDB is in good order and working well.

One low priority recommendation has been made regarding purchasing quotes between £2k and £20k.

1.3 Summary of Control Assurance Provided

1.3.1 **Substantial** - Internal Audit is able to offer **substantial** assurance overall as the areas reviewed were found to be adequately controlled. All key controls are in place and working effectively to ensure risks are managed. Some minor action may be required to improve controls.

The Drainage Board has low risk exposure.

1.4 Summary of Recommendations

High	Medium	Low	Total
0	0	1	0

2 Audit Findings & Recommendations

2.1 Governance

- 2.1.1 Four policy documents were reviewed in detail these were: Financial Regulations, Risk Management, Whistleblowing, Confidential Reporting Code and the Health & Safety Policy. Review of these policies confirmed that each included all relevant key sections/information. The Financial Regulations included a specific section for Reserves, negating the need for a separate Reserves Policy.
- 2.1.2 All policies had been reviewed in line with the IDB's recently approved Catalogue of Board Policies document. Whilst the Policies are not formally version controlled, it is acknowledged that each Policy title includes the date of last review/approval. All Policies were appropriately published on the IDB's website.
- 2.1.3 Our review also identified that the IDB has a separate Procurement Policy, last reviewed in November 2023 and is also published on the IDB website. This clearly sets out the procurement process to be followed for varying levels of expenditure. Whilst the Policy states that for expenditure between £2k and £20k quotes are to be obtained, it only states "where possible", and that "three quotes should be obtained in respect of equipment, materials and services". The current policy refers specifically to the three specific types of purchase as mentioned above which therefore excludes purchases not included in that list. As such a more generic term should be used to embrace any and all purchases in the £2k to £20k price band. In addition, any quotes received should be written quotes. **RECOMMENDATION 1.**
- 2.1.4 It is acknowledged the Financial Regulations/Procurement Policy will be updated to reflect the Procurement Act 2023, which came into effect 24th February 2025, once formal guidance is received from the ADA.
- 2.1.5 The following Board meetings/minutes were reviewed, 11 February 2025, 24 June 2025, 9 December 2025 and 10 February 2026. The minutes were clear and comprehensive and it was confirmed that all meetings were well attended. Agenda items included all expected key areas. Detailed discussion on each agenda item was clearly evident, together with submission of key information for review and approval obtained where required. Minutes of sub-committees i.e. Executive and Audit & Risk, were submitted to the Board for review and approval of relevant recommendations. All minutes had been appropriately published on the IDB's website.
- 2.1.6 Minutes of the latest Executive Committee meeting held on 21st January 2026 and published on the website were also reviewed. The meeting was well attended with no concerns regarding governance arrangements. The minutes were found to be very detailed in their content, clearly evidencing discussions held and proposed recommendations to the Board. Appropriate information/reports had been submitted to the Committee for detailed discussion and review.

- 2.1.7 Minutes of the latest Audit & Risk Committee meeting held 28 October 2025 and published on the website were also reviewed. The meeting was well attended, with no concerns regarding governance arrangements. The minutes were very detailed, clearly evidencing discussions held, approvals where appropriate and proposed recommendations to the Board. Appropriate information/reports had been submitted to the Committee for detailed discussion and review.
- 2.1.8 The Board published the unaudited draft financial statements and AGAR for 2024/25 on the website at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation. Documents were appropriately signed and approved by the Board.
- 2.1.9 In the year covered by this AGAR, the Board correctly provided for a period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts & Audit Regulations.
- 2.1.10 The Board has complied with the publication requirements for 2024/25 AGAR.
- 2.1.11 A notice on the conclusion of the external auditor's limited assurance review of the AGAR, together with accompanying information, was published on the Board's website in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 16 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

2.2 Risk

- 2.2.1 A comprehensive and well developed Risk Management Policy was evidenced. The policy incorporates a clear Risk Management Strategy Statement, detailed Risk Analysis and a maintained Risk Register. Review confirms it includes all expected key areas, with clearly defined procedures for the identification, evaluation and review of risks. It was confirmed that the Policy was approved by Board at their 24 June 2025 meeting, following detailed review and update by the Audit and Risk Committee on 15 April 2025. The policy was appropriately published on the Board's website.
- 2.2.2 The latest version of the Risk Register, updated in June 2025 was reviewed. The Register clearly sets out the individual risks to achieving each objective of the IDB. The likelihood and impact of each risk assessed, to identify its overall risk score, which is RAG rated.
- 2.2.3 Whilst the Board receives a summary version of the Risk Register for review and approval, it is acknowledged that a detailed and comprehensive examination is undertaken by the Audit and Risk Committee. This ensures that individual risks are effectively managed and appropriately controlled. The detailed report, submitted to the Audit & Risk Committee, alongside the Register, provides a thorough analysis of each identified risk, including the consequence of each, existing control measures, and any further actions/work required to strengthen mitigation moving forward.
- 2.2.4 Review of the Audit & Risk Committee and Board meeting minutes confirms effective risk management and monitoring arrangements are in place. Risks are discussed in

full by the Audit & Risk Committee with updates to the Risk Register and Risk Management Strategy, made as necessary. Risks with a score of six and above are regularly reported to the Board. The Board manages Risk very effectively and has an Audit and Risk Committee that, at each meeting, reviews each risk in detail. In addition, there is an up to date Risk Management Strategy and a risk report is presented to each Board meeting.

2.3 Financial (Internal Control Framework)

2.3.1 Confirmation of Accounting Records:

The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) has in place procedures to record all financial transactions and a proper system of financial controls. In addition, the RFO has up to date accounting records.

2.3.2 Accounts Payable (Creditors):

A selection of high value invoices from three different suppliers was reviewed in detail. These were all found to be in order.

There were two outstanding creditors beyond three months. These outstanding or overdue supplier payments were being investigated by the RFO and would be resolved shortly.

2.3.3 Budgetary Process including penny rate and precepts:

The Board approved the penny rate (Sub District 1 – 9.80p in the £ and Sub District 2 – 19.59p in the £) for 2025/26 at its meeting held on the 11 February 2025. In addition, the special levies for the four councils (Boston BC, South Holland DC, North and South Kesteven DCs) were all approved.

The rating process is in order and is a well established procedure. This leads through to sending out invoices and debt collection culminating in going to court to get a court order to collect any unpaid debt in a timely manner. As at the 23 February 2026 there was an outstanding rates balance (debits and credits) of £17,240.97.

A budget is set annually and is approved by the Board. Regular financial reports are provided to the Board at each of their meetings.

2.3.4 Reserves:

Financial Regulations require Reserves to be between 3 and 12 months of net expenditure.

The Chief Executive has explained the reason for this flexibility:

- *Maintain* - Maintain the General Reserve at between three and twelve months of net revenue expenditure. (As per JPAG Practitioners Guide)

- *Aim* - Aim to be able to fund a minimum of two consecutive “Wet” years of Electricity from the General Reserve.
- *Budget* - With the General Reserve at the target level aim for a balanced budget.

It was noted that 10 year financial modelling meets all reserve targets, including maintaining general reserves between 3 and 12 months of expenditure and funding two consecutive wet years of electricity.

2.3.5 10 Year Forecast:

The Board operates with a 10 year financial forecast. This shows that rate increases in the order of 4.18% to 4.20% over the next 10 years are required to maintain a balanced budget and to keep general reserves at the required level.

2.3.6 Accounts Receivable (Debtors):

A small sample of general debtors accounts were examined and found to be in order. In addition, the auditor was informed that each month there is a reminder sent out, the first one is sent with a statement, the second with an overdue watermark and by the third month either an “immediate action required” watermarked invoice with a statement is sent.

There were two aged debts beyond month three. There were being actively pursued by the RFO and are expected to be resolved shortly.

2.3.7 Petty Cash:

At the time of the audit, petty cash had been reconciled up to January 2026 with a balance of cash in hand at £52.99. Petty cash was in order with receipts identifying VAT and receipts obtained for all petty cash items reviewed.

2.3.8 Salaries:

Salaries for the month of December 2025 were reviewed. These were in order and the correct sums had been paid over to HMRC for tax and NI and to Lincolnshire County Council for pensions.

2.3.9 Asset Register:

A detailed Asset Register is maintained, and this was up to date and in order.

2.3.10 Bank Reconciliation:

Bank reconciliations for the four bank accounts:

NatWest 35 day notice account;
NatWest Call account;
Drawings account; and
Reserve account

were reviewed and all found to be in order and reconciled.

Disclaimer

The matters raised in this report are only those that came to the attention of the auditor during the course of the internal audit review and are not necessarily a comprehensive statement of all the weaknesses that exist or all the improvements that might be made. This report has been prepared solely for management's use and must not be recited or referred to in whole or in part to third parties without our prior written consent. No responsibility to any third party is accepted as the report has not been prepared, and is not intended, for any other purpose. Lighthouse UK Consultancy Limited neither owes nor accepts any duty of care to any other party who may receive this report and specifically disclaims any liability for loss, damage or expense of whatsoever nature, which is caused by their reliance on our report.

Final Action Plan

1. Purchasing					
Finding	Risk	Priority	Recommendation	Management Actions	
1.1	Whilst the Policy states that for expenditure between £2k and £20k quotes are to be obtained, it only states "where possible", and that "three quotes should be obtained in respect of equipment, materials and services". The current policy refers specifically to the three specific types of purchase as mentioned above which therefore excludes purchases not included in that list. As such a more generic term should be used to embrace any and all purchases in the £2k to £20k price band. In addition, any quotes received should be written quotes.	An inability to demonstrate value for money or prevent fraud because procurement decisions are made without transparent, competitive or evidence quotes.	Low	A more generic term should be used to embrace all purchases within the range £2k to £20k and the quotations obtained should be written quotations.	<p>This is to be investigated and a revision brought to the Audit & Risk meeting on 21st April 2026.</p> <p>Responsible officer: Daniel Withnall & Amy Chamberlain</p> <p>Implementation date: Revised document to be ready for the Audit & Risk Meeting Agenda to be sent out on 14th April 2026.</p>

Final Action Plan

Appendix A – Opinion and Recommendation Definitions

Assurance Opinions

Assurance Level	Definition
Substantial	<p>All key controls are in place and working effectively to ensure risks are managed. Some minor action may be required to improve controls.</p> <p>The Drainage Board has low risk exposure.</p>
Reasonable	<p>All key controls are in place and the majority of controls are being consistently applied to ensure risks are effectively managed. Some action may be required to improve controls.</p> <p>The Drainage Board has a low to medium exposure to risk.</p>
Limited	<p>Not all key controls are in place or working effectively to ensure the risks are managed. Action is required to improve controls.</p> <p>The Drainage Board has a medium to high exposure to risk.</p>
No	<p>Key controls are not in place in key areas or are ineffective to ensure the risks are managed effectively. Urgent action is required to improve controls.</p> <p>The Drainage Board has a high exposure to risk.</p>
<p>If the assurance level is 'Limited' or 'No' this does not automatically confirm there is a high-risk recommendation.</p>	

Final Action Plan

Priority Ratings for Recommendations

Risk Level	Definition
High	<p>Action that is considered essential to ensure that the Drainage Board is not exposed to high levels of risk.</p> <p>If not addressed there will be major adverse impact on the achievement of the Drainage Boards objectives.</p>
Medium	<p>Action is considered necessary to avoid exposing the Drainage Board to medium levels of risk.</p> <p>If not addressed there will be significant impact on the achievement of the Drainage Boards objectives.</p>
Low	<p>Action is required to enhance control.</p> <p>If not addressed, it may impact on the ability of a system or unit to achieve its objectives.</p>
<p>Priority levels for recommendations reflect the relative risk to the Drainage Board, when considering the overall control environment and financial implications in relation to the potential for fraud or loss.</p> <p>These definitions are illustrative only and professional judgement is exercised when determining the priority rating of recommendations.</p>	

Internal Drainage Boards – Audit Programme
Internal Audit Year 2026/27

Name of Board:

Governance

Check a sample of Policies and Procedures and confirm these are current (in date) and have been appropriately approved.

Name of Policy/Procedure	Date of approval	Outcome of examination	Recommendation

Check a sample of Board and Committee meeting agendas and minutes (latest three). Confirm adequate attendance and that governance arrangements were maintained (decision items proposed, seconded and voted upon). Note penny rate approval (February meeting), approval of major items of expenditure, Health and Safety reporting, financial reporting, approving policies etc.

Name of Board/Committee	Date of Meeting	Outcome of examination	Recommendation

Web site (check)

The Board published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.

In the year covered by this AGAR, the Board correctly provided for a period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (during the 20xx-xx AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 20yy-yy (previous year) AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or Board approved minutes confirming the dates set).

The Board has complied with the publication requirements for 20zz/zz AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes). (Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return; a declaration that the status of the statement of accounts is 'unaudited'; and a statement that sets out details of how public rights can be exercised, as set out in Regulation 15(2)(b), which includes the period for the exercise of public rights.)

External Auditor's Review — A notice of the conclusion of the external auditor's limited assurance review of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, together with relevant accompanying information, was published (including on the Board's website or other website) in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 16 the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

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Narrative on Governance

Risk

Identifying and assessing risks — The Board needs to identify, assess and record risks associated with actions and decisions it has taken or considered taking during the year that could have financial or reputational consequences.

Addressing risks — Having identified, assessed and recorded the risks, the Board needs to address them by ensuring that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate and manage risk. This might include the introduction of internal controls and/or appropriate use of insurance cover.

Examine the risk management policy, procedures and reporting to the Board.

Examine the current risk register – to include controls and mitigations.

Examine the management and monitoring arrangements for risk management.

Narrative on Risk

Financial (Internal Control Framework)

Documentation required at start of the audit.

Name of Document	Date document produced	End of Financial Year document
Current Trial Balance		
Latest Balance Sheet		
Latest Income and Expenditure Summary		
Latest Aged Debtors – non rates		
Latest Aged Debtors - Rates		
Latest Aged Creditors		

Conformation of Accounting Records

Description		
RFO has a system of financial controls		
RFO in place procedures to record all financial transactions		
Up to date accounting records		
Check previous years accounting statement figures – carried forward totals		

Creditors (Accounts Payable)

Select a sample of 3-5 invoices paid during the current financial year - preferably large to assess compliance with Financial Regulations.

Name of Creditor	
Date of Invoice	
Date of Payment	
Gross Amount including VAT	

Was VAT correctly accounted for	
Description of Purchase	
Comments/Outcomes Including compliance with Financial Regulations. Payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved.	
Recommendation	

Name of Creditor	
Date of Invoice	
Date of Payment	
Gross Amount including VAT Was VAT correctly accounted for	
Description of Purchase	
Comments/Outcomes Including compliance with Financial Regulations. Payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved.	
Recommendation	

Name of Creditor	
Date of Invoice	
Date of Payment	
Gross Amount including VAT	

Was VAT correctly accounted for	
Description of Purchase	
Comments/Outcomes Including compliance with Financial Regulations. Payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved.	
Recommendation	

Name of Creditor	
Date of Invoice	
Date of Payment	
Gross Amount including VAT Was VAT correctly accounted for	
Description of Purchase	
Comments/Outcomes Including compliance with Financial Regulations. Payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved.	
Recommendation	

Obtain aged creditors listing. Identify any excessively old debts and list below.

Name of Aged Creditor	Date of invoice	Amount	Action being taken

Budgetary Process including penny rate and precepts

Check the penny rate approved for the year and that this has been correctly applied.

Check the procedure for the rating process – invoicing, reminders, collection of debt.

Check budget for year is in place and monitored.

Check reserves remain within the sums approved by the Board.

Check 5 or ten year financial forecast to determine that rate rises are proportionate year on year and therefore maintain a balanced budget

Check a sample of debtors both rates and general income. Sample size 2-4

Name of Debtor	
Date of Invoice	
Date of Payment	
Gross Amount including VAT Was VAT correctly accounted for	
Description of Debt	
Comments/Outcomes	
Recommendation	

Name of Debtor	
Date of Invoice	
Date of Payment	
Gross Amount including VAT Was VAT correctly accounted for	
Description of Debt	
Comments/Outcomes	
Recommendation	

From the aged debtors' reports (both rates and general) establish what action is being taken regarding old debts

Name of Aged Debtor	Date of invoice	Amount	Action being taken

For Petty Cash (for those who still have PC) confirm reconciled balance for year end purposes. Confirm accuracy of petty cash and that VAT, where appropriate, has been correctly dealt with.

Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this Board's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied. (To include pension arrangements)

Select a month and test the accuracy of the payroll and that HMRC and pension deductions have been correctly and timely made.

Month and Year								

Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.

Examine the asset register. Confirm it is up to date and in order. Verify a number of assets are in existence

Date of Asset Register	Description of Asset	How verified

Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.

Check bank reconciliations and that these are undertaken on a regular basis. Also check the end of the financial year bank reconciliation.

Bank account reconciled	Date of reconciliation	Approved	Comments

Overall conclusions arising from the internal audit and an assurance opinion.

Narrative on Financial and the Control Framework

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of a Meeting of the
Northern Works Committee

held at the Offices of the Board on the
12th May 2026 at 2pm

Members

Chairperson - * Mr M Rollinson

*Mr T Ashton	*Mr P Holmes
*Mr M Leggott	*Mr P Robinson
Mr R Needham	*Cllr P Bedford
*Cllr R Austin	*Cllr C Rylott
*Cllr D Scoot	Cllr S Welberry
Cllr N Drayton	*Cllr J Cantwell
*Cllr R Pryke	*Cllr S Evans
*Cllr A Hagues	*Mr D Casswell
*Mr J Pocklington	Mr R Welberry
Mr J Emerson	*Mr M Brookes
*Mr S Pugh	*Mr Joshua Casswell
Mr B Hammond	Mr C Wray
	(* Member Present)

In attendance: Mr D Withnall (Chief Executive)
Mr P Nicholson (Projects Director)
Mrs A Chamberlain (Finance & Admin Director)

2701 Recording the Meeting - Agenda Item 1

Members were informed that the meeting would be recorded.

2702 Apologies for absence - Agenda Item 2

Apologies for absence were received from Mr C Wray, Mr J Emerson, Mr B Hammond, Mr R Welberry, Cllr S Welberry & Cllr N Drayton.
Mr R Needham and Mr K Casswell only attended the tour.
Cllr D Scoot & Cllr A Hagues only attended the meeting.

2703 Declarations of Interest - Agenda Item 3

There were no declarations of interest.

2704 Minutes of the last meeting - Agenda Item 4

The Minutes of the Joint Works Committee, which was held on 7th October 2025, copies of which had been circulated, were considered. It was AGREED that the Minutes should be signed as a true record.

2705 Matters Arising - Agenda Item 5

There were no matters arising.

2706 Discuss the Operations Report and Inspection - Agenda Item 6

The committee visited the following sites, with discussion as follows.

(a) Trinity College Pumping Station

Site visit: The visit began with a guided walk around the perimeter of the site, during which it was explained that the current access arrangements, comprising temporary stone trackways, culverts, and working platforms, form part of enabling works installed to facilitate contractor access. These temporary measures will be removed upon completion of the permanent works.

Reference was made to supporting documentation illustrating historic flow paths and seepage routes around the pumping station structure. It was noted that these issues are not unique to Trinity College Pumping Station but are also present, to varying degrees, at Ewerby, South Kyme, and Damford, with South Kyme identified as the most severely affected. The principal engineering solution involves the removal of existing flood walls, which were historically constructed without adequate foundations, and their replacement with sheet piling installed to depths of approximately 6 to 6.5 metres, tied together with a reinforced concrete capping beam. This approach is intended to address long-term structural movement and significantly reduce seepage risk.

In conjunction with the piling works, ground improvement measures have been implemented through resin injection to stabilise the surrounding soils and fill subsurface voids. This technique, which is particularly effective in granular soils such as those found at the site, creates an expanded matrix within the ground that limits water migration. It was noted that piling operations disturb treated ground, and therefore a further phase of resin injection will be undertaken following pile installation to ensure continued integrity in critical areas.

Progress on one section of the site was reported to be temporarily constrained due to an existing underground electricity supply cable crossing the proposed alignment of the sheet piles. Arrangements have been made with the Distribution Network Operator to divert this cable, enabling completion of the remaining piling works. Once this activity is complete, temporary works will be removed, and the site profile restored to its final level.

Particular emphasis was placed on managing the interface between the pumping station structure and surrounding flood defence works, which is typically a key point of failure for seepage. To mitigate this, a reinforced concrete connection detail will be constructed at the junction between the piling and the existing building. This will incorporate a hydrophilic sealing strip that expands upon contact with water to form a watertight barrier. The connection will also be

structurally reinforced with dowel bars drilled into the existing structure, ensuring that the new works and the original building act as a unified system. Prior to these interventions, voids around the structure were filled with cementitious grout, with approximately 1.8 cubic metres used at Trinity College Pumping Station, compared to significantly higher volumes at South Kyme, reflecting the severity of voiding at that site.

(b) Heckington Fen Pumping Station

Site visit: The committee reviewed the mechanical and electrical components of the pumping station. Concerns were noted regarding the age and condition of certain assets, including the transformer and electrical supply infrastructure. Internally, the pump system was explained, highlighting the role of the motor, shaft, and impeller configuration. It was identified that wear within the rubber couplings connecting sections of the pump shaft has resulted in operational play, and these components are scheduled for replacement. This work is considered a relatively low-cost maintenance activity, estimated at approximately £5,000, with the majority of costs associated with labour and lifting operations.

Wider asset management strategy was also discussed, particularly in relation to planned refurbishment works at other sites. Projects at Chain Bridge and Donington are currently at tender stage, with contract awards anticipated shortly. These schemes, each valued in excess of £2 million, involve comprehensive upgrades to pumping equipment, electrical systems, and supporting infrastructure, with the objective of extending operational life by approximately 20 years. The long-term strategy is to adopt a comprehensive refurbishment approach across all stations.

Environmental compliance requirements were a significant focus of discussion. It was noted that updated regulations require the installation of “less damaging” pumps to reduce impacts on fish and eel populations. While full compliance through fish-friendly systems is not always achievable in retrofit scenarios, improvements such as variable speed drives, pump design modifications, and adjustments to siphon breakers are being implemented where feasible. Existing exemptions relating to screening requirements will continue but are expected to align with refurbishment timelines, thereby increasing delivery pressure. It was acknowledged that the cost of implementing such measures is substantial, and external funding, particularly through Flood Defence Grant-in-Aid, will be essential.

The discussion also included consideration of eel passage and ecological enhancements, which will be assessed on a site-by-site basis across the affected pumping stations, depending on catchment suitability and habitat conditions. Monitoring and research activities, including studies of fish behaviour around pumping stations, were noted as informing ongoing decision-making.

Operational considerations such as the installation and use of weed screen cleaners were also reviewed. While automated systems are desirable, factors such as accessibility, maintenance requirements, reliability, and cost mean that implementation will be prioritised and phased. It was noted that although automation can reduce routine manual intervention, equipment failure can result in significant operational challenges, requiring manual clearance by site teams.

(c) Ewerby Pumping Station

Site Visit: The committee reviewed ongoing works and reflected on conditions observed during the previous visit to Trinity College Pumping Station. It was noted that, while Ewerby had experienced significant seepage issues, it was not considered the most severe site, with South Kyme identified as the worst affected based on visible flow paths and structural impact. However, historical observations at Ewerby highlighted serious concerns, particularly where high water levels resulted in rapid flow around the station, ultimately forcing a void beneath the existing concrete flood wall and through the embankment.

Attendees were reminded that during previous high-water events, seepage at Ewerby had manifested through multiple routes, including a notable flow path where water bubbled up through the embankment before returning to the drainage channel. These issues were attributed to weaknesses at structural interfaces and potential voids beneath concrete slabs. It was confirmed that remedial works had been undertaken, including the removal of an existing concrete slab and the application of resin injection along the affected side of the structure. On the far side of the station, away from the door, a substantial void had previously been identified and required filling with pumped grout prior to resin treatment.

It was explained that works will be completed by reinstating the slab once remaining activities on adjacent areas are finalised. The group then moved to review piling works on the opposite side of the structure, where it was demonstrated how sheet piling has been installed and prepared for a reinforced concrete capping beam. The piling operation was undertaken using a piling rig operating from a temporary piling mat, with piles vibrated into position. Approximately 43 piles have been installed at this location. Attendees observed the formwork and shuttering system, which is supported by brackets fixed to the piles, enabling the casting of the capping beam without extensive additional groundwork.

Further explanation was provided regarding the ground treatment process, including the use of cementitious grout, typically mixed at a ratio of approximately 6 to 1, which is pumped into voids with venting arrangements to confirm full fill. Following this, resin injection is applied to penetrate surrounding soils and provide additional stabilisation. It was noted that the resin expands significantly, up to 17 to 20 times its original volume, particularly when it comes into contact with moisture, forming a dense, foam-like structure within the soil matrix. This process enhances ground stability and reduces permeability, although visible expansion at the surface is more pronounced where the material is unconfined.

The construction of the concrete capping beam was described as the next key stage, with shuttering in place to encase the piles and form a continuous reinforced structure. It was confirmed that the new wall will be set at a slightly higher level than the previous structure, although this required agreement with the Environment Agency, who generally discourage raising defences due to the risk of transferring flooding elsewhere. It was also noted that the alignment of the new wall has been adjusted slightly to ensure it is tied into the main structure of

the pumping station rather than an annex, improving overall structural integrity and eliminating potential weak points where seepage could occur.

The works were described as a long-term solution, expected to significantly outperform the original construction from the late 1950s. It was noted that similar issues have arisen across multiple stations constructed during this period, including Trinity College, South Kyme, and Damford, suggesting common design or construction limitations of that era. By contrast, the current approach incorporates modern engineering practices, including deeper foundations, improved materials, and integrated structural connections, which should provide resilience for several decades.

Discussion also referenced the specific case of Damford Pumping Station, where seepage issues were confined to the embankment rather than the structure itself, allowing a more straightforward solution involving piling within the existing bank. This highlighted the need for tailored interventions depending on site conditions, despite common underlying causes.

Operational considerations were also discussed, including watercourse maintenance responsibilities, with confirmation that maintenance activities are undertaken on the main river between August and January, on behalf of the Environment Agency and include vegetation management. While environmental considerations require the retention of marginal vegetation, such as reed fringes, the main body of vegetation is removed to maintain conveyance. It was noted that these practices balance flood risk management with ecological enhancement.

The discussion also touched on historical context, noting that many of the pumping stations were designed and constructed during a period when agricultural productivity was prioritised, resulting in simpler design standards compared to modern requirements. It was acknowledged that current design approaches now require a more complex balance between flood protection, environmental regulation, and sustainability considerations.

Discussion continued at the meeting, as follows:

The Projects Director opened the discussion by highlighting the value of visiting operational and construction sites, noting that while Trinity College was not fully operational during the visit, the presence of ongoing works provided useful context. He emphasised that the tour enabled members to better understand both the temporary works required to access sites and the engineering processes involved, thereby providing greater clarity on the overall costs associated with delivering such schemes. It was noted that, once completed, visible works at each site would largely comprise concrete capping beams on either side of the pumping stations, with much of the complexity arising from groundwork and access arrangements rather than the final structure.

Reference was made to documentation provided within the meeting papers, particularly pages 12 to 15, which illustrated the extent of seepage and structural issues at Trinity College and other affected stations. The Committee discussed how visible surface flow paths represent only part of the problem, with unknown

but potentially significant subsurface impacts. The Projects Director reiterated concerns observed at Ewerby and South Kyme, where high water pressure had previously forced the creation of voids beneath flood walls, resulting in holes within the embankment. It was acknowledged that once water establishes a flow path, erosion accelerates, increasing the likelihood of eventual structural failure. This risk had driven the Board's decision to intervene, recognising that failure to act could have resulted in catastrophic consequences for flood defence infrastructure.

The Committee was reminded that securing funding for the works had been a significant challenge. Initial efforts to obtain Grant-in-Aid funding were unsuccessful, however the project was ultimately made viable through the IDB Recovery Fund. It was noted that early estimates obtained through a framework contractor had indicated a cost of approximately £7.5 million across the four sites, whereas the current programme is being delivered for approximately £1.7 million. This substantial cost reduction was recognised as representing significant value for the public purse, particularly given that the funding is publicly sourced. The works are being delivered by two contractors, with Damford completed under a standalone tender and the remaining sites delivered by Jacksons.

An update on programme delivery confirmed that works remain underway, with Ewerby expected to be largely complete once capping beam concreting is finalised, after which temporary works will be removed and the site reinstated. However, concerns were raised regarding the approach to resource allocation, with one team operating sequentially across multiple sites. While this reflects a staged delivery model, the Projects Director questioned whether this approach was the most efficient, particularly in light of earlier delays caused by weather, land access issues, and coordination challenges. Members were informed that additional resource deployment had been suggested to maintain programme timelines.

Specific concern was raised regarding delays in the diversion of an electrical supply cable at Trinity College, which had been identified as a constraint as early as August of the previous year. Despite early discussions involving National Grid and the contractor, the cable had not yet been relocated, leading to programme delays. Responsibility for this issue was attributed to shortcomings in contractor liaison with National Grid, and it was confirmed that further monitoring of this risk would be required.

The Committee discussed contractual safeguards, with confirmation that the works are subject to a fit-for-purpose requirement, meaning that any failure to address seepage during future high-water events would require remedial action by the contractor. It was further clarified that works are being carried out in accordance with detailed designs prepared by engineering consultants, Stantec, who are also providing oversight through site supervision. Any proposed changes to design are subject to formal review and approval processes, ensuring quality and compliance.

Attention was also given to programme deadlines, with the target completion date confirmed as 31 March 2026. During discussion on contractual provisions, it

was noted that payments are linked to completion, providing a degree of financial control over delivery. Delays were partly attributed by the contractor to issues relating to land access, however members disputed this claim, noting that appropriate engagement, by the contractor, with landowners had not taken place in some instances.

Members reflected on whether the scheme represented value for money, particularly given the relatively simple appearance of the works when viewed on site. The Chief Executive and other members clarified that, while the engineering may appear straightforward, the depth of piling, ground treatment requirements, structural integration, and access logistics contribute significant complexity and cost. The reduction from initial estimates was highlighted as a key indicator of improved value compared to earlier procurement routes.

The importance of the scheme was emphasised in the context of flood risk management, with members noting that affected stations had been close to failure during previous storm events. It was agreed that the investment was necessary to avoid far greater financial and environmental consequences, including uncontrolled flooding and inefficient pumping operations. The Chief Executive expressed confidence that the works, once complete, would provide a long-term solution, potentially extending the operational life of the assets by several decades.

Looking ahead, the Chief Executive raised concerns regarding other pumping stations constructed during the 1960s, which may share similar vulnerabilities. It was noted that approximately 20 to 25 additional stations could require future assessment and potential intervention. Members agreed that the current programme provides a useful model for addressing such risks in a proactive manner.

The discussion broadened to consider increasing environmental and operational pressures, including a notable rise in the frequency and intensity of storm events. It was reported that six emergency events had occurred within a single recent winter period, compared to fewer than ten events over the previous 16 years combined. Members attributed this change to evolving weather patterns, increased runoff from development, and saturated ground conditions, which collectively lead to faster system response and heightened flood risk.

It was further noted that modern conditions differ significantly from historical operating environments, with increased hard surfacing resulting in more rapid runoff into the drainage system. This reinforces the importance of maintaining resilient infrastructure and highlights the growing role of the Board in flood risk management. Members agreed that the value and importance of Internal Drainage Boards has increased significantly in recent years.

The Chairperson concluded the discussion by noting general confidence in the quality and robustness of the works observed during the tour, and the importance of completing the programme ahead of future flood events. Members agreed that the site visits had provided valuable insight into both the engineering challenges and strategic importance of the works.

Capital Asset improvements

2026/27 Defra/EA Funded Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Grant in Aid (GiA) Schemes

- (i) Wyberton Chain Bridge Pumping Station Refurbishment– Estimate £2,758,848 Includes 60% OB (£802,188)

The Projects Director further updated the Committee on additional capital schemes referenced earlier in the day, specifically the refurbishment works planned at Donington Northings and Chain Bridge Pumping Stations, both located within the Southern Works area. These projects form part of the Board's wider programme of major asset improvements, with indicative scheme values outlined in the meeting papers. It was noted that all major capital schemes include a significant contingency allowance, reflecting the inherent uncertainties associated with engineering works, particularly where ground conditions, existing infrastructure, and operational constraints may present unforeseen challenges. This contingency ensures that sufficient funding is available to address issues should they arise without compromising delivery.

The Committee was informed that tendering for these refurbishment works has progressed, with submissions received and currently under evaluation. The procurement process is being managed through the SCAPE framework, with Stantec providing professional support in overseeing the tender assessment. It is anticipated that a preferred contractor will be appointed following evaluation, enabling the works to proceed in accordance with programme requirements.

Delivery of the refurbishment works is currently scheduled for summer 2027, with the timing driven by two primary considerations. Firstly, it was emphasised that decommissioning pumping assets during the winter period presents an unacceptable operational risk, given the increased likelihood of high flow and flood events. Secondly, it was highlighted that there are significant lead-in times associated with the procurement and manufacture of pump units, particularly where specification decisions must be finalised prior to order. These factors combined necessitate careful programme planning to align procurement, installation, and operational requirements.

During discussion, clarification was sought by the Chief Executive regarding the reference to "60% OB" within the project cost estimates. The Projects Director confirmed that this refers to Optimism Bias, a standard allowance applied to infrastructure projects to account for the tendency of early cost estimates to underestimate true delivery costs. It was explained that an optimism bias of approximately 60% is typically applied at early stages of project development, although this may be adjusted depending on the complexity and level of design certainty associated with each scheme.

(ii) Cooks Lock Pumping Station Structural repairs – Estimate £215,000

Following inspections by the engineering consultants, this pumping station is undertaking structural repairs to shot blast and paint the exposed steel and replace excessively corroded stanchion supports. A new access door from the weedscreen deck has been installed by the Board.

(iii) Great Hale Fen Pumping Station Structural repairs – Estimate £432,000

Following inspections by the engineering consultants, this pumping station is undertaking structural repairs to shot blast and paint the exposed steel and replace excessively corroded stanchion supports. A new access door from the weedscreen deck has been installed by the Board

(iv) Swineshead Pumping Station replacement - £1,000,000 – Current allocation received – study £500,000

The Committee continued discussion with a focus on Swineshead Pumping Station, where concerns were raised regarding the condition of the existing structure and the anticipated timeframe for delivering a permanent solution. A member proposed that, given the likely lead-in time for a full replacement scheme, consideration should be given to appointing a structural or mechanical engineer to assess the feasibility of implementing temporary stabilisation measures, such as structural props or steel supports, to maintain the integrity of the building in the interim. It was emphasised that there is a responsibility to take reasonable preventative action to mitigate the risk of structural failure, particularly given the potential consequences for landowners and the wider catchment.

The Projects Director acknowledged these concerns and confirmed that delivering a new pumping station from initial approval through to commissioning could take approximately four years, during which time the existing asset would remain in operation. While the station is currently still functional, albeit not operating at full duty capacity, it continues to play a role during flood events. It was noted that upstream and downstream stations, including Donington Northings and Wyberton Chain Bridge, may provide some level of operational support; however, their ability to compensate is limited, particularly during peak event conditions when each station is required to operate at full capacity within its own catchment. The Projects Director agreed that exploring interim mitigation measures would be appropriate, and further discussions with the proposing member were supported.

Further discussion addressed funding arrangements associated with the Swineshead project. It was confirmed that, in the absence of confirmed Grant-in-Aid funding, initial feasibility work has been supported through the reallocation of funds originally intended for Gosberton Fen Pumping Station. This decision was taken on the basis that progressing Swineshead was considered a higher priority due to its current condition. The reallocated funding has enabled early-stage feasibility work, including site assessments

by engineering consultants and initial considerations regarding location, hydraulic requirements, and pump specification.

The Projects Director explained that the development of a new pumping station scheme requires a staged approach, beginning with feasibility analysis to determine site constraints, hydraulic head requirements, and appropriate pump selection. These factors directly influence the design, layout, and overall cost of the scheme. Based on benchmarking against comparable projects undertaken by other Internal Drainage Boards, it is currently estimated that the cost of delivering a new pumping station at Swineshead could be in the order of £10 -15 million.

The Chief Executive provided additional context, noting that the Board's Officers are in the process of finalising a comprehensive long-term investment plan covering all pumping stations within the network. This review has assessed each station based on structural condition, operational requirements, and compliance with fish and eel regulations. A prioritised programme of works has been developed, which will be presented to the Executive Committee in June, outlining proposed refurbishment and replacement strategies. It was noted that this may require reprioritisation of previously planned works, including those at Gosberton, to ensure that resources are directed to the highest-risk assets.

The Projects Director further reflected on the Board's evolving approach to capital investment, noting that historically, smaller grant-funded interventions were pursued opportunistically. However, changes in funding frameworks and operational requirements now necessitate a more strategic and comprehensive approach to asset management. This includes aligning structural refurbishment programmes with environmental compliance obligations, particularly in relation to fish and eel passage requirements, and ensuring that investments deliver long-term resilience.

It was recognised that the scale of the programme presents a significant challenge. With approximately 34 pumping stations within the Board's portfolio, and multiple sites requiring substantial intervention, a structured delivery approach is required. The Projects Director outlined a proposed delivery model whereby schemes would progress through a three-year cycle, comprising feasibility and option development, detailed design, and construction. Assuming delivery of approximately two major schemes per year, it was acknowledged that it will take a considerable number of years to address all assets across the network.

The Chairperson noted that this programme represents a continually evolving asset management challenge, given the age profile of existing infrastructure, with many stations dating back to the 1950s and 1960s. The Projects Director reinforced that, while existing infrastructure can often be refurbished to extend operational life, there are inherent limitations in retrofitting modern standards to legacy civil structures. As such, while refurbishments can achieve significant improvements, they may not fully

meet all current design and environmental requirements, particularly where full replacement is not viable.

The Committee noted the update and acknowledged the need for a balanced, long-term approach to asset investment, incorporating risk management, regulatory compliance, and financial planning to ensure the continued resilience of the Board's infrastructure..

(v) Holland Fen Pumping Station Structural Repairs – Estimate £492,000

Following structural inspections by the engineering consultants the recommendations were to shot blast and paint the exposed steel, which has been completed.

(vi) Wyberton Marsh Pumping Station Structural Repairs

Following structural inspections by the engineering consultants the recommendations were to shot blast and paint the exposed steel, which has been completed. A new access door from the weedscreen deck has been installed by the Board.

(vii) Black Sluice Catchment Strategy

The Inception Study is currently being completed.

(viii) Cooks Lock Pumping Station new transformer – Estimate £55,000

The new transformer is now part of a bigger scheme of refurbishment for this site which is in its final stages. The proposal is to replace all HV transformers that are currently owned by the Board, with new ones. This will hand over the future responsibility and maintenance to National Grid which is beneficial to them as at certain sites they will have a power supply to tap into.

IDB Recovery Fund Works

Attention was then drawn to pages 26 and 27, which outline the status of projects funded through the IDB Fund programme. It was reported that a number of schemes have now been completed, while others remain in progress across the Board's area.

Particular reference was made to the embankment improvement works across three sites, with the total value of these projects noted as being in excess of £1.5 million. The Committee was informed that completed works, including those at Damford Grounds PS, had been delivered under budget, with expenditure of approximately £72,000 against an approved allocation of £105,000. This was acknowledged as a positive outcome and reflective of effective project delivery and cost control.

The Chairperson invited any further questions from members, and with none raised, it was confirmed that the Committee was satisfied with the update provided.

2708 Report on Rainfall - Agenda Item 8

The rainfall figures at Swineshead were circulated. The Committee RESOLVED that this report be noted.

2709 Any Other Business – Agenda Item 9

Cllr S Evans highlighted this was his first inspection tour which he found very interesting and educational.

There being no further business and the meeting closed at **14:40**.

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of a meeting of the Executive Committee

held at the offices of the Board on
2nd June 2026 at 14.00

Members

Chairperson - * Mr P Holmes

* Cllr P Bedford
* Mr M Leggott
* Mr R Needham

* Mr M Rollinson
* Mr C Wray
* Cllr S Evans

* Member Present

In attendance: Mr D Withnall (Chief Executive)
Mr P Nicholson (Projects Director)

2710 Recording the Meeting - Agenda Item 1

Committee members were informed that the meeting would be recorded.

2711 Apologies for absence - Agenda Item 2

There were no apologies.

The Chairperson welcomed Cllr S Evans to his first Executive Committee meeting.

2712 Declarations of Interest - Agenda Item 3

There were no declarations of interest.

2713 Minutes of the Meeting - Agenda Item 4

Minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2026, copies of which had been circulated, were considered and it was AGREED that they should be signed as a true record.

2714 Confidential Minutes of the meeting - Agenda Item 5

Confidential Minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2026, copies of which had been circulated, were considered and it was AGREED that they should be signed as a true record.

2715 Matters Arising - Agenda Item 6

- Minute 2579 Original Minute 2517 Cooks Lock Investigation
The minute Numbered 2517 should be with the numeral One and be 2517. The minutes will be corrected and re-signed.

- Minute 2579 Original Minute 2518 Management Accounts
The CEO pointed out the two maps in the Board room illustrate the extent of work completed in last year's cutting season. Plus the areas that were not completed and the reasons for that.
- Minute 2579 Original Minute 2520 Cliff Beck Maintenance
There is an incorrect spelling of Handley Chase.
- Minute 2581 2026/27 Budget and Ten-Year Estimates
The Chief Executive confirmed that a meter has now been successfully installed at the depot for the EE mast, enabling accurate measurement of electricity usage going forward. It was further reported that a settlement has been reached with the relevant operator, identified as EE MBNL or ZTP, covering outstanding electricity consumption dating back to 2016, representing approximately ten years of historic usage. Following negotiations, a total settlement figure of £45,000 was agreed and has now been received in full.
- Minute 2581 2026/27 Budget and Ten-Year Estimates
The Chief Executive drew attention to the final paragraph of the report for the purposes of the minutes, confirming that approval had previously been granted by email for expenditure of £154,000 to undertake the concreting works. He further noted that consideration would be given going forward to the potential development of a building, currently envisaged as a temporary structure with a lifespan of up to 25 years.

In relation to the IDB fund, the Chief Executive explained that the financial position does not represent a surplus in the traditional sense, but rather reflects internal costs, specifically the allocation of officer time. It was clarified that while this time has not been directly attributed as an external cost, it is not considered an additional expense to the organisation, as these officers are already employed. Consequently, any unallocated service value has effectively been transferred into reserves. However, the Chief Executive advised that he was not yet in a position to confirm that all IDB fund matters had been finalised or to provide a definitive statement of remaining balances, and undertook to report further once final figures are available.

The Chairman queried whether the position could be described as a surplus on the IDB fund, and this was clarified as above. He also advised that he and the Chief Executive had recently reviewed the concreting works on site, and suggested that, weather permitting, members could take a brief opportunity following the meeting to don high-visibility clothing and visit the site, in order to observe the works firsthand and gain a clearer understanding of both the scope and rationale for the project.

- Minute 2581 2026/27 Budget and Ten-Year Estimates
A Pumping Station Caretaker has been employed. He is in post, is proactive and appears to be settling in well.
- Minute 2581 2026/27 Budget and Ten-Year Estimates
The Chief Executive reported that work is currently underway to migrate all organisational data storage to SharePoint, representing a significant step towards modernising internal systems. It was explained that this transition will facilitate a range of electronic working practices, including the introduction of digital timesheets for operational staff, electronic holiday request processes, and the implementation of work planning tools such as electronic work boards. In

addition, longer-term ordering processes are intended to be automated, replacing the existing manual triplicate order book system. The Chief Executive confirmed that these improvements are currently in progress and continue to be actively developed.

- Minute 2583 5G Telemetry Upgrade

The Chief Executive updated that the 4G/5G/Starlink upgrade to the telemetry system has been successfully funded through the IDB Recovery Fund. It was emphasised that this expenditure has not been drawn from the pumping station maintenance budget, and the surplus has therefore been allocated to the general reserve.

- Minute 2585 AOB RSPB Frampton Marsh

The Chief Executive provided an update regarding the Board's support to the RSPB, confirming that pumps and associated equipment had been loaned to assist with water management at the site. The total cost of this work was reported as £5,626, which was noted to be in line with the budget. Members were shown before-and-after images illustrating the impact of the works, demonstrating the successful restoration of water levels. The Chief Executive added that he had visited the site on several occasions and reported that RSPB staff were extremely appreciative of the assistance, noting that the intervention had helped ensure sufficient water was available to sustain the habitat through the summer months. It was also observed that the site had previously dried out completely in October of the preceding year.

Members discussed the ongoing condition of the site, particularly in relation to recent dry weather. It was acknowledged that some water loss through evaporation would be expected, however it was confirmed that the RSPB's own pumps are now fully operational, enabling them to maintain water levels effectively going forward. The Chairman expressed confidence that the upgraded pumping arrangements would allow the site to cope with such conditions.

Further discussion took place regarding the scale of water movement achieved during the project. It was explained that while the pumping was not continuous, particularly towards the latter stages due to environmental considerations such as nesting birds, significant volumes of water were transferred over an extended period. In practice, water was sometimes redistributed between areas of the site, such as to adjacent swales, before being replenished by the pumping works. Members noted that the operation required sustained pumping activity over a period of several days and weeks in order to achieve the desired water levels.

It was also suggested that a future environmental meeting could be held at the RSPB visitor centre, where suitable facilities are available. Members considered that this would provide an opportunity to review the site in more detail and observe the outcomes of the works firsthand, with the expectation that the RSPB would be pleased to host and present the improvements achieved.

- Minute 2585 AOB The Quadrant

The Chief Executive introduced discussion on the Quadrant works, noting that the matter appeared to have been ongoing for a significant period, extending back several years without completion. It was assumed that the original works had not been undertaken. The Projects Director confirmed this position and advised that recent progress had been made, including a site meeting held in mid-May with Chestnut Homes, who have now expressed a clear intention for the works to proceed and for the Board to undertake them.

It was reported that engagement with other stakeholders is ongoing, including Wyberton Playing Fields, who have been advised that their preferred timing for the works, specifically outside of the football season, will not be achievable. The Projects Director explained that the required bushing works must take place within a defined seasonal window which overlaps with the football season, and this constraint cannot be avoided. As part of the preparatory work, environmental surveys are being arranged, with an initial site visit scheduled to undertake a bird nesting survey and a vegetation and drainage water assessment, followed by a further survey in August. It was noted that certain surveys, particularly those relating to bird nesting, must be undertaken within a very short timeframe immediately prior to the works commencing, in order to ensure compliance with environmental regulations.

Members discussed the timing constraints in more detail, recognising that while the bushing works fall outside the bird nesting season, all necessary surveys must still be completed in advance as part of due diligence. It was agreed that, subject to survey outcomes, the earliest feasible timeframe for undertaking the bushing works would be early autumn, likely September or October. The Projects Director advised that, under this programme, the associated drainage works would then follow in the subsequent year, provisionally April or May, subject to suitable weather conditions.

The Projects Director further confirmed that Chestnut Homes had been provided with a cost estimate of £55,000 for the works. While this figure had been agreed previously, it was noted that there will be a requirement to review the cost to reflect the passage of time and potential changes in circumstances, which Chestnut Homes have indicated they will be willing to accept. Reference was made to earlier discussions regarding different delivery options and associated risks, including potential delays, and it was confirmed that these considerations have already been outlined to the client.

The Chairman remarked that the matter felt repetitive, noting that it has re-emerged periodically over recent years without resolution. However, the Projects Director emphasised that Chestnut Homes are now aware of their obligations, as the works form part of their planning requirements, and that they are actively seeking to move forward with the project and appoint the Board to deliver it.

2716 To receive the 2025/26 accounts - Agenda Item 7

The Chief Executive advised that he would not review each item in detail but invited questions from members as the discussion progressed. He highlighted that interest income continues to perform significantly above previous years and is currently £41,000 higher than originally budgeted. Although income from Brewin Dolphin investments is below expectations by £6,600, this is more than offset by the increased interest earnings, resulting in a net positive position of approximately £34,000.

The Chief Executive further reported that £4,704,000 of Flood Defence Grant in Aid had been received during the previous financial year, noting that this position would be explored further within the balance sheet. He reiterated that the £45,000 relating to electricity charges for the EE mast represented a one-off receipt, and confirmed that, following installation of the meter, future charges would be invoiced accurately based on readings. It was also confirmed that £90,000 previously ring-fenced within the pumping station maintenance budget for the 4G and 5G telemetry upgrade has now been transferred into reserves.

Attention was drawn to areas of underspend, including £98,000 on desilting works, £24,500 on bushing works, and the absence of culvert surveying activity during the previous year, although this has now commenced. Administrative salaries were reported as £36,000 under budget, largely due to the non-appointment of a Project Manager. Members queried the level of underspend, noting the variance against budget expectations. The Chief Executive responded that both underspend and overspend are matters of concern, explaining that in part the position reflects prioritisation of IDB-funded works over the Board's own maintenance activities, an issue which will need to be addressed moving forward.

It was reported that approximately 66% of planned desilting has now been completed. Some of the underspend was attributed to efficiencies arising from revised working methods, particularly the adoption of a more environmentally sensitive approach to desilting, whereby works are undertaken with water remaining in the drain rather than through traditional damming and dewatering. While this method has reduced costs and improved efficiency, it was acknowledged that it may not deliver the same level of thoroughness, potentially requiring more frequent future maintenance. The Projects Director confirmed that this approach reflects compliance with environmental regulations and guidance from the Board's Environment Officer.

Members discussed the balance between efficiency and completeness of work, recognising that the underspend results both from efficiencies achieved and from work not completed due to operational constraints such as high water levels and restricted working windows. It was also noted that environmental restrictions limit the periods during which such works can be undertaken, reducing flexibility where delays occur. The Chairman commented that operational pressures, including the need to deliver funded works within strict timescales, had contributed to prioritisation decisions.

The Chief Executive confirmed that tighter planning and monitoring of work programmes would be implemented going forward. Turning to the balance sheet, he reported that funds held with NatWest had increased from £4.7 million in the previous year to £7.2 million, representing an increase of approximately £2.5 million, with further detail to be provided in relation to specific schemes. The Chairman queried the level of interest being achieved on these balances, and it was noted that rates of approximately 1.16% to 2% were currently being obtained on account with our bank, instead of being invested with external organisations.

This prompted discussion regarding potential alternative banking arrangements, with suggestions that higher interest rates may be available elsewhere, including through agricultural or specialist banks such as Oxbury. It was noted, however, that the Board's current financial regulations restrict investments and limit the amount that can be placed with any single provider. The Chief Executive confirmed that these regulations could be reviewed and amended by the Board if desired, although practical considerations such as anti-money laundering requirements and administrative burdens were highlighted. It was agreed that further informal enquiries would be made into alternative options.

The performance of Brewin Dolphin investments was also discussed, with the Chief Executive noting that although valuations had appeared negative at the end of March, they had since recovered. Market volatility was attributed to wider geopolitical factors, and it was confirmed that the Board's investment portfolios

remain aligned, both operating at a medium risk level. Members observed that maintaining a balanced portfolio of interest-bearing accounts and investment assets remains a prudent approach in the current economic climate.

(a) Period 12 Management Accounts

The committee noted the Period 12 Management Accounts.

(b) 2025 / 26 Schemes Report

The Chief Executive introduced the schemes report and invited the Projects Director to provide further detail, highlighting several key points in advance. He confirmed that embankment works are currently underway, with members having observed progress during recent committee site visits. He also noted that discussions are ongoing with the contractor, Jacksons, and the engineering consultants, Stantec, regarding a delayed start to works, which the contractor has raised as a potential compensation event.

An update was provided on the Chain Bridge and Donington North Ings schemes, confirming that tenders have been issued and returned, with evaluation currently in progress.

The Projects Director reported that overall progress on schemes funded through the IDB Recovery Fund is behind the original target, with some works not completed by the intended 31 March deadline. It was emphasised that these delays are largely due to factors beyond the Board's control. Progress on electrical upgrades was noted as positive, with new power supplies now installed at several pumping stations, including South Kyme and Ewerby, and arrangements in place for Dunsby Fen. These upgrades will enable the installation of new motors and control panels, with works at some sites dependent on completion of contractor activities currently underway.

Further detail was provided on delays to the Jacksons contracts, particularly relating to access issues at Trinity College, which have led to a claim for additional costs of approximately £500,000. This claim is currently being disputed, with the Board maintaining that access delays were significantly shorter than those cited by the contractor. It was confirmed that the Board does not have sufficient contingency within the scheme budget to accommodate such a claim, and that clarity will be required urgently, as continuation of works may not be financially viable if the claim is upheld.

The Projects Director also outlined progress on refurbishment schemes at Chain Bridge and Donington North Ings, which involve comprehensive upgrades including new pumps, motors, control systems, and associated electrical infrastructure. These works will also include relocation of transformers, which will subsequently be transferred to National Grid ownership, removing future liability from the Board. Tender processes for these schemes are nearing completion, with works expected to be delivered primarily during the summer of 2027.

Members discussed the implications of delays in relation to grant funding requirements. It was confirmed that audits are expected to be undertaken shortly, although it was noted that such inspections may have limited value once works are complete. Assurance was given that funding agreements only permit

clawback of unspent funds, and the Board has taken care to ensure that eligible expenditure is maximised within programme constraints.

Discussion also reflected on the challenging delivery timeframe associated with the funding programme, which was originally highly ambitious. The Projects Director noted that delays have been particularly influenced by external factors such as utility connections, with equipment in many cases ready for installation but awaiting final enabling works. Members acknowledged that while such delays are frustrating, they are largely unavoidable.

Concerns were raised regarding the contractor's claim for additional costs, with members questioning whether favourable weather conditions and resource allocation could have mitigated delays. It was suggested that the contractor's approach to staffing and site management may have contributed to inefficiencies. The Chief Executive emphasised the need for the Board to remain commercially aware in its negotiations, noting that while contractors operate on a profit basis, the Board must ensure that it does not accept unreasonable cost increases, particularly given its limited financial flexibility compared to larger public bodies.

(c) Draft 2025/ 26 Unaudited Financial Statements

The Chief Executive introduced the financial statements, advising that while these are not usually reviewed in detail, there were a small number of items requiring Board awareness and decision. Prior to substantive discussion, members raised minor corrections within the document, including inaccuracies in names and committee roles, which were noted for amendment. It was also highlighted that page numbering differed between printed packs and PDF versions, creating potential confusion. The Chief Executive confirmed that, once administrative capacity allows, future papers will be compiled digitally to ensure consistent pagination across formats.

A wider discussion followed regarding the format and distribution of Board papers. Members expressed mixed preferences for digital and printed copies, with some favouring electronic access for convenience and record-keeping, while others preferred paper for ease of annotation and use during meetings. It was agreed that both formats would continue to be provided to accommodate individual preferences. The cost implications of printing and distribution were considered, with the Chief Executive confirming that postage represents the most significant expense, with total distribution costs estimated at approximately £4 per member, or around £100 per Board meeting. It was noted that printing papers for collection at meetings would reduce costs, and one member indicated a preference to move to digital-only circulation.

Turning to accounting policies, the Chief Executive drew attention to proposed changes relating to asset valuation. He explained that a previous indicative quotation of £500 for revaluation in 2021 had not been invoiced, and that a current quotation of £2,850 had now been received due to the requirement for a full on-site reassessment following the retirement of the previous valuer. In light of this, he proposed that the Board adopt a consistent approach with pumping stations by retaining nominal values within the accounts rather than commissioning a costly revaluation. It was clarified that any such revaluation would have no material operational impact, affecting only the fixed asset and capital reserve figures within internal, unaudited accounts.

Members supported the principle of avoiding unnecessary expenditure, although it was suggested that periodic revaluation, potentially on a ten-year cycle, could represent good governance practice. It was acknowledged, however, that asset values recorded for accounting purposes differ from those required for insurance or disposal, and that valuations could instead be commissioned as required for specific purposes. On this basis, it was agreed that the proposed approach represented a pragmatic and proportionate use of resources.

The Chief Executive also provided an update on the pension valuation, noting that the latest figures had been received subsequent to preparation of the accounts. These indicated an increase in the pension surplus from £1,471,000 to £1,881,000, representing a positive movement of approximately £410,000 over the year. It was confirmed that this adjustment would be reflected in the finalised accounts, with corresponding changes to both the liability and pension reserve entries, and an updated net asset position for the Board.

2517 To receive the 2025/26 Annual Internal Audit Report - Agenda Item 8

The Chairman introduced the internal audit report, noting that members would have had the opportunity to review the document. He expressed his appreciation, on behalf of the Executive Committee and the Board, for the outcome of the audit, which had again resulted in a rating of substantial assurance. Members acknowledged that this represents a strong position and is not consistently achieved across all drainage boards, with it being noted that the Board had previously been the only authority to achieve this level of assurance.

The Chief Executive highlighted that, while the report was largely positive, it did include one recommendation relating to procurement procedures. Specifically, the recommendation concerned the enforcement of obtaining three written quotations for expenditure between £2,000 and £20,000. He confirmed that this matter had already been considered by the Audit and Risk Committee, and that a revised procurement policy is currently being developed. This new policy is intended to provide a practical and proportionate framework, incorporating a balance between operational flexibility and appropriate governance, and will be presented to the full Board for approval in due course.

Members noted that the recommendation represented a low-priority matter and supported the action being taken to address it. It was acknowledged that the issue had arisen from a procedural oversight but that it is now being properly reviewed and strengthened. The Chairman confirmed that further detail would be provided in due course when the revised policy is brought forward for formal consideration by the Board.

2518 Pumping Station Refurb Programme & Pumping Station Reserve Agenda Item 9

The Chief Executive introduced proposals focused on future planning, specifically a comprehensive pumping station refurbishment programme and the creation of a new pumping station reserve, subject to Board approval. It was explained that a detailed programme has been developed covering all 34 pumping stations, with two sites identified for full replacement rather than refurbishment. The proposed approach involves undertaking complete, whole-scale refurbishments, including installation of more environmentally sensitive pumps, upgraded mechanical and electrical components, and all associated infrastructure works, with the exception of the building structures themselves.

This represents a move away from the current piecemeal capital works approach towards a more strategic, long-term investment programme.

The Chief Executive further explained that changes to Flood Defence Grant in Aid funding now require financial contributions from the Board for certain replacement schemes, where project costs exceed £3 million. In such cases, a contribution of approximately 10% is required on the excess above this threshold. It was also noted that contributions may be necessary in some areas to improve the prioritisation of schemes within the national funding allocation process. To address this, the proposal includes the establishment of a dedicated reserve, funded through savings generated by reducing short-term capital works, thereby enabling the Board to accumulate sufficient funds to support future scheme contributions.

It was reported that the planned programme would involve the comprehensive refurbishment of two to three pumping stations per year, with an estimated total investment of approximately £68 million, rising to around £88 million when including replacement schemes such as Swineshead and Bicker Eau. The Chairman highlighted the likely requirement for the Board to contribute approximately £1.4 million in total towards these larger schemes, reinforcing the importance of establishing the proposed reserve. It was confirmed that approximately £3.6 million could be redirected from existing short-term capital allocations to support this strategy.

The Chairman placed on record his thanks to officers involved in developing the proposal, recognising the significant work undertaken in preparing a long-term, structured plan. The Projects Director noted that the proposal reflects the current uncertainty surrounding future funding arrangements and emphasised that having an available contribution will improve the Board's ability to secure external funding by making its schemes more competitive within the allocation process.

Members discussed the broader strategic implications, including whether a more fundamental redesign of the drainage network should be considered over the long term, potentially reducing the number of pumping stations and creating larger, more efficient assets. It was acknowledged that, while such an approach may be desirable in principle, the financial and practical constraints currently faced by the Board make this unachievable at present. Instead, the proposed refurbishment programme was considered the most realistic and effective approach to maintaining operational resilience over the next 15 to 20 years.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the proposal had been reviewed by the internal auditor, who was satisfied that it would not compromise the Board's governance or assurance standards. Members expressed general support for the proposal, recognising the need to address ageing infrastructure, and it was agreed that the recommendation would be taken forward to the full Board for formal approval.

2519 To review and approve accounts of Bourne Fen Farm Account – Agenda Item 10

The Chief Executive provided a brief update on the Bourne Farm Trust Fund, confirming that the Board has continued to apply the same rate contribution of 2.4 pence in the pound, unchanged since 2009. It was reported that the fund has resulted in a small surplus of £123 for the year. Based on this outcome, the Chief Executive concluded that the decision taken in January to maintain the contribution at its current level for a further year was appropriate

2520 To receive an update on 2026/27 Budgets – Agenda Item 11

(a) Updated 2026/27 10-year Schemes Budget

The Chief Executive introduced Item 11, noting that the key elements had already been addressed within earlier reports. He explained that the figures presented in red represent amounts carried forward from the schemes report, while the figures highlighted in purple and peach relate specifically to the proposed pumping station refurbishment programme, replacement schemes, and the establishment of the pumping station reserve.

It was highlighted that the most significant figure within this section is the projected total programme value of approximately £97.7 million over the period covered, representing the scale of planned scheme delivery. Members noted that this represents a substantial increase compared to previous years, particularly when considered against the Board's position only a few years ago, when annual turnover was approximately £2 million. The scale of this increase was acknowledged as a major step change in the Board's operational and financial activity.

Members recognised the magnitude of the programme and the associated uplift in delivery expectations, and indicated general acceptance of the figures as presented.

(b) Updated 2026/27 10-year plant Replacement Budget

The Chief Executive presented the updated plant replacement plan, noting that he had made minor amendments to the version previously approved by the Board in January. He explained that the plan had shown a negative position at the end of the previous financial year, however this had now been addressed through two key adjustments.

Firstly, the operational lifespan of the ride on mower has been extended to nine years, reflecting the performance and longevity achieved by its predecessor. Secondly, allowance has been included for the introduction of an electric floor sweeper, which is required to meet health and safety obligations relating to dust control and site cleanliness.

As a result of these revisions, the Chief Executive confirmed that the updated plan now shows a positive financial position over the next ten-year period. He emphasised that this represents only a slight amendment to the previously approved budget, but provides greater long-term stability within the plant replacement programme.

(c) Updated 10-year estimates

The Chief Executive presented the ten-year financial estimates, drawing attention to the inclusion of the proposed pumping station reserve, identified within the schedule, and outlining how this integrates with the wider capital and maintenance programme. He highlighted that the targeted closing balance at the end of the ten-year period is £1,811,622. It was noted that this includes an available margin of approximately £602,000 over the 10-year period, which will provide flexibility for future planning.

The Chief Executive advised that decisions regarding the use of this surplus, including potential allocation towards pump and bowser storage or other initiatives, will be considered at a later stage once there is greater clarity on the final position of the IDB Recovery Fund.

Members sought clarification on specific expenditure lines, including solar-related costs. The Chief Executive explained that these relate primarily to the replacement of inverters and ongoing subscription costs associated with monitoring systems. It was noted that expenditure in this area has been relatively limited in the current year, with some higher costs incurred in the previous year due to issues at specific sites. Members observed that such costs are generally infrequent and can be reasonably managed within long-term budgeting assumptions, although it was suggested that periodic maintenance, such as cleaning of panels, may improve performance and returns.

2521 CONFIDENTIAL: HR Updates - Agenda Item 12

CONFIDENTIAL – Review of Personnel Matters.

It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to exclude the public from the next part of the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

2522 Employee Assistance Programme - Agenda Item 13

The Chief Executive introduced a proposal following the earlier HR update, recommending the adoption of an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) to provide structured support to employees. He explained that, while the Board already makes use of occupational health services, the proposed programme would offer a more comprehensive and proactive approach, addressing a broader range of issues that may affect employees' wellbeing and performance. These include matters such as stress, anxiety, financial concerns, legal issues and access to counselling, all of which can impact an individual's ability to focus and operate effectively at work.

It was noted that several occupational health referrals had been made during the past year, highlighting the increasing need for additional support mechanisms. The Chief Executive outlined that the proposed EAP would complement existing arrangements by providing both preventative and responsive support, including early intervention where employees report sickness absence, and confidential access to services such as counselling and cognitive behavioural therapy. The proposal also includes ongoing development of mental health first aid provision, with training for two additional staff per year, strengthening internal capacity to support wellbeing across the workforce.

Members were presented with a comparison of three potential schemes, including a basic employee assistance offer, a combined wellbeing and reimbursement-based scheme, and a more comprehensive package delivering both employee support and organisational benefits. The Chief Executive recommended the Health Assured “Wisdom Wellbeing” option as the preferred solution, citing its broader scope, including occupational health integration, early intervention processes, and enhanced support mechanisms for both employees and management.

Discussion highlighted that the adoption of such a scheme would not only support employee wellbeing but would also strengthen the Board’s position as a responsible employer, including in potential employment-related matters, by demonstrating that appropriate support mechanisms are in place and actively promoted. Members noted that the cost of the scheme was modest in comparison to the potential benefits, both in terms of workforce wellbeing and organisational resilience.

The Chairman invited member views, and support was expressed for proceeding with the proposal. It was noted that similar schemes have been introduced within other drainage boards, reinforcing the appropriateness of the approach. Members acknowledged that the key consideration was the selection of the most suitable scheme, rather than whether to implement one at all.

It was proposed and agreed that the Board adopt the Health Assured “Wisdom Wellbeing” package. During discussion, a query was raised regarding whistleblowing arrangements, and it was confirmed that existing procedures remain in place, with concerns typically routed through the Chief Executive or, where appropriate, independently to Internal Auditor. It was noted that this area may be reviewed further alongside implementation of the new scheme to ensure sufficient confidentiality and accessibility.

The Chairman concluded the discussion by thanking the Chief Executive for the comprehensive report and recommended option, noting the Committee’s approval of the proposal.

2523 Any Other Business – Agenda Item 14

(a) Health & Safety Update

The Chairman invited an update from Mark Leggott, the Board’s representative on the Health and Safety Committee, who advised that he would be unable to attend the forthcoming meeting and therefore wished to raise two points for consideration.

Firstly, he reported feedback received from a recent chainsaw assessment event, where assessors had expressed concerns regarding the suitability of high-visibility clothing worn by candidates. Specifically, the use of high-visibility vests with Velcro fastenings was highlighted as a potential safety risk, as these have, in some cases, become detached during operation. As a result, it has been recommended that candidates undertaking such assessments should instead wear zip-fastened high-visibility garments or alternative clothing without loose or detachable elements. It was noted that this represents a relatively minor adjustment but one that promotes improved safety standards, and members were asked to be mindful of this requirement moving forward.

Secondly, the member raised concerns regarding protocols for Board members visiting operational sites, particularly pumping stations. He referred to a recent personal experience at another authority, where an unannounced visit to a pumping station while it was operational, without appropriate personal protective equipment, had resulted in a tightening of their health and safety procedures. These now include requirements for advance notification of visits and the use of appropriate safety equipment, as well as physical barriers and signage to restrict access to operational areas.

In response, the Chief Executive noted that the Board's pumping stations are generally not continuously staffed, although some maintenance activities, such as manual raking, do still occur. The Chairman acknowledged that there have been previous instances of Board members interacting directly with operational staff and site operations, and emphasised the importance of maintaining clear boundaries and adherence to appropriate procedures. Members recognised the need to ensure that health and safety protocols are consistently applied, including for Board members, and that any necessary guidance or clarification should be reinforced going forward.

(b) Special Leave Entitlement

The Chairman introduced a matter relating to the Chief Executive's ongoing voluntary service with the RAF Air Cadets. It was noted that the Chief Executive has a long-standing involvement, having previously served as a member of the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve until December 2017, at which point the status changed to the Royal Air Force Air Cadets. It was confirmed that, despite this change in designation, the nature of the role and associated duties has remained unchanged.

The Chief Executive explained that, under the Board's "White Book" terms and conditions, the previous reserve role had attracted an entitlement of ten days' special leave, whereas the current cadet volunteer status formally permits only five days. However, it was noted that a previous Chairman had supported continuation of the ten-day allowance on the basis that the responsibilities undertaken remained consistent before and after the change in status.

The matter was brought forward to the current Chairman for consideration, following receipt of correspondence expressing appreciation for the Board's support of the Chief Executive's voluntary contribution. Members discussed the position and recognised both the value of the voluntary work undertaken and the reputational and wider benefits associated with supporting such activities.

The Chairman proposed that the existing arrangement be maintained, allowing the Chief Executive to continue to receive ten days' special leave for this purpose rather than the five days specified within current policy. Members expressed their support for this approach, acknowledging the importance of retaining consistency with previous arrangements. It was therefore agreed that the Board would continue to support the Chief Executive in this capacity and maintain the existing level of special leave entitlement.

(c) Yard Inspection

After the meeting the Executive Committee completed an inspection of the area to be concreted in the depot. The Committee Members were able to see the extent of the work that is being carried out for the depot improvements.

There being no further business the meeting closed at **15:49**

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board Project Summary 2025/26

Period 12 - March 2026

Description	Period Current Year			Year To Date					Last Year	
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance	Forecast	Variance	Actual YTD	Variance to Current Year
Rates & Levies	14,258	6,460	7,798	3,398,074	3,398,675	(601)	3,397,923	151	3,216,348	181,726
Interest & Grants	1,861,723	7,719,019	(5,857,296)	4,799,076	8,302,637	(3,503,561)	4,534,838	264,238	4,733,728	65,348
Other Income	48,740	2,567	46,173	77,877	24,405	53,472	32,454	45,423	42,466	35,411
Rechargeable Income	95,843	46,446	49,397	435,617	400,001	35,616	335,181	100,436	270,537	165,080
Solar Panel Income	2,095	2,115	(20)	25,160	24,418	742	25,565	(405)	19,654	5,507
Total Income	2,027,658	7,781,607	(5,753,949)	8,740,805	12,155,136	(3,414,331)	8,330,961	409,844	8,287,734	453,071
Schemes	14,121	88,099	73,978	56,687	281,099	224,412	331,586	274,899	226,469	169,783
Pumping Station Schemes	315,463	1,602,912	1,287,449	1,234,804	8,995,275	7,760,471	3,179,929	1,945,125	451,587	(783,218)
IDB Fund Schemes	1,033,598	390,421	(643,177)	1,895,388	625,028	(1,270,360)	2,143,771	248,383	2,924,654	1,029,266
Pumping Station Maintenance	52,429	34,622	(17,807)	331,401	372,419	41,018	875,559	87,826	(193,940)	(525,341)
Electricity	45,646	70,805	25,159	456,332	505,750	49,418			460,404	4,072
Drain Maintenance	66,254	79,060	12,806	897,138	1,043,541	146,403	1,017,437	120,299	726,107	(171,032)
Environmental Schemes	8,631	416	(8,215)	48,777	49,067	290	49,067	290	39,069	(9,709)
Administration & Establishment	92,627	64,090	(28,537)	771,052	807,241	36,189	784,691	13,639	729,624	(41,428)
EA Precept	0	0	0	276,552	276,552	0	276,552	0	276,552	0
Rechargeable Expenditure	91,430	43,206	(48,224)	384,688	372,094	(12,594)	285,447	(99,241)	251,857	(132,831)
Solar Panel Expenses	319	0	(319)	853	3,403	2,550	3,403	2,550	3,767	2,913
Total Expenditure	1,720,517	2,373,631	653,114	6,353,673	13,331,469	6,977,796	8,947,442	2,593,769	5,896,148	(457,524)
Surplus / (Deficit)	307,141	5,407,976	(5,100,835)	2,387,132	(1,176,333)	3,563,465	(616,481)	3,003,613	2,391,586	(4,453)
Movement on reserves										
Plant Reserve	275,343	0	(275,343)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(0)
Pump Engineer Oncost	(7,340)	0	7,340	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wages oncost Reserve	66,848	0	(66,848)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surplus / (Deficit)	(27,710)	5,407,976	(4,765,984)	2,387,132	(1,176,333)	3,563,465	(616,481)	3,003,613	2,391,586	(4,453)

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

Drainage Rates & Special Levies

2025/26

Period 12 - March 2026

Drainage Rates & Special Levies Due

Drainage Rates

Annual Drainage Rates - Land and/or buildings	1,618,558.15	
Land/Property - Value Decreased	(18,609.27)	
Land/Property - Value Increased	13,136.95	
New Assessment	4,767.57	
Write Offs & Irrecoverables	(36.70)	
Adjustments required for Special Levy	(12.54)	
Summons Collection Costs	150.00	

Balance	1,617,954.16	47.61%
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Special Levies

Boston Borough Council	1,293,006.22	
South Holland District Council	243,669.44	
North Kesteven District Council	148,316.10	
South Kesteven District Council	95,128.26	

	1,780,120.02	52.39%
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Total Due	3,398,074.18	100.00%
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Drainage Rates & Special Levies Collected

B/F Arrears/(Allowances)	(827.66)	
Payments Posted	1,599,033.33	
Returned Amount		99.30%
Paid Refund	(732.18)	
Bourne North Fen Trust Contribution	9,151.42	
Special Levies Received	1,780,120.02	100.00%

Total Received	3,386,744.93	
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Drainage Rates & Special Levies Debtors

Special Levy Outstanding	0.00	0.00%
Drainage Rates Outstanding	11,329.25	0.70%

	11,329.25	
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	3,398,074.18	
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Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board
Income & Expenditure Summary
2025/26
Period 12 - March 2026

	This Year	Last Year	Variance
Drainage Rates	1,617,954	1,558,607	59,348
Special Levies	1,780,120	1,657,742	122,378
Recoverable	435,617	270,537	165,080
Misc Income	4,883,436	4,782,415	101,021
Solar Panel Income	25,160	19,654	5,507
	8,742,287	8,288,953	453,333
Employment Costs	1,695,655	1,590,192	(105,463)
Property	554,575	548,202	(6,373)
General Expenses	513,705	301,958	(211,747)
Materials / Stock	89,512	339,448	249,936
Motor & Plant	502,493	635,597	133,104
Miscellaneous	2,657,626	2,038,929	(618,697)
Recharges	(346,405)	(336,573)	9,832
Plant	687,994	779,616	91,622
Total Expenditure	6,355,154	5,897,368	(457,787)
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	2,387,132	11,794,736	(9,407,604)

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

Balance Sheet at Period End

2025/26

Period 12 - March 2026

	<u>This Year</u>		<u>Last Year</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Operational Land & Buildings Cost	1,009,350		1,009,350	
Pumping Stations Cost	3,861,354		3,861,354	
Non-operational Property Cost	165,000		165,000	
Vehicles, Plant & Machinery Cost	1,628,006		1,309,963	
Fixed Assets		<u>6,663,710</u>		<u>6,345,667</u>
Stock	102,424		87,477	
Debtors Control	257,886		64,733	
VAT	132,933		119,606	
Drainage Rates Control	11,329		828	
Car Loans	2,583		5,336	
Prepayments	114,946		125,395	
Drawings Bank Account	10,000		10,000	
Call Bank Account	410,000		410,000	
Petty Cash	120		66	
Highland Water	(8)	0	(4,155)	0
Work in Progress	6,550		21,584	
Nat West Government Procurement Card	(1,347)		(2,295)	
Brewin Dolphin Investment	443,071		422,372	
Natwest Reserve Account	3,215,984		3,722,932	
Natwest 35 Day Notice Account	4,000,000		1,000,000	
Total Current Assets		<u>8,706,473</u>		<u>5,983,878</u>
Trade Creditors	(1,324,914)		(907,544)	
Accruals	(177,934)		(166,161)	
Suspense	(0)		(0)	
Total Liabilities		<u>(1,502,848)</u>		<u>(1,073,704)</u>
Pension Liability		1,471,000		1,471,000
		<u><u>15,338,334</u></u>		<u><u>12,726,841</u></u>
Capital Reserve	6,663,708		6,345,666	
Pension Reserve	1,471,000		1,471,000	
Brewin Dolphin Revaluation	(56,929)		(77,628)	
Total Capital		<u>8,077,779</u>		<u>7,739,038</u>
Revenue Reserve	3,813,828		1,422,243	
Development Reserve	683,929		665,584	
Plant Reserve	(38,428)		189,573	
Wages Oncost Reserve	414,094		318,819	
General Reserve	2,387,132		2,391,586	
Total Reserves		<u>7,260,556</u>		<u>4,987,803</u>
		<u><u>15,338,334</u></u> 0		<u><u>12,726,841</u></u>
<u>Cash & Bank Balances</u>				
Drawings Account		10,000		
Call Account		10,000	410,000	
Natwest Reserve Account @ 1.16% wef 09/03/2026		3,215,984		
Natwest 35 Day Notice Account @ 2.00% wef 09/03/2026		4,000,000		
Petty Cash		120		
Chargecard		(1,347)		
Loughborough BS @ 4.00%		200,000	12 Month Fixed Term Deposit	
Vernon BS @ 4.00%		200,000	12 Month Fixed Term Deposit	
		<u><u>7,634,757</u></u>		

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board Investment Summary 2025/26 Period 12 - March 2026

PORTFOLIO P1664056 VALUATION DATE 20 Apr 2026

31 Mar 2025 - 31 Mar 2026

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

LAST 12 MONTHS PERFORMANCE
9.58%

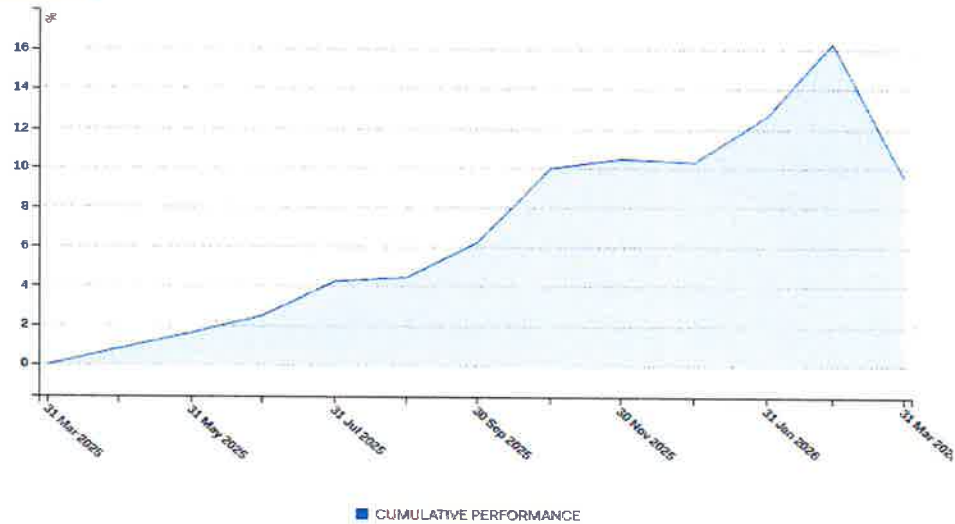
TOTAL VALUE
443,070.73 GBP

ESTIMATED ANNUAL INCOME
13,031.84 GBP

PERFORMANCE

CUMULATIVE PERIODIC

CHART
Gross



PORTFOLIO SUMMARY

BOOK COST
420,261.86 GBP

OVERALL GAIN OR LOSS
5.43%↑

ESTIMATED ANNUAL INCOME
13,031.84 GBP

ESTIMATED YIELD %
2.94%↑

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board BFF Investment Summary 2025/26 Period 12 - March 2026

PORTFOLIO P0000789299 VALUATION DATE 20 Apr 2026

31 Mar 2025 - 31 Mar 2026

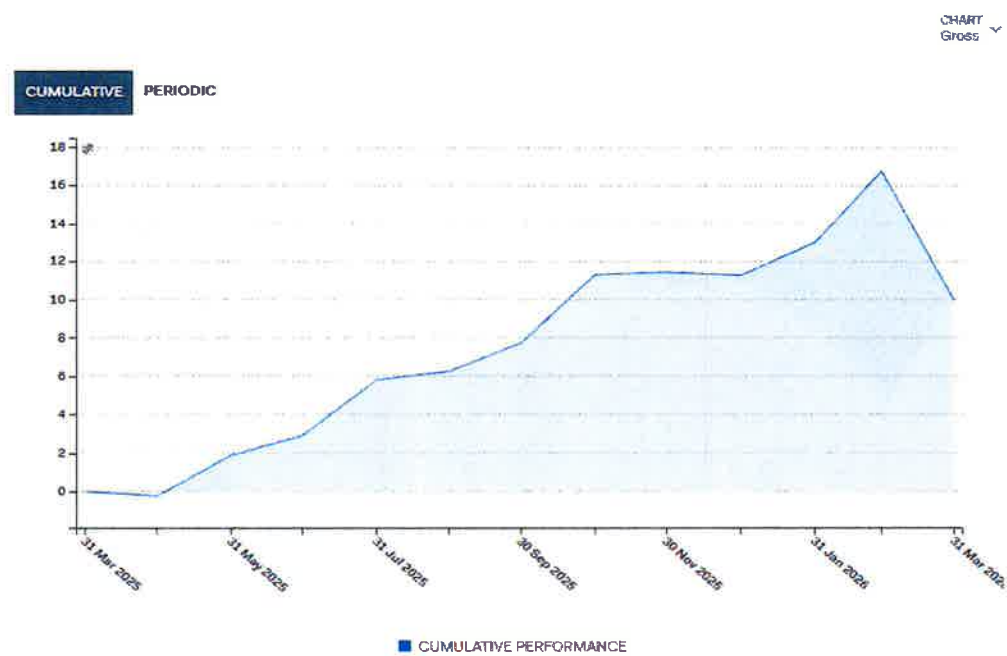
PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

LAST 12 MONTHS PERFORMANCE
9.93%

TOTAL VALUE
345,538.74 GBP

ESTIMATED ANNUAL INCOME
10,132.32 GBP

PERFORMANCE



PORTFOLIO SUMMARY

BOOK COST
314,506.73 GBP

OVERALL GAIN OR LOSS
9.87%↑

ESTIMATED ANNUAL INCOME
10,132.32 GBP

ESTIMATED YIELD %
2.93%↑

**Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board
10 Year Schemes Budget
2026/27 to 2035/26
Updated for June 2026 Exec**

Year	Scheme	Total	Grant / Local Levy	Other Contributions	Board Contribution (Pump Reserve?)	Move to Pumping Station Reserve	Board Funded Schemes
2026/27	B/F Holland Fen Structural Repairs	£355,364	£355,364				
	B/F Donington NI Refurbishment	£331,459	£331,459				
	B/F IDB Recovery Fund Embankments	£328,952	£328,952				
	B/F Chain Bridge Refurbishment	£327,898	£327,898				
	B/F B/F Allan House PS Scheme	£307,721	£307,721				
	B/F Great Hale Structural Repairs	£281,954	£281,954				
	B/F Swineshead Structural Repairs	£127,788	£127,788				
	B/F SFFD Desilting Guthrum to Blackhole Drove PS	£105,000					£105,000
	B/F IDB Recovery Fund - Pinchbeck PS Refurbishment	£89,865	£89,865				
	B/F Black Sluice Catchment Modelling Study	£84,283	£84,283				
	B/F Wyberton Marsh Transformer	£79,405	£79,405				
	B/F Gosberton Structural Repairs	£77,143	£77,143				
	B/F Horbling Fen Structural Repairs	£59,577	£59,577				
	B/F Kirton Marsh PS replace MCC	£56,414					£56,414
	B/F Cooks Lock Structural Repairs	£47,568	£47,568				
	B/F Great Hale Fen PS replace MCC	£47,444					£47,444
	B/F IDB Recovery Fund - Darnford PS Refurbishment	£47,075	£47,075				
	B/F Black Hole Drove Structural Repairs	£45,168	£45,168				
	B/F IDB Recovery Fund - Ewerby PS Refurbishment	£44,000	£44,000				
	B/F Wyberton Marsh Structural Repairs	£27,540	£27,540				
	B/F NFF Desilting	£20,000					£20,000
	B/F IDB Recovery Fund - South Kyme PS Refurbishment	£16,200	£16,200				
	B/F IDB Recovery Fund - Dunsby Fen PS Refurbishment	£12,600	£12,600				
	B/F IDB Recovery Fund - Helpringham PS Refurbishment	£12,329	£12,329				
	B/F South Kyme PS Bank Repair Specification	£9,119	£9,119				
	B/F Trinity College PS Bank Repair Specification	£6,926	£6,926				
	Claydyke desilting	£130,000					£130,000
	Donington NI PS - Structural Repairs	£450,000		£450,000			
	Donington North Ings PS new transformer	£55,000		£55,000			
	Cooks Lock PS new transformer	£55,000		£55,000			
	NFF Desilting	£60,000					£60,000
	Jetting to major pipelines	£50,000					£50,000
	Gosberton Fen PS Refurbish 3 x axial flow pumps	£95,000					£95,000
Wyberton Marsh PS Roadway Refurbishment	£20,000					£20,000	
Horbling Fen PS Roadway Refurbishment	£20,000					£20,000	
South Kyme Fen PS refurbish w/s cleaner & controls	£105,000					£105,000	
Heckington Fen PS Pump Coupling refurb	£5,000					£5,000	
Swaton Fen PS replace MCC (inc. GRP supply unit)	£86,500					£86,500	
Wyberton Marsh PS Pump Coupling refurb	£5,000					£5,000	
Holland Fen PS under pump inspections	£28,000					£28,000	
New Access Culverts (Swaton & Gosberton Clough)	£31,750					£31,750	
Graft Drain	£45,000					£45,000	
Depot storage and concrete hardstanding	£100,000					£100,000	
Dunsby Fen PS replacement weedscreen cleaner	£150,000					£150,000	
General culvert replacement contributions	£5,000					£5,000	
	£4,445,042	£3,279,934				£286,500	£878,608
2027/28	Chain Bridge Refurbishment Scheme	£2,758,848	£2,758,848				
	Donington NI Refurbishment Scheme	£2,704,008	£2,704,008				
	Dowsby Fen Catchment Works	£350,000	£162,686	£137,314	£50,000		
	Bicker Fen PS replace weedscreen cleaner	£155,000				£155,000	
	Holland Fen PS replace MCC	£110,000				£110,000	
	Wyberton Marsh PS replace MCC	£110,000					£110,000
	Graft Drain	£95,000					£95,000
	Dowsby Fen PS replace MCC	£90,000					£90,000
	Holland Fen PS new transformer	£75,000	£75,000				
	Jetting to major pipelines	£75,000					£75,000
	New Hammond Beck Desilting	£75,000					£75,000
	Bicker Fen refurbish 1 x axial flow pump	£33,000					£33,000
	Wyberton Marsh PS under pump inspection	£25,000					£25,000
	Kiron Marsh PS new roof	£23,000					£23,000
Horbling Fen PS new roof	£23,000					£23,000	
General culvert replacement contributions	£5,000					£5,000	
	£6,706,856	£5,700,542	£137,314	£50,000		£434,000	£385,000
2028/29	Holland Fen Refurbishment Scheme	£3,022,000	£3,022,000				
	Helpringham Refurbishment Scheme	£2,640,000	£2,640,000				
	Pinchbeck Refurbishment Scheme	£2,160,000	£2,160,000				
	Swaton Fen PS replace weedscreen cleaner	£260,000					£260,000
	Old Hammond Beck Desilting	£80,000					£80,000
	Jetting to major pipelines	£80,000					£80,000
	Haconby Fen PS replace MCC	£80,000					£80,000
	Dowsby Fen PS refurbish 2 x axial flow pumps	£70,000					£70,000
	Chain Bridge PS under pump inspections & desilting	£60,000					£60,000
	Twenty PS refurbish 1 x axial flow pump & motor	£40,000					£40,000
	Bourne Fen 28/10 Revetment	£30,000					£30,000
Helpringham PS new roof	£25,000					£25,000	
General culvert replacement contributions	£5,000					£5,000	
	£8,552,000	£7,622,000				£475,000	£255,000

Year	Scheme	Total	Grant / Local Levy	Other Contributions	Board Contribution (Pump Reserve?)	Move to Pumping Station Reserve	Board Funded Schemes	
2029/30	Swineshead rebuild (£1.2m from Pump Reserve)	£15,000,000	£13,800,000		£1,200,000			
	Gosberton Refurbishment Scheme	£2,301,000	£2,301,000					
	Billingborough Refurbishment Scheme	£1,673,000	£1,673,000					
	Horbling Refurbishment Scheme	£1,332,000	£1,332,000					
	Gosberton Fen PS replace MCC	£119,000					£119,000	
	Great Hale Fen PS refurbish 3 x axial flow pumps	£115,000				£115,000		
	Jetting to major pipelines	£80,000					£80,000	
	Quadring Fen PS replace MCC	£60,000				£60,000		
	Cooks lock PS pump drain desilting under pump inspection	£56,000					£56,000	
	Quadring Fen pump drain desilting/under pump inspection	£48,000					£48,000	
	Donington Mallard Hum PS under pump inspections	£32,000					£32,000	
	Damford Grounds PS under pump inspections	£32,000					£32,000	
	Helpringham Fen PS under pump inspections	£32,000					£32,000	
	Swaton Fen PS under pump inspections	£32,000					£32,000	
	Billingborough Fen PS under pump inspections	£32,000					£32,000	
	Pinchbeck Fen PS under pump inspections	£32,000					£32,000	
	Haconby Fen PS refurbish 1 x axial flow pump	£30,000				£30,000		
General culvert replacement contributions	£5,000					£5,000		
		£21,011,000	£19,106,000		£1,200,000	£205,000	£500,000	
2030/31	Black Hole Drove Refurbishment Scheme	£3,975,000	£3,975,000					
	Great Hale refurbishment Scheme	£3,045,000	£3,045,000					
	Ewerby Frefurbishment Scheme	£2,470,000	£2,470,000					
	Rippingale Refurbishment Scheme	£1,657,000	£1,657,000					
	Kirton Marsh Refurbishment Scheme	£1,549,000	£1,549,000					
	Black Hole Drove PS refurbish 3 x axial flow pumps	£130,000				£130,000		
	Trinity College PS refurbish 2 x axial flow pumps	£80,000				£80,000		
	Horbling Fen PS replace MCC	£65,000				£65,000		
	Donington Mallard Hum PS replace MCC	£65,000				£65,000		
	Jetting to major pipelines	£60,000					£60,000	
	NFF desilting	£55,000					£55,000	
	Ewerby Fen PS under pump inspections	£39,000					£39,000	
	South Kyme Fen PS under pump inspections	£39,000					£39,000	
	Sempringham Fen PS under pump inspections	£39,000					£39,000	
	Pumping station roadway refurbishment, Bicker Fen/Rippingale	£33,000					£33,000	
	General culvert replacement contributions	£5,000					£5,000	
			£13,306,000	£12,696,000			£340,000	£270,000
2031/32	Bicker Eau Rebuild (£200k from Pump Reserve)	£5,000,000	£4,800,000		£200,000			
	Cooks Lock Refurbishment Scheme	£2,316,000	£2,316,000					
	Quadring Refurbishment Scheme	£2,081,000	£2,081,000					
	Mallard Hum Refurbishment Scheme	£1,492,000	£1,492,000					
	Cooks Lock PS refurbish 3 x axial flow pumps	£120,000				£120,000		
	Jetting to major pipelines	£90,000					£90,000	
	Billingborough Fen PS replace MCC	£65,720				£65,720		
	Dowsby Lode PS replace MCC	£65,000				£65,000		
	Twenty PS replace MCC	£65,000				£65,000		
	Dowsby Fen PS drain desilting under pump inspections	£54,000					£54,000	
	Heckington Fen pump drain desilting under pump inspections	£50,000					£50,000	
	Dowsby Lode PS under pump inspections	£41,000					£41,000	
	Dunsby Fen PS under pump inspections	£41,000					£41,000	
	Swaton Fen PS refurbish 1 x axial flow pump	£40,000				£40,000		
	General culvert replacement contributions	£6,000					£6,000	
			£11,526,720	£10,689,000		£200,000	£355,720	£282,000
	2032/33	Wyberton Marsh Refurbishment Scheme	£2,429,000	£2,429,000				
Dowsby Lode Refurbishment Scheme		£1,997,000	£1,997,000					
Swaton Refurbishment Scheme		£1,861,000	£1,861,000					
Black Hole Drove PS replace MCC		£143,000				£143,000		
Holland Fen PS refurbish 3 x axial flow pumps & motors		£130,604				£130,604		
Jetting to major pipelines		£70,000					£70,000	
Gosberton Fen pump drain desilting/under pump inspections		£56,000					£56,000	
Donington Northings PS desilting under pump inspections		£56,000					£56,000	
Hammond Beck Cleansing		£56,000					£56,000	
Trinity College PS desilting under pump inspections		£56,000					£56,000	
Rippingale Fen PS refurb 1 x axial flow pump		£42,000				£42,000		
General culvert replacement contributions		£7,000					£7,000	
		£6,903,604	£6,287,000			£315,604	£301,000	
2033/34	Trinity College Refurbishment Scheme	£1,985,000	£1,985,000					
	Bicker Fen Refurbishment Scheme	£1,345,000	£1,345,000					
	Haconby Refurbishment Scheme	£147,900	£147,900					
	Kirton Marsh PS refurbish weedscreen cleaner & controls	£130,702				£130,702		
	Horbling Fen PS refurbish weedscreen cleaner & controls	£130,000				£130,000		
	NFF desilting	£89,000					£89,000	
	Jetting to major pipelines	£70,000					£70,000	
	Great Hale Fen PS desilting/under pump inspections	£55,000					£55,000	
	Horbling Fen PS refurbish 1 x axial flow pump & motor	£50,000				£50,000		
	Sempringham Fen PS refurb pump & motor	£50,000				£50,000		
	Trinity College PS desilting/under pump inspections	£40,000					£40,000	
	Bicker Fen PS desilting/under pump inspections	£40,000					£40,000	
	Horbling Fen PS desilting/under pump inspections	£35,000					£35,000	
General culvert replacement contributions	£7,000					£7,000		
		£4,174,602	£3,477,900			£360,702	£336,000	

Year	Scheme	Total	Grant / Local Levy	Other Contributions	Board Contribution (Pump Reserve?)	Move to Pumping Station Reserve	Board Funded Schemes
2034/35	Heckington Refurbishment Scheme	£3,221,000	£3,221,000				
	Dunsby Refurbishment Scheme	£1,301,000	£1,301,000				
	Sempringham Refurbishment Scheme	£1,245,000	£1,245,000				
	Blackhole Drove PS refurbish weedscreen cleaner & controls	£140,000				£140,000	
	NFF desilting	£121,063					£121,063
	Kirton Marsh PS desilting & under pump inspections	£90,000					£90,000
	Rippingale Fen PS desilting & under pump inspections	£90,000					£90,000
	Holland Fen PS desilting & under pump inspections	£90,000					£90,000
	Cooks Lock PS replace MCC	£90,000				£90,000	
	Dowsby Lode PS refurbish 1 x axial flow pump & motor	£75,000				£75,000	
	Quadring Fen PS refurbish 1 x axial flow pump & motor	£75,000				£75,000	
General culvert replacement contributions	£7,000					£7,000	
	£6,545,063	£5,767,000				£380,000	£398,063
2035/36	Donington Northings PS Pump & Motor refurb	£150,000					£150,000
	Dowsby Fen Refurbishment Scheme	£2,475,000	£2,475,000				
	South Kyme Refurbishment Scheme	£1,805,000	£1,805,000				
	Dyke Fen PS refurbish weedscreen cleaner trolley & controls	£145,000				£145,000	
	Dowsby Fen PS refurbish weedscreen cleaner trolley & controls	£145,000				£145,000	
	Trinity College PS replace MCC	£90,000				£90,000	
	Dyke Fen PS under pump inspections & suction cleansing	£90,000					£90,000
	Bicker Fen PS replace MCC	£70,000				£70,000	
	Bicker Eau PS replace MCC	£63,742				£63,742	
	Haconby Fen PS under pump inspections & cleansing	£50,000					£50,000
General culvert replacement contributions	£7,000					£7,000	
	£5,090,742	£4,280,000				£513,742	£297,000
	Damford Refurbishment Scheme	£3,478,000	£3,478,000				
	Dyke Fen Refurbishment Scheme	£1,805,000	£1,805,000				
		£5,283,000	£5,283,000				
	Donington Wyke Refurbishment Scheme	£1,941,000	£1,941,000				
	Twenty Refurbishment Scheme	£2,205,000	£2,205,000				
		£4,146,000	£4,146,000				
Proposals from Agenda Item 9		£97,690,629	£88,534,376	£137,314	£1,450,000	£3,666,268	£3,902,671

PLANT REPLACEMENT BUDGETS 2026/27

Updated for June 2026 Exec

Existing Plant/Equipment	Year Purchased	Purchase Price	Hours / Miles As at 14/12/2025	Age to Replace	Replace Year	Replace Cost	Est Trade in Target	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36
								£-38,428	£87,218	£28,748	£43,095	£136,678	£295,281	£43,278	£150,420	£19,351	£358,224
Hooby	2023/24	£290,195	1,999	Hours	8	2031/32	£ 428,750	£ 107,188	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 321,563	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Twiga SPV2 (2019)	2019/20	£197,150	5,226	Hours	8	2027/28	£ 291,280	£ 72,820	£ -	£ 218,460	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Twiga Alpha (2025)	2025/26	£256,100	0	Hours	8	2033/34	£ 378,376	£ 94,584	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 322,765
Aebi T211	2023/24	£79,875	1,339	Hours	8	2031/32	£ 118,012	£ 29,503	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 283,782	£ -	£ -
Unimog	2020/21	£148,000	180,050	Km	9	2029/30	£ 229,597	£ 51,021	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 88,509	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Hitachi ZX 210LC-5B	2025/26	£196,850	15	Hours	8	2033/34	£ 290,837	£ 72,709	£ -	£ -	£ 178,575	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
JCB 130 Telescopic LR	2019/20	£195,350	7,963	Hours	8	2027/28	£ 155,650	£ 38,912	£ -	£ 116,737	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 218,128	£ -	£ -
JCB 145 Standard & LR	2019/20	£129,850	7,190	Hours	9	2028/29	£ 201,440	£ 44,764	£ -	£ -	£ 156,676	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 172,474
JCB 140 Telescopic LR	2022/23	£137,500	2,611	Hours	8	2030/31	£ 203,180	£ 50,788	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
JCB 150X Excavator	2022/23	£139,805	3,997	Hours	9	2031/32	£ 216,573	£ 48,127	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 152,363	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
JCB 531 Teleporter	2012/13	£43,470	4,613	Hours	14	2026/27	£ 86,068	£ 12,295	£ 73,772	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 168,446	£ -	£ -	£ -
Toyota Hilux (Pump Manager)	2023/24	£27,985	28,121	Miles	5	2028/29	£ 35,717	£ 11,906	£ -	£ -	£ 23,811	£ -	£ -	£ 28,943	£ -	£ -	£ -
Toyota Hilux (Works Supervisor)	2023/24	£28,168	44,848	Miles	5	2028/29	£ 35,950	£ 11,983	£ -	£ -	£ 23,967	£ -	£ -	£ 32,118	£ -	£ -	£ -
Toyota Hilux (Maintenance Director)	2023/24	£29,143	17,858	Miles	5	2028/29	£ 37,195	£ 12,398	£ -	£ -	£ 24,796	£ -	£ -	£ 34,891	£ -	£ -	£ -
Toyota Hilux (Pump Assistant)	2023/24	£28,168	16,000	Miles	5	2028/29	£ 35,950	£ 11,983	£ -	£ -	£ 23,967	£ -	£ -	£ 35,410	£ -	£ -	£ -
Toyota Hilux (Pump Caretaker)	2025/26	£28,455		Miles	5	2026/27	£ 36,368	£ 12,123	£ -	£ -	£ 23,000	£ -	£ -	£ 33,981	£ -	£ -	£ -
Mitsubishi (Pool Vehicle)	2019/20	£20,431	67,072	Miles	?	?	?	?	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Mitsubishi (Filter)	2019/20	£20,000	63,222	Miles	6	2026/27	£ 28,768	£ 4,795	£ 50,000	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Ford Transit Tipper	2022/23	£30,271	37,037	Miles	7	2029/30	£ 29,000	£ 5,000	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 24,000	£ -	£ -	£ 70,355	£ -	£ -
Dump Trailer 1	2024/25	£13,832			15	2039/40	£ 37,500	£ 1,000	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Low Loader Trailer	2020/21	£27,000			15	2036/37	£ 56,131	£ 7,464	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Tipping Trailer	2022/23	£6,895			25	2047/48	£ 23,349	£ 1,868	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
4m Trailer	2022/23	£4,500			25	2047/48	£ 15,239	£ 1,219	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Ride on Lawnmower	2025/26	£41,882			9	2034/35	£ 64,942	£ 14,431	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Nifty Lift	2025/26	£18,500					£ 56,900	£ 5,000	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 50,510	£ -
Depot Floorsweeper							£ 7,500		£ 7,500	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Weedbaskets									£ 6,632	£ -	£ -	£ 8,934	£ 9,381	£ 9,850	£ 10,342	£ -	£ -
Net Spend from Plant Reserve Generated								£137,904	£335,198	£276,217	£211,509	£161,743	£588,367	£246,040	£501,910	£50,510	£495,240
Balance C/F								£283,550	£276,728	£290,564	£305,092	£320,347	£336,364	£353,182	£370,841	£389,383	£408,853
								£87,218	£28,748	£43,095	£136,678	£295,281	£43,278	£150,420	£19,351	£358,224	£271,837

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
2026/27 Budget and 10 Year Estimates
Updated for June 2026 Exec
July 2025 Inflation figure = 4.20%

Income	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	Budget / Estimates					
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26					2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36
Rates and Levies	2,143,773	2,204,498	2,325,594	2,982,916	3,216,348	3,398,678	3,398,074	3,555,172	3,704,973	3,860,000	4,021,995	4,190,957	4,366,886	4,549,784	4,741,390	4,939,964	5,147,247
Interest & Investment Income	16,247	11,833	17,357	54,680	73,581	80,000	94,730	80,138	83,504	87,011	90,665	94,473	98,441	102,576	106,884	111,373	116,051
Grants/Local Levy	316,986	293,500	70,000	564,016	4,660,148	8,242,637	4,704,346	560,000	5,837,856	7,822,000	19,106,000	12,696,000	10,889,000	6,287,000	3,477,900	5,767,000	4,280,000
Contribution Development Fund	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Other Income	58,526	37,224	185,928	36,836	42,466	24,401	77,878	24,916	25,963	27,053	28,189	29,373	30,607	31,893	33,232	34,628	36,082
Rechargeable Income	368,040	822,534	683,313	420,299	270,537	400,000	435,617	300,000	312,600	325,729	339,410	353,665	368,519	383,997	400,125	416,930	434,441
Solar Panel Income	17,121	16,466	21,411	23,050	19,654	24,416	25,160	25,061	26,113	27,210	28,353	29,544	30,785	32,078	33,425	34,829	36,291
TOTAL INCOME	2,925,693	3,391,655	3,308,603	4,066,797	6,287,734	12,155,130	8,740,895	4,550,287	9,996,009	12,154,004	23,619,612	17,399,012	15,789,238	11,392,326	8,797,955	11,309,723	10,055,113

Expenditure	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	Budget / Estimates					
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26					2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36
Board Funded Schemes	302,926	122,298	200,011	278,338	36,006	505,000	157,147	878,608	435,000	255,000	500,000	270,000	282,000	301,000	336,000	398,063	297,000
To Pumping Station Reserve								286,500	434,000	475,000	205,000	340,000	355,720	315,604	360,702	380,000	513,742
FDC/Local Levy Funded Schemes	141,222	475,024	68,073	476,009	642,050	7,111,028	1,134,535	2,728,913	5,837,856	7,822,000	19,106,000	12,696,000	10,889,000	6,287,000	3,477,900	5,767,000	4,280,000
IDB Recovery Fund Schemes					2,924,653	2,285,374	1,896,196	551,021									
Pumping Station Maintenance	277,891	230,367	197,746	285,396	159,380	264,433	212,852	298,467	311,003	324,065	337,676	351,858	366,636	382,035	398,081	414,800	432,222
Pumping Station Electricity Standing		38,252	68,954	160,763	152,181	152,181	152,181	153,482	159,928	166,645	173,644	180,937	188,537	196,455	204,707	213,304	222,263
Pumping Station Electricity Usage	242,779	84,558	188,138	573,829	-144,713	363,569	304,151	374,615	390,349	406,744	423,827	441,628	460,176	479,503	499,643	520,628	542,494
Insurance	53,832	66,924	68,031	95,892	99,616	107,985	118,549	118,122	123,084	128,253	133,640	139,253	145,101	151,196	157,546	164,163	171,057
Drain Maintenance	823,466	763,367	808,893	850,043	726,106	1,043,543	897,139	1,091,605	1,137,453	1,185,226	1,235,005	1,286,875	1,340,924	1,397,243	1,455,927	1,517,076	1,580,793
Environmental Works	15,873	19,578	17,808	15,041	39,069	49,069	48,777	52,132	54,321	56,603	58,980	61,457	64,038	66,728	69,530	72,451	75,494
Administration & Establishment	559,536	578,579	621,767	702,219	729,624	807,238	771,053	800,992	834,633	869,688	906,215	944,276	983,936	1,025,261	1,068,322	1,113,191	1,159,945
EA Precept	276,552	276,552	276,552	276,552	276,552	276,552	276,552	276,552	288,167	300,270	312,882	326,023	339,716	353,984	368,851	384,343	400,465
Rechargeable Expenditure	315,597	743,006	621,532	382,186	251,857	372,093	384,688	279,070	290,791	303,004	315,730	328,891	342,808	357,206	372,209	387,842	404,131
Solar Panel Expenditure	2,327	3,414	866	543	3,767	3,400	853	3,400	3,543	3,692	3,847	4,008	4,177	4,352	4,535	4,725	4,924
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3,012,001	3,369,667	3,138,371	4,096,811	5,896,148	13,331,465	6,353,673	7,893,480	10,300,128	12,296,189	23,712,445	17,371,306	15,762,768	11,317,567	8,773,951	11,337,585	10,084,560

OPENING BALANCE	1,220,944	1,234,636	1,262,024	1,432,256	1,422,242	3,813,828	3,813,828	6,200,960	2,857,767	2,563,648	2,411,462	2,318,629	2,346,335	2,372,804	2,447,563	2,471,567	2,443,705
Introduced from Plant Reserve	100,000																
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) IN YEAR	(86,308)	27,388	170,232	(10,014)	2,391,586	(1,176,336)	2,387,132	(3,343,193)	(304,119)	(142,186)	(92,833)	27,706	26,469	74,759	24,004	(27,862)	(29,437)
CLOSING BALANCE	1,234,636	1,262,024	1,432,256	1,422,242	3,813,828	2,637,493	6,200,960	2,857,767	2,553,648	2,411,462	2,318,629	2,346,335	2,372,804	2,447,563	2,471,567	2,443,705	2,414,268

Reserve % of Expenditure (Excl Grants)	45.81%	43.69%	46.68%	40.26%	72.59%	51.83%	118.81%	55.33%	57.23%	53.90%	50.33%	50.19%	48.69%	48.65%	46.67%	43.87%	41.59%
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RATE	12.84	13.16	13.71	17.53	18.84	19.59	19.59	20.41	21.27	22.16	23.09	24.06	25.07	26.12	27.22	28.36	29.55
Increase in Rates	1.90%	2.49%	4.18%	27.86%	7.47%	3.98%	3.98%	4.19%	4.21%	4.18%	4.20%	4.20%	4.20%	4.19%	4.21%	4.19%	4.20%

Proposals from Agenda Item 9

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26 Form 3

To be completed by Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other Smaller Authorities*:

- where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure exceeded £25,000 but did not exceed £15 million; or
- where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000 or less but that:
 - are unable to certify themselves as exempt (fee payable); or
 - have requested a limited assurance review (fee payable)

Guidance notes on completing Form 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26

1. Every smaller authority in England that either received gross income or incurred gross expenditure exceeding £25,000 **must** complete Form 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return at the end of each financial year in accordance with *Proper Practices*.
2. **The Annual Governance and Accountability Return is made up of three parts, pages 3 to 6:**
 - The **Annual Internal Audit Report** **must** be completed by the authority's internal auditor.
 - **Sections 1 and 2** **must** be completed and approved by the authority.
 - **Section 3** is completed by the external auditor and will be returned to the authority.
3. The authority **must** approve Section 1, Annual Governance Statement, before approving Section 2, Accounting Statements, and both **must** be approved and published on the authority website/webpage **before 1 July 2026**.
4. An authority with either gross income or gross expenditure exceeding £25,000 or an authority with neither income nor expenditure exceeding £25,000, but which is unable to certify itself as exempt, or is requesting a limited assurance review, **must** return to the external auditor by email or post (not both) **no later than 30 June 2026** Reminder letters will incur a charge of £40 +VAT:
 - the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Sections 1 and 2, together with
 - a bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2026
 - an explanation of any significant year on year variances in the accounting statements
 - notification of the commencement date of the period for the exercise of public rights
 - Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/26

Unless requested, do not send any additional documents to your external auditor. Your external auditor will ask for any additional documents needed.

Once the external auditor has completed the limited assurance review and is able to give an opinion, the Annual Governance and Accountability Return **Section 1, Section 2 and Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate** will be returned to the authority by email or post.

Publication Requirements

Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, authorities **must** publish the following information on the authority website/webpage:

Before 1 July 2026 authorities **must** publish:

- Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and a declaration that the accounting statements are as yet unaudited;
- **Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2025/26** approved and signed, page 4
- **Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2025/26** approved and signed, page 5

Not later than 30 September 2026 authorities **must** publish:

- Notice of conclusion of audit
- **Section 3 - External Auditor Report and Certificate**
- **Sections 1 and 2 of AGAR** including any amendments as a result of the limited assurance review. It is recommended as best practice, to avoid any potential confusion by local electors and interested parties, that you also publish the Annual Internal Audit Report, page 3.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return constitutes the annual return referred to in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. Throughout, the words 'external auditor' have the same meaning as the words 'local auditor' in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

*for a complete list of bodies that may be smaller authorities refer to schedule 2 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Guidance notes on completing Form 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2025/26

- The authority **must** comply with *Proper Practices* in completing Sections 1 and 2 of this AGAR. *Proper Practices* are found in the *Practitioners' Guide** which is updated from time to time and contains everything needed to prepare successfully for the financial year-end and the subsequent work by the external auditor.
- Make sure that the AGAR is complete (no highlighted boxes left empty) and is properly signed and dated. Any amendments **must** be approved by the authority and properly initialled.
- The authority **should** receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report before approving the Annual Governance Statement and the accounts.
- Use the checklist provided below to review the AGAR for completeness before returning it to the external auditor by email or post (not both) no later than 30 June 2026
- The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) **must** be approved before the Accounting Statements (Section 2) and evidenced by the agenda or minute references, even where approved on the same day.
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) **must** certify the accounts (Section 2) before they are presented to the authority for approval. The authority **must** in this order; consider, approve and sign the accounts.
- The RFO is required to commence the public rights period which **must** be a single period of 30 working days for inspection (this excludes weekends and public holidays) which **must** include the first 10 working days of July.
- You must inform your external auditor about any change of Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer or Chair, and provide relevant authority owned generic email addresses and telephone numbers.**
- Make sure that the copy of the bank reconciliation to be sent to your external auditor with the AGAR covers all the bank accounts. If the authority holds any short-term investments, note their value on the bank reconciliation. The external auditor **must** be able to agree the bank reconciliation to Box 8 on the accounting statements (**Section 2, page 5**). An explanation **must** be provided of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8. More help on bank reconciliation is available in the *Practitioners' Guide**.
- Explain fully significant variances in the accounting statements on **page 5**. Do not just send a copy of the detailed accounting records instead of this explanation. The external auditor wants to know that you understand the reasons for all variances. Include complete numerical and narrative analysis to support the full variance.
- Additional costs may be incurred if additional audit work is required.
- Make sure that the accounting statements add up and that the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2025) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2026).
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), on behalf of the authority, **must** set the commencement date for the exercise of public rights which **must** be a single period of 30 working days for inspection (this excludes weekends and public holidays) which **must** include the first 10 working days of July.
- The authority **must** publish on the authority website/webpage the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, including the period for the exercise of public rights and the name and address of the external auditor **before 1 July 2026**

Completion checklist – 'No' answers mean you may not have met requirements		Yes	No
All sections	Have all highlighted boxes have been completed?		
	Has all additional information requested, including the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights , been provided for the external auditor?		
Internal Audit Report	Have all highlighted boxes been completed by the internal auditor and explanations provided?		
Section 1	For any statement to which the response is 'no', has an explanation been published?		
Section 2	Has the Responsible Financial Officer signed the accounting statements before presentation to the authority for approval?		
	Has the authority's approval of the accounting statements been confirmed by the signature of the Chair of the approval meeting?		
	Has an explanation of significant variations been published where required?		
	Has the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2026 been reconciled to Box 8?		
	Has an explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 been provided?		
Sections 1 and 2	Trust funds – have all disclosures been made if the authority as a body corporate is a sole managing trustee? NB: do not send trust accounting statements unless requested.		

***Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices, can be downloaded from www.nalc.gov.uk or from www.ada.org.uk**

Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/26

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

www.blacksluiceidb.gov.uk

During the financial year ended 31 March 2026, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2025/26 has been carried out in accordance with this authority's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this authority.

Internal control objective	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	✓		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	✓		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
F. Cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	✓		
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	✓		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	✓		
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	✓		
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	✓		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2024/25, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2024/25 AGAR tick 'not covered')			✓
L. The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.	✓		
M. In the year covered by this AGAR, the authority correctly provided for a period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (during the 2025/26 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2024-25 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).	✓		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2024/25 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	✓		
O. The authority has complied with laws, regulations & proper practices relating to digital and data compliance.	✓		
P. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes	No	Not applicable

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

23/02/2026

24/02/2026

25/02/2026

CHRISTOPHER R. HARRIS

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit



Date

10/06/2026

*If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

**Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned; or, if coverage is not required, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26 Form 3
Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other Smaller Authorities

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

We acknowledge as the members of:

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026, that:

	Agreed		*Yes* means that this authority:
	Yes	No*	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓		<i>prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.</i>
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓		<i>made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.</i>
3. We have assured ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	✓		<i>has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.</i>
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	✓		<i>during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.</i>
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓		<i>considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.</i>
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓		<i>arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.</i>
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓		<i>responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.</i>
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	✓		<i>disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.</i>
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A
			✓
10. We have put in place arrangements for the effective IT and data management in accordance with proper practices during the year under review.	✓		<i>has made suitable arrangements for its IT and data management and has complied with proper practices in doing so.</i>

*Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

23/06/2026

and recorded as minute reference:

Signed by the Chair and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Chair

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Clerk

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

www.blacksluiceidb.gov.uk

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2025/26 for

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2025 £	31 March 2026 £	
1. Balances brought forward	1,645,695	4,487,801	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	3,216,349	3,398,074	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	5,071,387	5,342,728	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	1,508,007	1,604,960	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	3,937,623	4,863,090	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	4,487,801	6,760,553	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	5,140,702	7,634,756	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	6,845,668	7,163,710	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.
10. Total borrowings	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).
For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	
11 Do the figures in the accounting statements above exclude any trust transactions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	For guidance refer to the Practitioners' Guide sections 2.31 to 2.33.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2026 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval.



Date

11/06/2026

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

23/06/2026

as recorded in minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

Signed by Chair of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Section 3 – External Auditor’s Report and Certificate 2025/26

In respect of

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

1 Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the authority

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit**, it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02) as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – <https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/>.

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2026 and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

2 External auditor’s limited assurance opinion 2025/26

(Except for the matters reported below)* on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. (*delete as appropriate).

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

3 External auditor certificate 2025/26

We certify/do not certify* that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2026

*We do not certify completion because:

External Auditor Name

External Auditor Signature

Date

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

BOARD MEETING – 23rd JUNE 2026.

AGENDA ITEM 11(a)

PERIOD 1 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS

Income

- 36.98% of Drainage Rates have been collected in April (40.55% last year) which is £90,470 less than budgeted for the period.
- There are currently several rating accounts which require significant work to get them up to date.
- Interest & Investment Income are already slightly better than budgeted.
- Grant Income is £73,403 less than budgeted to date but this will be a timing issue as there are currently no expected amendments to this.
- Other income is £1,527 more than the budget for P01.
- This is due to an increased number of consent applications compared to previous years at this time of the year.
- Rechargeable Income is more than budgeted for the period due to additional ongoing works being completed for the EA.
- Solar income is currently £371 more than the budget.
- Overall, predominantly due to the Drainage Rates, and the timing issues relating to Grant Income, total income is £116,818 less than budgeted for April.

Expenditure

- A schemes review was included in the May Exec papers, but little has been progressed in P01, leaving an underspend of £159,805 in the accounts across all of the different types of Schemes in April.
- PS Maintenance has a slight (£197) overspend at the end of Period 01.
- Although, Electricity was £17,568 less than budgeted for the period.
- Drain Maintenance is currently £57,489 underspent.
- £38,786 underspent on Summer Cutting
- £7,918 underspent on Drain Maintenance
- £10,000 underspend on Jetting which I expect will be a timing issue.
- Environmental schemes are currently £4,701 overspent.
- I believe some of this relates to the RSPB pumping works in P01 so this will need investigating further.
- Admin and Establishment is £20,252 underspent for the period.
- However, £14,320 of this relates to expected expenditure in the Period of Office Equipment that is still yet to be purchased.
- Administration is also £4,149 underspent for the period.
- Admin salary is £2,863 underspent for the period too.
- Overall, expenditure is £218,255 less than budgeted for the period but most of this is due to the timing issues on the scheme work and the underspends on drain maintenance.

Balance Sheet

- There were four Debtors remaining from last year.
- The value of both investments improved slightly in April.

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

Project Summary

2026/27

Period 01 - April 2026

Description	Period Current Year			Year To Date					Last Year	
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance	Forecast	Variance	Actual YTD	Variance to Current Year
Rates & Levies	623,116	713,586	(90,470)	623,116	713,586	(90,470)	0	623,116	656,284	(33,168)
Interest & Grants	15,057	86,619	(71,562)	15,057	86,619	(71,562)	0	15,057	520,257	(505,200)
Other Income	5,545	4,018	1,527	5,545	4,018	1,527	0	5,545	4,038	1,507
Rechargeable Income	75,677	32,361	43,316	75,677	32,361	43,316	0	75,677	35,374	40,302
Solar Panel Income	3,045	2,674	371	3,045	2,674	371	0	3,045	3,207	(162)
Total Income	722,440	839,258	(116,818)	722,440	839,258	(116,818)	0	722,440	1,219,160	(496,720)
Schemes	0	229,000	229,000	0	229,000	229,000	0	0	(19,630)	(19,630)
Pumping Station Schemes	57,074	0	(57,074)	57,074	0	(57,074)	0	(57,074)	39,106	(17,968)
IDB Fund Schemes	12,121	0	(12,121)	12,121	0	(12,121)	0	(12,121)	44,449	32,327
Pumping Station Maintenance	37,707	37,510	(197)	37,707	37,510	(197)	0	(62,386)	31,192	(6,515)
Electricity	24,679	42,248	17,568	24,679	42,248	17,568	0	(62,386)	23,183	(1,497)
Drain Maintenance	30,544	88,033	57,489	30,544	88,033	57,489	0	(30,544)	33,294	2,750
Environmental Schemes	7,606	2,905	(4,701)	7,606	2,905	(4,701)	0	(7,606)	2,803	(4,803)
Administration & Establishment	65,342	85,594	20,252	65,342	85,594	20,252	0	(65,342)	73,236	7,895
Rechargeable Expenditure	62,066	30,103	(31,963)	62,066	30,103	(31,963)	0	(62,066)	32,260	(29,806)
Solar Panel Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	319	319
Total Expenditure	297,138	515,393	218,255	297,138	515,393	218,255	0	(297,138)	260,211	(36,927)
Surplus / (Deficit)	425,302	323,865	101,437	425,302	323,865	101,437	0	425,302	958,949	(533,647)
Movement on reserves										
Plant Reserve	(29,139)	0	29,139	(29,139)	0	29,139	(29,138)	1	(35,558)	(6,419)
Pump Engineer Oncost	212	0	(212)	212	0	(212)	0	(212)	1,164	951
Wages oncost Reserve	1,530	0	(1,530)	1,530	0	(1,530)	0	(1,530)	1,290	(240)
Surplus / (Deficit)	452,699	323,865	74,040	452,699	323,865	74,040	29,138	427,043	992,054	(527,939)

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

Drainage Rates & Special Levies

2026/27

Period 01 - April 2026

Drainage Rates & Special Levies Due

Drainage Rates

Annual Drainage Rates - Land and/or buildings	1,685,057.21	
Land/Property - Value Decreased	(133.69)	
Land/Property - Value Increased		
New Assessment	133.69	
Write Offs & Irrecoverables	(56.07)	
Adjustments required for Special Levy		
Summons Collection Costs		
Balance	1,685,001.14	47.40%

Special Levies

Boston Borough Council	1,357,420.12	
South Holland District Council	257,039.46	
North Kesteven District Council	155,912.19	
South Kesteven District Council	99,110.14	
	1,869,481.91	52.60%

Total Due	3,554,483.05	100.00%
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Drainage Rates & Special Levies Collected

B/F Arrears/(Allowances)	(11,329.25)	
Payments Posted	634,445.51	
Returned Amount		36.98%
Paid Refund		
Bourne North Fen Trust Contribution		
Special Levies Received	0.00	0.00%
Total Received	623,116.26	

Drainage Rates & Special Levies Debtors

Special Levy Outstanding	1,869,481.91	100.00%
Drainage Rates Outstanding	1,061,884.88	63.02%
	2,931,366.79	

3,554,483.05

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

Income & Expenditure Summary

2026/27

Period 01 - April 2026

	This Year	Last Year	Variance
Drainage Rates	623,116	656,284	(33,168)
Recoverable	75,677	35,374	40,302
Misc Income	20,652	524,369	(503,717)
Solar Panel Income	3,045	3,207	(162)
	722,490	1,219,234	(496,744)
Employment Costs	144,145	140,855	(3,289)
Property	30,281	36,250	5,969
General Expenses	22,307	33,508	11,200
Materials / Stock	1,153	517	(636)
Motor & Plant	17,733	68,172	50,439
Miscellaneous	54,172	(52,122)	(106,295)
Recharges	(59,843)	(53,986)	5,857
Plant	59,843	53,986	(5,857)
Total Expenditure	269,791	227,180	(42,611)
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	452,699	454,361	(1,662)

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

Balance Sheet at Period End

2026/27

Period 01 - April 2026

	<u>This Year</u>		<u>Last Year</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Operational Land & Buildings Cost	1,009,350		1,009,350	
Pumping Stations Cost	3,861,354		3,861,354	
Non-operational Property Cost	165,000		165,000	
Vehicles, Plant & Machinery Cost	1,628,006		1,344,293	
Fixed Assets		6,663,710		6,379,997
Stock	94,727		106,130	
Debtors Control	155,899		86,286	
VAT	264,376		178,540	
Car Loans	2,480		5,064	
Prepayments	121,934		112,600	
Drawings Bank Account	(612,042)		(296,668)	
Call Bank Account	410,000		410,000	
Petty Cash	380		434	
Highland Water	(8)		(4,155)	
Work in Progress	(93,918)		(121,363)	
Brewin Dolphin Investment	456,700		426,306	
Natwest Reserve Account	2,073,828		4,559,437	
Natwest 35 Day Notice Account	5,500,000		1,000,000	
Total Current Assets		8,374,354		6,462,610
Trade Creditors	107,866		41,046	
PAYE & NI Control Account	(42,222)		(37,164)	
Superannuation Contrl Account	(27,587)		(29,456)	
Accruals	(732,428)		(571,504)	
Suspense	(0)		(0)	
Total Liabilities		(694,370)		(597,078)
Pension Liability		1,881,000		1,471,000
		16,224,694		13,716,529
Capital Reserve	6,663,708		6,345,666	
Pension Reserve	1,881,000		1,471,000	
Brewin Dolphin Revaluation	(43,300)		(73,694)	
Total Capital		8,501,408		7,742,972
Revenue Reserve	6,200,960		3,813,828	
Development Reserve	693,960		659,284	
Plant Reserve	(38,428)		189,573	
Wages Oncost Reserve	414,094		318,819	
General Reserve	452,699		992,054	
Total Reserves		7,723,286		5,973,557
		16,224,694	0	13,716,529
<u>Cash & Bank Balances</u>				
Drawings Account		(612,042)		
Call Account		10,000	410,000	
Natwest Reserve Account @ 1.16% wef 09/03/2026		2,073,828		
Natwest 35 Day Notice Account @ 2.00% wef 09/03/2026		5,500,000		
Petty Cash		380		
Loughborough BS @ 4.00%		200,000	12 Month Fixed Term Deposit	
Vernon BS @ 4.00%		200,000	12 Month Fixed Term Deposit	
		7,372,165		

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board Investment Summary 2026/27 Period 01 - April 2026

PORTFOLIO P1684056 VALUATION DATE 20 May 2026

30 Apr 2025 - 30 Apr 2026

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

LAST 12 MONTHS PERFORMANCE
12.38%

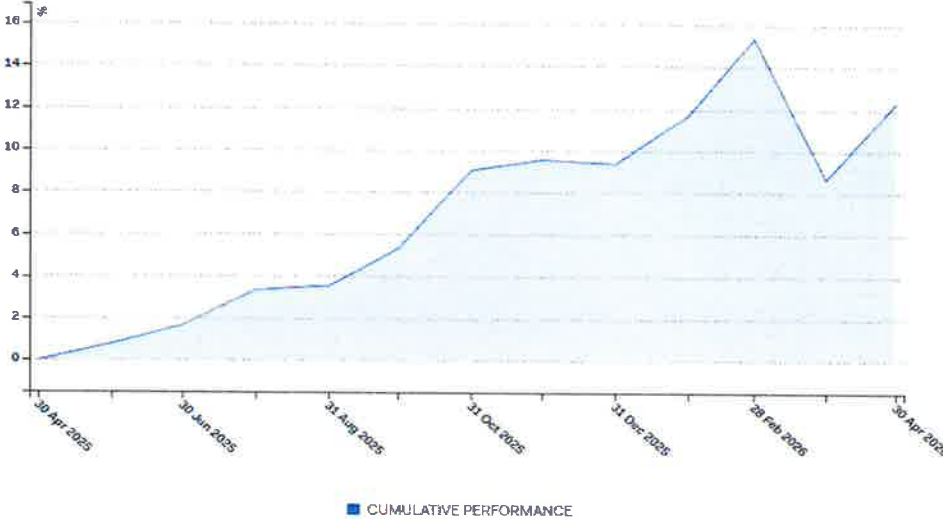
TOTAL VALUE
456,700.26 GBP

ESTIMATED ANNUAL INCOME
11,742.75 GBP

PERFORMANCE

CUMULATIVE PERIODIC

CHART
Gross



PORTFOLIO SUMMARY

BOOK COST	OVERALL GAIN OR LOSS	ESTIMATED ANNUAL INCOME	ESTIMATED YIELD %
418,957.24 GBP	9.01%↑	11,742.75 GBP	2.57%↑

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board BFF Investment Summary 2026/27 Period 01 - April 2026

PORTFOLIO: BLACK0962 VALUATION DATE: 20 May 2026

30 Apr 2025 - 30 Apr 2026

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

LAST 12 MONTHS PERFORMANCE

14.24%

TOTAL VALUE

356,780.07 GBP

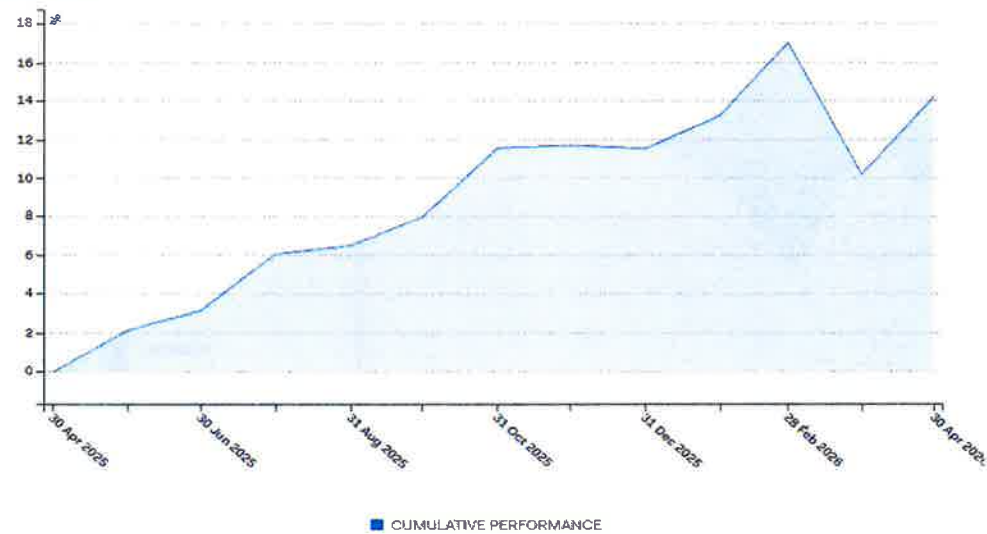
ESTIMATED ANNUAL INCOME

10,182.91 GBP

PERFORMANCE

CHART
Gross

CUMULATIVE PERIODIC



PORTFOLIO SUMMARY

BOOK COST

314,198.64 GBP

OVERALL GAIN OR LOSS

13.55%↑

ESTIMATED ANNUAL INCOME

10,182.91 GBP

ESTIMATED YIELD %

2.86%↑

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

BOARD MEETING – 23rd JUNE 2026

AGENDA ITEM 11(b)

DRAINAGE RATES REPORT

1. Drainage Rate Revaluations

Listed below recommendation for drainage rate revaluations:

Account Ref	Location of Revaluation	Description	Existing Valuation	Proposed Valuation	Write Off
2073	Ralphs Lane, Frampton	Remaining glasshouses decommissioned.	£4,082	£832	£663.33

2. Drainage Rate Write Offs

Listed below write off values to be authorised by the Board:

Account Ref	Location of Land	Description	Write Off
3835	Morley Lane, Bicker	Property including garden is less than half an acre and therefore is not due to pay drainage rates. The property has also been in the process of renovation and has been liable to pay Council Tax since August 2024. Write off for 2026/27 and the two previous years and move to Special Levy for 2027/28 onwards.	£11.77
2073	Ralphs Lane, Frampton	Property that used to be part of the farm was sold in February 2019. Total area including the property is less than half an acre (0.37) and therefore is not due to pay drainage rates. Write off for 2026/27 and move to Special Levy for 2027/28 onwards.	£5.71

**BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
BOARD MEETING - 23rd JUNE 2026
AGENDA ITEM 12 - RISK REGISER**

Objectives	Ref	Risk	Potential Impact of Risk	Potential Likelihood of Risk	Risk Score
To provide and maintain standards of sound needs based sustainable flood protection.	1.1	Being unable to prevent flooding to property or land (a) Coastal flooding from failure or overtopping of defences	High	Low	3
	1.1	(b) Fluvial flooding from failure or overtopping of defences	High	Medium	6
	1.1	(c) Flooding from failure of IDB pumping stations or excess rainfall	High	Medium	6
	1.1	(d) Flooding from sewers or riparian watercourses	Medium	Low	2
	1.1	(e) Emergency Discharge from the South Lincolnshire Reservoir	High	Medium	6
	1.2	Risk of loss of reputation or being found negligent due to Emergency Actions	Medium	Medium	4
	1.3	Loss of Electrical Supply	High	Low	3
	1.4	Risk of failure of Board's Pumping Stations	High	Medium	6
	1.5	Board Watercourses being unable to convey water	Medium	Medium	4
	1.6	Operating machinery to maintain watercourses	Medium	Low	2
	1.7	Claims from third parties for damage to property or injury	Medium	Low	2
	1.8	Third Parties damage to Board maintained assets	Medium	Low	2
	1.9	Unplanned loss of senior staff	Medium	Low	2
	1.10	(a) Insufficient finance to carry out works	High	Medium	6
1.10	(b) Impact of local government reform - Members and Finance	Low	Medium	3	
To conserve and enhance the environment wherever practical and possible to ensure there is no net loss of biodiversity.	2.1	Prosecution for not adhering to environmental legislation	Medium	Low	2
	2.2	Non delivery of objectives	Low	Low	1
To provide a 24 hour/365 day emergency response for the community	3.1	Emergency Plan inadequate or not up to date	Low	Low	1
	3.2	Insufficient resources (Staff and Equipment)	Medium	Low	2
	3.3	Critical incident loss of office	High	Low	3
To provide a safe and fulfilling working environment for staff.	4.1	Injury to staff and subsequent claims and losses	Medium	Low	2
	4.2	Not complying with Health and Safety legislation	High	Low	3
To maintain financial records that are correct and comply with all recommended accounting practice.	5.1	Loss of cash	Low	Low	1
	5.2	Loss of money invested in building societies, banks and managed funds	High	Low	3
	5.3	Fraud by senior officers	Low	Low	1
	5.4	Inadequacy of Internal Checks	Medium	Low	2
	5.5	Fraudulent use of credit cards	Low	Low	1
To ensure that all actions taken by the Board comply with all current UK and EU legislation	6.1	Board Members in making decisions	Low	Low	1
	6.2	Not complying with all employment regulations and laws	Medium	Low	2
A cost efficient IDB that provides a Value for Money service.	7.1	Collecting insufficient income to fund expenditure	Medium	Low	2
	7.2	IDB abolished or taken over	Low	Low	1
Information Technology and Communications	8.1	Loss of telemetry	Medium	Low	2
	8.2	Loss of telephone Communications	Low	Low	1
	8.3	Loss of Internet Connection	Medium	Low	2
	8.4	Network Failure	High	Low	3
	8.5	Breach in Cyber Security inc. risk of virus being introduced to network	High	Low	3
	8.6	Network Security Breach	High	Low	3
	8.7	Loss of accounting records	Low	Low	1
	8.8	Loss of rating records	High	Low	3

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

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From 01/02/2026 To 28/02/2026

Purchase Ledger Payments & Adjustments**Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board****Payments & Adjustments From 01/02/2026 To 28/02/2026**

Page 1

Account	Date	Type	Ref 1	Ref 2	Value	Details
PAY001	01/02/2026	Payment	P10	Direct Deb	-7.20	takepayments Limited
BAR005	01/02/2026	Payment	P10	Direct Deb	-15.76	Barclaycard Merchant Services
BAR005	01/02/2026	Payment	P10	Direct Deb	-10.00	Barclaycard Merchant Services
QUI001	01/02/2026	Payment	P10	Direct Deb	-82.80	Quickline Communications Ltd
TOM002	01/02/2026	Payment	P10	Direct Deb	-234.28	Webfleet Solutions SalesB.V.UK
CRO004	01/02/2026	Payment	P10	Bacs	-45.25	CROP LOSS
CRO004	01/02/2026	Payment	P10	Bacs	-127.50	CROP LOSS
THE002	01/02/2026	Payment	P10	Direct Deb	-562.47	The Electric Car Scheme
ELA001	01/02/2026	Payment	P10	Direct Deb	-33.00	Elavon
ELA001	01/02/2026	Payment	P10	Direct Deb	-33.00	Elavon
WOL001	01/02/2026	Payment	P10	Direct Deb	-44253.70	Woldmarsh Producers Ltd
BOC001	01/02/2026	Payment	P10	Direct Deb	-414.96	BOC
ALD001	01/02/2026	Payment	P10	Direct Deb	-1222.99	ALD Automotive Ltd
VOD001	01/02/2026	Payment	P10	Direct Deb	-70.22	Vodafone Ltd
EVE002	01/02/2026	Payment	P10	Direct Deb	-616.04	Everything Everywhere
BOS001	01/02/2026	Payment	P10	Direct Deb	-2969.00	Boston Borough Council (Rates)
PIT001	01/02/2026	Payment	P10	Direct Deb	-210.50	Pitney Bowes Ltd
NAT004	01/02/2026	Payment	P10	Direct Deb	-9.20	Natwest
NAT004	01/02/2026	Payment	P10	Direct Deb	-8.05	Natwest
ALA001	12/02/2026	Payment	546444	Bacs	-2851.20	Alarmline Security Ltd
AMA001	12/02/2026	Payment	GB648J7ABEY	Bacs	-16.58	Amazon Business EU
ANG102	12/02/2026	Payment	16159619	Bacs	-19.44	Anglian Water (Holland Fen PS)
ANG105	12/02/2026	Payment	15865336	Bacs	-19.44	Anglian Water (Wyberton Marsh)
ASH001	12/02/2026	Payment	28667049	Bacs	-698.88	Sunbelt Rentals Ltd
BOS005	12/02/2026	Payment	SLINV/00003197	Bacs	-500.00	Boston College
CEF001	12/02/2026	Payment	BOS/405287	Bacs	-24.00	CEF (Boston)
CRA004	12/02/2026	Payment	29056	Bacs	-325.92	Craftwork Engineering Ltd

Account	Date	Type	Ref 1	Ref 2	Value	Details
ESR001	12/02/2026	Payment	UK-SIN055838	Bacs	-6581.06	ESRI Ltd
FOR001	12/02/2026	Payment	073507	Bacs	-478.80	Forceshift Ltd
FOV001	12/02/2026	Payment	SINV00296078	Bacs	-75.84	Lincolnshire Office FriendsLtd
HAR001	12/02/2026	Payment	23211720	Bacs	-507.30	TC Harrison JCB
HBP001	12/02/2026	Payment	SIN500291	Bacs	-2318.33	HBP Systems Ltd
HUW001	12/02/2026	Payment	Z0559904	Bacs	-30.50	Huws Gray (Buildbase)
IBB001	12/02/2026	Payment	119403	Bacs	-114.42	Arthur Ibbett Limited
INL001	12/02/2026	Payment	2026-P10	Bacs	-33443.80	HM Revenue & Customs
KIO001	12/02/2026	Payment	SIP-1510393	Bacs	-147.26	Kiowa Ltd
LIN002	12/02/2026	Payment	2026-P10	Bacs	-29055.02	Lincolnshire C C Pension Fund
LIN028	12/02/2026	Payment	INV-29361	Bacs	-504.00	Lincolnshire Waste Oil
MAR008	12/02/2026	Payment	FM.21303	Bacs	-4000.00	H.W.Martin (Farms) LLP
MOT001	12/02/2026	Payment	BTT244164	Bacs	-258.58	Motor Parts Direct Limited
PEO001	12/02/2026	Payment	CI106771	Bacs	-264.60	Rocksure Systems T/A Peoplesaf
PER003	12/02/2026	Payment	76427	Bacs	-29193.97	Perfect Circle JV Ltd
SHI001	12/02/2026	Payment	IN76820	Bacs	-156.00	Shire Toilet Hire Ltd
SIL001	12/02/2026	Payment	TIN0019565	Bacs	-186.00	Silt Side Services Ltd
STA005	12/02/2026	Payment	SI-047003	Bacs	-6548.90	Stark Connect Ltd
TFM001	12/02/2026	Payment	297219	Bacs	-737.09	TFM Supplies
TMC001	12/02/2026	Payment	27489	Bacs	-234.68	TMC Lifting
TRA006	12/02/2026	Payment	2010578120	Bacs	-165.49	Trade UK
WEL004	12/02/2026	Payment	4512	Bacs	-12126.54	Wells Plant Hire
WIT004	12/02/2026	Payment	0320/32102426	Bacs	-250.08	Witham Timber
WOR003	12/02/2026	Payment	41674	Bacs	-1977.27	Workforce Unlimited
AMA001	26/02/2026	Payment	GB60147FUBFEPI	Bacs	-3.99	Amazon Business EU
ANG105	26/02/2026	Payment	16234394	Bacs	-21.96	Anglian Water (Wyberton Marsh)
AQU004	26/02/2026	Payment	HH-0126-11	Bacs	-3363.60	Aqua Mech Ltd
ASH001	26/02/2026	Payment	28667046	Bacs	-1758.24	Sunbelt Rentals Ltd
ASS003	26/02/2026	Payment	SINV000218932	Bacs	-208.00	Association of Accounting Tech
BOO002	26/02/2026	Payment	SI-251	Bacs	-2000.00	J N Booth and Sons
BOS002	26/02/2026	Payment	32929	Bacs	-897.60	Boston Commercial Cleaners Ltd
BOS005	26/02/2026	Payment	SLINV/00003185	Bacs	-470.00	Boston College
CHI002	26/02/2026	Payment	247090	Bacs	-1275.06	Chisletts Ltd

Account	Date	Type	Ref 1	Ref 2	Value	Details
COU002	26/02/2026	Payment	221022262(5)	Bacs	-40202.05	Coulstock & Place Eng Co. Ltd
COU003	26/02/2026	Payment	INV-3071	Bacs	-811.20	A Country Kitchen
COU005	26/02/2026	Payment	571140	Bacs	-58.40	Countrywise Water Coolers Ltd
CRA004	26/02/2026	Payment	29123	Bacs	-322.80	Craftwork Engineering Ltd
ESS001	26/02/2026	Payment	INV-2021	Bacs	-606.70	Essential Supplies Lincs
HAR001	26/02/2026	Payment	23569369	Bacs	-1234.14	TC Harrison JCB
HAR003	26/02/2026	Payment	318104	Bacs	-1215.37	Hargrave Agriculture
HBP001	26/02/2026	Payment	SCR000080	Bacs	-8911.22	HBP Systems Ltd
HUB002	26/02/2026	Payment	2574	Bacs	-2226.00	Hub Rural Ltd
HUW001	26/02/2026	Payment	Z0569837	Bacs	-82.08	Huws Gray (Buildbase)
INT002	26/02/2026	Payment	6613	Bacs	-98556.00	InterLec
IRE001	26/02/2026	Payment	238687	Bacs	-6.00	Irelands Farm Machinery Ltd
JAC002	26/02/2026	Payment	IFR34623	Bacs	-336592.36	Jackson Civil Engineering
KIO001	26/02/2026	Payment	SIP-1511163	Bacs	-43.78	Kiowa Ltd
LIN002	26/02/2026	Payment	2004416450	Bacs	-242.46	Lincolnshire C C Pension Fund
NAT001	26/02/2026	Payment	26007410	Bacs	-120611.26	National Grid
NEW005	26/02/2026	Payment	12744/02	Bacs	-5544.00	The Newbrook Engineering CoLtd
ORI001	26/02/2026	Payment	INV-101727	Bacs	-412.80	Oriel Systems Ltd
PER001	26/02/2026	Payment	AL2039	Bacs	-150516.00	Perry's Pumps Ltd
PER003	26/02/2026	Payment	73383	Bacs	-10196.35	Perfect Circle JV Ltd
PET003	26/02/2026	Payment	19982	Bacs	-314.50	Peter Smith Commercials Ltd
PIT001	26/02/2026	Payment	P10	Bacs	-629.50	Pitney Bowes Ltd
SHI001	26/02/2026	Payment	IN77206	Bacs	-144.00	Shire Toilet Hire Ltd
TMC001	26/02/2026	Payment	27554	Bacs	-434.79	TMC Lifting
TRA006	26/02/2026	Payment	2010973051	Bacs	-402.04	Trade UK
WIT001	26/02/2026	Payment	INV05473	Bacs	-1234.84	Witham Fourth IDB
WIT002	26/02/2026	Payment	INV/2026/02/0806	Bacs	-961.74	Witham Oil & Paint
WOO001	26/02/2026	Payment	992079	Bacs	-401.28	WBM Office Solutions Limited
WOR003	26/02/2026	Payment	41729	Bacs	-1977.27	Workforce Unlimited

Account	Date	Type	Ref 1	Ref 2	Value	Details
				Total Payments	-979626.29	
				Total Discounts		
				Total Adjustments		
				Total Refunds		
				Total	-979626.29	

Payments

Bacs	-928873.12	Cheque		Direct Deb	-50753.17	Chargecard
Bulk Bacs						

Adjustments


Disc		Contra SL				
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Refunds

Refund						
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 Chief Executive



 Finance Manager

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

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From 01/03/2026 To 31/03/2026

Purchase Ledger Payments & Adjustments**Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board****Payments & Adjustments From 01/03/2026 To 31/03/2026**

Page 1

Account	Date	Type	Ref 1	Ref 2	Value	Details
BNP001	01/03/2026	Payment	P11	Direct Deb	-1107.42	BNP Paribas Leasing Solutions
LEX001	01/03/2026	Payment	P11	Direct Deb	-862.74	LEX Autolease Ltd
PAY001	01/03/2026	Payment	P11	Direct Deb	-7.20	takepayments Limited
ROY001	01/03/2026	Payment	P11	Direct Deb	-6060.00	Roythornes LLP
BAR005	01/03/2026	Payment	P11	Direct Deb	-15.76	Barclaycard Merchant Services
BAR005	01/03/2026	Payment	P11	Direct Deb	-10.00	Barclaycard Merchant Services
QUI001	01/03/2026	Payment	P11	Direct Deb	-82.80	Quickline Communications Ltd
TOM002	01/03/2026	Payment	P11	Direct Deb	-240.02	Webfleet Solutions SalesB.V.UK
CRO004	01/03/2026	Refund	P11	Refund	172.75	CROP LOSS
BRI001	01/03/2026	Payment	P11	Direct Deb	-197.22	British Telecom
ELA001	01/03/2026	Payment	P11	Direct Deb	-33.00	Elavon
ELA001	01/03/2026	Payment	P11	Direct Deb	-33.00	Elavon
THE002	01/03/2026	Payment	P11	Direct Deb	-560.91	The Electric Car Scheme
WOL001	01/03/2026	Payment	P11	Direct Deb	-72517.15	Woldmarsh Producers Ltd
PIT001	01/03/2026	Payment	P11	Direct Deb	-410.50	Pitney Bowes Ltd
ALD001	01/03/2026	Payment	P11	Direct Deb	-1222.99	ALD Automotive Ltd
VOD001	01/03/2026	Payment	P11	Direct Deb	-70.22	Vodafone Ltd
NAT004	01/03/2026	Payment	P11	Direct Deb	-9.85	Natwest
NAT004	01/03/2026	Payment	P11	Direct Deb	-6.30	Natwest
COM002	01/03/2026	Refund	P11	Refund	377.44	4Com Network Services Ltd
IRE001	01/03/2026	Adjust	P11	Contra SL	-84000.00	Irelands Farm Machinery Ltd
ASH001	12/03/2026	Payment	28735728	Bacs	-2720.11	Sunbelt Rentals Ltd
BOS002	12/03/2026	Payment	32972	Bacs	-1122.00	Boston Commercial Cleaners Ltd
BUR007	12/03/2026	Payment	D20625	Bacs	-37014.00	Ben Burgess Swineshead
CHA002	12/03/2026	Payment	Members Travel 24/25	Bacs	-1452.15	Chairmans account
CHI002	12/03/2026	Payment	247925	Bacs	-1301.52	Chisletts Ltd
COP002	12/03/2026	Payment	INV-63623	Bacs	-159.34	Cope Safety Management Ltd.

Account	Date	Type	Ref 1	Ref 2	Value	Details
COU005	12/03/2026	Payment	571379	Bacs	-49.18	Countrywise Water Coolers Ltd
CRA004	12/03/2026	Payment	29232	Bacs	-1700.23	Craftwork Engineering Ltd
CRP001	12/03/2026	Payment	BSIDBWINDOWS27/02/26	Bacs	-40.00	C & P Cleaning Services
FOV001	12/03/2026	Payment	SINV00299046	Bacs	-613.43	Lincolnshire Office FriendsLtd
GRI001	12/03/2026	Payment	006561	Bacs	-9360.00	Gritblast UK
HAL005	12/03/2026	Payment	55725	Bacs	-3677.94	Hallgate (Lincs) Limited
HAL006	12/03/2026	Payment	INV-2704	Bacs	-96.00	Halls Plumbing & Heating S Ltd
HAR001	12/03/2026	Payment	23569467	Bacs	-2028.76	TC Harrison JCB
HAR003	12/03/2026	Payment	318617	Bacs	-1069.55	Hargrave Agriculture
HBP001	12/03/2026	Payment	SIN100303	Bacs	-202.44	HBP Systems Ltd
INL001	12/03/2026	Payment	2026-P11	Bacs	-33985.92	HM Revenue & Customs
JAC002	12/03/2026	Payment	IFR34822	Bacs	-103782.01	Jackson Civil Engineering
KIO001	12/03/2026	Payment	SIP-1511673	Bacs	-208.24	Kiowa Ltd
LIG001	12/03/2026	Payment	L26/19	Bacs	-1656.00	Lighthouse UK Consultancy Ltd
LIN002	12/03/2026	Payment	2026-P11	Bacs	-29492.36	Lincolnshire C C Pension Fund
LIN007	12/03/2026	Payment	2025 Lincs Show	Bacs	-500.00	Lincs ADA
LON004	12/03/2026	Payment	RDL/189	Bacs	-1800.00	Longstaff
MAR008	12/03/2026	Payment	FM.21315	Bacs	-4000.00	H.W.Martin (Farms) LLP
NFU001	12/03/2026	Payment	1184162737	Bacs	-168.49	NFU Insurance
ORS001	12/03/2026	Payment	SIN028534	Bacs	-383.04	Orsis (UK) Ltd
PET003	12/03/2026	Payment	20373	Bacs	-158.40	Peter Smith Commercials Ltd
RUS002	12/03/2026	Payment	0993	Bacs	-1500.00	RUSSFUSS UK
STA004	12/03/2026	Payment	1085874827	Bacs	-825.60	Stannah
TFM001	12/03/2026	Payment	297757	Bacs	-595.22	TFM Supplies
TMC001	12/03/2026	Payment	27414	Bacs	-118.66	TMC Lifting
TRA006	12/03/2026	Payment	2011374499	Bacs	-160.45	Trade UK
VIP001	12/03/2026	Payment	INV-13080	Bacs	-73633.20	VIP Communications Ltd
WIT002	12/03/2026	Payment	INV/2026/03/0161	Bacs	-692.95	Witham Oil & Paint
WOR003	12/03/2026	Payment	41781	Bacs	-1755.18	Workforce Unlimited
ADC001	30/03/2026	Payment	INV-15298	Bacs	-19215.00	ADC (East Anglia) Ltd
AMA001	30/03/2026	Payment	GB6HLHQABEY	Bacs	-329.99	Amazon Business EU
ASH001	30/03/2026	Payment	28822268	Bacs	-550.80	Sunbelt Rentals Ltd
BLU001	30/03/2026	Payment	37232	Bacs	-30.60	Blue Line Trailers

Account	Date	Type	Ref 1	Ref 2	Value	Details
BOO002	30/03/2026	Payment	SI-255	Bacs	-2500.00	J N Booth and Sons
BOS002	30/03/2026	Payment	33021	Bacs	-942.48	Boston Commercial Cleaners Ltd
BUR007	30/03/2026	Payment	D21427	Bacs	-49.46	Ben Burgess Swineshead
BUS002	30/03/2026	Payment	BO222264	Bacs	-559.82	B A Bush & Sons Ltd
CAJ001	30/03/2026	Payment	21153	Bacs	-50.00	C & J Supplies
COO003	30/03/2026	Payment	58789	Bacs	-194.40	Chris Cook Print
COP002	30/03/2026	Payment	INV-63773	Bacs	-159.34	Cope Safety Management Ltd.
CRA004	30/03/2026	Payment	29315	Bacs	-17.98	Craftwork Engineering Ltd
ENG001	30/03/2026	Payment	72172	Bacs	-9604.81	Engineering & Hire Ltd
ESS001	30/03/2026	Payment	INV-2215	Bacs	-1470.89	Essential Supplies Lincs
GRI001	30/03/2026	Payment	006565	Bacs	-7680.00	Gritblast UK
HAL006	30/03/2026	Payment	INV-3026	Bacs	-342.00	Halls Plumbing & Heating S Ltd
HUW001	30/03/2026	Payment	IM658215	Bacs	-814.18	Huws Gray (Buildbase)
IBB001	30/03/2026	Payment	122437	Bacs	-3761.44	Arthur Ibbett Limited
IMP001	30/03/2026	Payment	INV-0045	Bacs	-200.00	1st Impressions Print Ltd
INL001	30/03/2026	Payment	2026-P12	Bacs	-33190.90	HM Revenue & Customs
INT002	30/03/2026	Payment	6631	Bacs	-39576.00	InterLec
IRE001	30/03/2026	Payment	166661	Bacs	-4759.40	Irelands Farm Machinery Ltd
LIN002	30/03/2026	Payment	2026-P12	Bacs	-28295.56	Lincolnshire C C Pension Fund
LIS001	30/03/2026	Payment	16598737	Bacs	-563.41	Listers Toyota Boston
LON003	30/03/2026	Payment	0020/00012251	Bacs	-78.88	Longwater Construction
NAT001	30/03/2026	Payment	26013189	Bacs	-1572.00	National Grid
NFU001	30/03/2026	Payment	1184200559	Bacs	-609.94	NFU Insurance
NOT001	30/03/2026	Payment	793887	Bacs	-251.30	Hugh Crane(Cleaning Equipment)
SHI001	30/03/2026	Payment	IN77641	Bacs	-30.00	Shire Toilet Hire Ltd
SPE002	30/03/2026	Payment	74221	Bacs	-33732.00	J E Spence & Son Ltd
SPS001	30/03/2026	Payment	9000137230	Bacs	-86.29	SP Services (UK) Ltd
STA004	30/03/2026	Payment	1085881082	Bacs	-306.08	Stannah
TRA006	30/03/2026	Payment	2011765915	Bacs	-528.41	Trade UK
VEH001	30/03/2026	Payment	265902	Bacs	-42.00	Vehicle Refinishing Specialist
WIT001	30/03/2026	Payment	INV05499	Bacs	-4285.41	Witham Fourth IDB
WIT002	30/03/2026	Payment	INV/2026/03/0564	Bacs	-517.86	Witham Oil & Paint
WOR003	30/03/2026	Payment	41832	Bacs	-1977.27	Workforce Unlimited

Account	Date	Type	Ref 1	Ref 2	Value	Details
COM002	31/03/2026	Refund	P12	Refund	377.44	4Com Network Services Ltd
BNP001	31/03/2026	Payment	P12	Direct Deb	-1107.42	BNP Paribas Leasing Solutions
EVE002	31/03/2026	Payment	P12	Direct Deb	-613.55	Everything Everywhere
LEX001	31/03/2026	Payment	P12	Direct Deb	-862.74	LEX Autolease Ltd
PAY001	31/03/2026	Payment	P12	Direct Deb	-7.20	takepayments Limited
BAR005	31/03/2026	Payment	P12	Direct Deb	-15.76	Barclaycard Merchant Services
BAR005	31/03/2026	Payment	P12	Direct Deb	-10.00	Barclaycard Merchant Services
QUI001	31/03/2026	Payment	P12	Direct Deb	-82.80	Quickline Communications Ltd
TOM002	31/03/2026	Payment	P12	Direct Deb	-240.02	Webfleet Solutions SalesB.V.UK
ELA001	31/03/2026	Payment	P12	Direct Deb	-33.00	Elavon
ELA001	31/03/2026	Payment	P12	Direct Deb	-33.00	Elavon
GRO002	31/03/2026	Payment	P12	Bacs	-33694.00	Group 1 Toyota Nottingham
THE002	31/03/2026	Payment	P12	Direct Deb	-608.28	The Electric Car Scheme
WOL001	31/03/2026	Payment	P12	Direct Deb	-123088.36	Woldmarsh Producers Ltd
ALD001	31/03/2026	Payment	P12	Direct Deb	-1228.99	ALD Automotive Ltd
BOC001	31/03/2026	Payment	P12	Direct Deb	-289.67	BOC
VOD001	31/03/2026	Payment	P12	Direct Deb	-70.22	Vodafone Ltd
EVE002	31/03/2026	Payment	P12	Direct Deb	-665.20	Everything Everywhere
NAT004	31/03/2026	Payment	P12	Direct Deb	-8.05	Natwest
NAT004	31/03/2026	Payment	P12	Direct Deb	-6.30	Natwest
PIT001	31/03/2026	Payment	P12	Direct Deb	-148.22	Pitney Bowes Ltd
BRI001	31/03/2026	Refund	P12	Refund	663.36	British Telecom

Account	Date	Type	Ref 1	Ref 2	Value	Details
				Total Payments	-763158.13	
				Total Discounts		
				Total Adjustments	-84000.00	
				Total Refunds	1590.99	
				Total	-845567.14	

Payments

Bacs	-550592.27	Cheque		Direct Deb	-212565.86	Chargecard
Bulk Bacs						

Adjustments


Disc		Contra SL	-84000.00			
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Refunds

Refund	1590.99					
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 Chief Executive



 Finance Manager

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

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From 01/04/2026 To 30/04/2026

Purchase Ledger Payments & Adjustments**Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board****Payments & Adjustments From 01/04/2026 To 30/04/2026**

Page 1

Account	Date	Type	Ref 1	Ref 2	Value	Details
AMA001	17/04/2026	Payment	GB60010HW72UDI	Bacs	-815.90	Amazon Business EU
ANG101	17/04/2026	Payment	16389833	Bacs	-237.83	Anglian Water (Swineshead HQ)
ANG103	17/04/2026	Payment	16403632	Bacs	-19.04	Anglian Water (Black Hole PS)
ASS003	17/04/2026	Payment	SINV000225273	Bacs	-195.00	Association of Accounting Tech
BLA001	17/04/2026	Payment	30-2112-9	Bacs	-364.09	Black Sluice IDB
BOS020	17/04/2026	Payment	215 25 26	Bacs	-882.00	Boston & North Wash Training
CAJ001	17/04/2026	Payment	21242	Bacs	-90.00	C & J Supplies
CRP001	17/04/2026	Payment	BSIDBWINDOWS09/04/26	Bacs	-40.00	C & P Cleaning Services
DIC001	17/04/2026	Payment	INV-10883	Bacs	-440.00	D & J Dickinson
EME002	17/04/2026	Payment	INV-013099	Bacs	-2646.00	EME Power Systems
ENV001	17/04/2026	Payment	EST000011972A	Bacs	-15.00	Environment Agency
EVA001	17/04/2026	Payment	IDB095	Bacs	-755.00	Noel Evans Window Cleaning
FLE001	17/04/2026	Payment	7078	Bacs	-2520.00	Fleet Sense Ltd
FOR001	17/04/2026	Payment	075101	Bacs	-244.80	Forceshift Ltd
HAR003	17/04/2026	Payment	319133	Bacs	-475.37	Hargrave Agriculture
HBP001	17/04/2026	Payment	SPF000138	Bacs	-4185.00	HBP Systems Ltd
HUW001	17/04/2026	Payment	IM902719	Bacs	-225.83	Huws Gray (Buildbase)
IDS001	17/04/2026	Payment	53158	Bacs	-535.51	iD Specialist Machinery
INS002	17/04/2026	Payment	10014356-2026	Bacs	-140.00	Institute of Leadership&Mngmnt
MAR008	17/04/2026	Payment	FM.21325	Bacs	-3000.00	H.W.Martin (Farms) LLP
MIL002	17/04/2026	Payment	MTI-87271	Bacs	-27.00	Mill Tyres
NAT001	17/04/2026	Payment	26016971	Bacs	-122670.29	National Grid
OVI001	17/04/2026	Payment	40211	Bacs	-23022.00	Ovivo UK Ltd
PEA001	17/04/2026	Payment	335102	Bacs	-391.81	Pearson Hydraulics Ltd
PER003	17/04/2026	Payment	73385	Bacs	-15981.40	Perfect Circle JV Ltd
PIT001	17/04/2026	Payment	91115284	Bacs	-179.80	Pitney Bowes Ltd
RUS002	17/04/2026	Payment	1001	Bacs	-320.00	RUSSFUSS UK

Account	Date	Type	Ref 1	Ref 2	Value	Details
SPE002	17/04/2026	Payment	74336	Bacs	-40482.00	J E Spence & Son Ltd
STA005	17/04/2026	Payment	SI-048707	Bacs	-84.00	Stark Connect Ltd
TFM001	17/04/2026	Payment	298152	Bacs	-592.95	TFM Supplies
VIP001	17/04/2026	Payment	INV-13299	Bacs	-12000.00	VIP Communications Ltd
WOO001	17/04/2026	Payment	992302	Bacs	-205.36	WBM Office Solutions Limited
WOR003	17/04/2026	Payment	41910	Bacs	-1993.72	Workforce Unlimited
COM002	01/04/2026	Refund	P01	Refund	371.99	4Com Network Services Ltd
BNP001	01/04/2026	Payment	P01	Direct Deb	-1107.42	BNP Paribas Leasing Solutions
LEX001	01/04/2026	Payment	P01	Direct Deb	-862.74	LEX Autolease Ltd
PAY001	07/04/2026	Payment	P01	Direct Deb	-7.20	takepayments Limited
NFU001	09/04/2026	Refund	P01	Refund	71.56	NFU Insurance
PIT001	09/04/2026	Payment	P01	Direct Deb	-410.50	Pitney Bowes Ltd
BAR005	10/04/2026	Payment	P01	Direct Deb	-15.76	Barclaycard Merchant Services
BAR005	10/04/2026	Payment	P01	Direct Deb	-10.00	Barclaycard Merchant Services
PIT001	10/04/2026	Payment	P01	Direct Deb	-410.50	Pitney Bowes Ltd
QUI001	13/04/2026	Payment	P01	Direct Deb	-82.80	Quickline Communications Ltd
TOM002	14/04/2026	Payment	P01	Direct Deb	-240.02	Webfleet Solutions SalesB.V.UK
ELA001	20/04/2026	Payment	P01	Direct Deb	-33.00	Elavon
WOL001	20/04/2026	Payment	P01	Direct Deb	-142210.62	Woldmarsh Producers Ltd
THE002	20/04/2026	Payment	P01	Direct Deb	-562.01	The Electric Car Scheme
ALD001	24/04/2026	Payment	P01	Direct Deb	-1222.99	ALD Automotive Ltd
BOC001	24/04/2026	Payment	P01	Direct Deb	-595.92	BOC
VOD001	24/04/2026	Payment	P01	Direct Deb	-75.33	Vodafone Ltd
EVE002	28/04/2026	Payment	P01	Direct Deb	-732.22	Everything Everywhere
BOS001	28/04/2026	Payment	P01	Direct Deb	-2617.00	Boston Borough Council (Rates)
NAT004	30/04/2026	Payment	P01	Direct Deb	-7.70	Natwest
NAT004	30/04/2026	Payment	P01	Direct Deb	-9.45	Natwest

Account	Date	Type	Ref 1	Ref 2	Value	Details
				Total Payments	-386989.88	
				Total Discounts		
				Total Adjustments		
				Total Refunds	443.55	
				Total	-386546.33	

Payments


Bacs	-235776.70	Cheque	Direct Deb	-151213.18	Chargecard
Bulk Bacs					

Adjustments

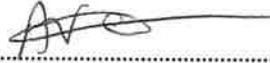
Disc		Contra SL			
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Refunds

Refund	443.55				
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 Chief Executive



 Finance Manager

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

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From 01/05/2026 To 31/05/2026

Purchase Ledger Payments & Adjustments**Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board****Payments & Adjustments From 01/05/2026 To 31/05/2026**

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Account	Date	Type	Ref 1	Ref 2	Value	Details
ALA001	01/05/2026	Payment	547569	Bacs	-103.67	Alarmline Security Ltd
BAT003	01/05/2026	Payment	77027	Bacs	-102.00	Bates Environmental Ltd
BOS005	01/05/2026	Payment	SLINV/00003333	Bacs	-110.40	Boston College
BUR007	01/05/2026	Payment	D22059	Bacs	-50.52	Ben Burgess Swineshead
CEF001	01/05/2026	Payment	BOS/411121	Bacs	-104.46	CEF (Boston)
COU005	01/05/2026	Payment	575108	Bacs	-107.31	Countrywise Water Coolers Ltd
CRA004	01/05/2026	Payment	29525	Bacs	-115.23	Craftwork Engineering Ltd
ESS001	01/05/2026	Payment	INV-2367	Bacs	-384.80	Essential Supplies Lincs
FLE001	01/05/2026	Payment	18095	Bacs	-60.00	Fleet Sense Ltd
HBP001	01/05/2026	Payment	SIN500887	Bacs	-177.12	HBP Systems Ltd
INT002	01/05/2026	Payment	6642	Bacs	-127716.00	InterLec
JAC002	01/05/2026	Payment	IFR35283	Bacs	-446066.32	Jackson Civil Engineering
LIN002	01/05/2026	Payment	2004420126	Bacs	-250.14	Lincolnshire C C Pension Fund
LIN019	01/05/2026	Payment	M26-013	Bacs	-327.82	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
LIS001	01/05/2026	Payment	16598919	Bacs	-637.00	Listers Toyota Boston
MAS001	01/05/2026	Payment	ESI004460	Bacs	-4902.97	Mastenbroek Environmental Ltd
MAS003	01/05/2026	Payment	19861	Bacs	-1200.00	Masons (Rural) Co
MIL002	01/05/2026	Payment	MTI-87864	Bacs	-2178.00	Mill Tyres
ORI001	01/05/2026	Payment	INV-101722	Bacs	-18441.10	Oriel Systems Ltd
PER003	01/05/2026	Payment	73384	Bacs	-10209.79	Perfect Circle JV Ltd
PHM001	01/05/2026	Payment	2600610	Bacs	-283.00	PHMOT
SPE002	01/05/2026	Payment	74335	Bacs	-5346.00	J E Spence & Son Ltd
TRA002	01/05/2026	Payment	1041569520	Bacs	-757.49	Travis Perkins Trading Co Ltd.
UNI007	01/05/2026	Payment	U0014561	Bacs	-314.80	United Lincolnshire Hospitals
WOR003	01/05/2026	Payment	41962	Bacs	-2096.49	Workforce Unlimited
AMA001	14/05/2026	Payment	GB6V7MZABEY	Bacs	-266.19	Amazon Business EU
ANG102	14/05/2026	Payment	16524701	Bacs	-19.14	Anglian Water (Holland Fen PS)

Account	Date	Type	Ref 1	Ref 2	Value	Details
AW001	14/05/2026	Payment	INV-18304	Bacs	-159.34	AW Safety Management Ltd
AZT001	14/05/2026	Payment	004709	Bacs	-118.92	Aztec Signs
BOO002	14/05/2026	Payment	SI-261	Bacs	-2000.00	J N Booth and Sons
BOS002	14/05/2026	Payment	33065	Bacs	-936.00	Boston Commercial Cleaners Ltd
CAJ001	14/05/2026	Payment	21482	Bacs	-64.22	C & J Supplies
CEF001	14/05/2026	Payment	BOS/411923	Bacs	-35.17	CEF (Boston)
CHI002	14/05/2026	Payment	250384	Bacs	-1701.20	Chisletts Ltd
COU005	14/05/2026	Payment	575360	Bacs	-78.72	Countrywise Water Coolers Ltd
CRA004	14/05/2026	Payment	29615	Bacs	-5.42	Craftwork Engineering Ltd
ENG001	14/05/2026	Payment	72664	Bacs	-246.48	Engineering & Hire Ltd
FOV001	14/05/2026	Payment	SINV00304696	Bacs	-395.21	Lincolnshire Office FriendsLtd
HAR001	14/05/2026	Payment	23570286	Bacs	-2064.36	TC Harrison JCB
HAR003	14/05/2026	Payment	319541	Bacs	-457.12	Hargrave Agriculture
HUW001	14/05/2026	Payment	IN199849	Bacs	-43.01	Huws Gray (Buildbase)
INL001	14/05/2026	Payment	2026-P01	Bacs	-42221.60	HM Revenue & Customs
IRE001	14/05/2026	Payment	239321	Bacs	-1209.76	Irelands Farm Machinery Ltd
KIO001	14/05/2026	Payment	SIP-1514725	Bacs	-323.07	Kiowa Ltd
LIN002	14/05/2026	Payment	2026-P01	Bacs	-27586.64	Lincolnshire C C Pension Fund
LON003	14/05/2026	Payment	0020/00012961	Bacs	-268.92	Longwater Construction
LON004	14/05/2026	Payment	RAS/98	Bacs	-500.00	Longstaff
MAR008	14/05/2026	Payment	FM.21350	Bacs	-4000.00	H.W.Martin (Farms) LLP
MIL002	14/05/2026	Payment	MTI-87983	Bacs	-2136.00	Mill Tyres
PEO001	14/05/2026	Payment	CI115589	Bacs	-289.95	Rocksure Systems T/APeoplesaf
PET003	14/05/2026	Payment	20815	Bacs	-138.00	Peter Smith Commercials Ltd
SHI001	14/05/2026	Payment	IN80427	Bacs	-190.80	Shire Toilet Hire Ltd
SPS001	14/05/2026	Payment	9000139743	Bacs	-42.05	SP Services (UK) Ltd
TRA006	14/05/2026	Payment	2012775444	Bacs	-277.45	Trade UK
VIM001	14/05/2026	Payment	102436	Bacs	-420.00	Vimartech Training Ltd
WIT004	14/05/2026	Payment	0320/32103779	Bacs	-14.40	Witham Timber
WOO001	14/05/2026	Payment	992460	Bacs	-205.26	WBM Office Solutions Limited
WOR003	14/05/2026	Payment	42028	Bacs	-1838.24	Workforce Unlimited
STR002	03/05/2026	Payment	P01	Direct Deb	-0.71	Stripe Payments Europe Limited
STR002	03/05/2026	Payment	P01	Direct Deb	-24.36	Stripe Payments Europe Limited

Account	Date	Type	Ref 1	Ref 2	Value	Details
STR002	03/05/2026	Payment	P01	Direct Deb	-504.75	Stripe Payments Europe Limited
STR002	03/05/2026	Payment	P01	Direct Deb	-113.03	Stripe Payments Europe Limited
COM002	01/05/2026	Refund	P01	Refund	371.83	4Com Network Services Ltd
BNP001	01/05/2026	Payment	P01	Direct Deb	-1107.42	BNP Paribas Leasing Solutions
LEX001	01/05/2026	Payment	P01	Direct Deb	-862.74	LEX Autolease Ltd
CRO004	28/05/2026	Payment	P02	Bacs	-130.75	CROP LOSS
CRO004	28/05/2026	Payment	P02	Bacs	-91.50	CROP LOSS
CRO004	28/05/2026	Payment	P02	Bacs	-158.38	CROP LOSS
CRO004	28/05/2026	Payment	P02	Bacs	-171.74	CROP LOSS
CRO004	28/05/2026	Payment	P02	Bacs	-173.71	CROP LOSS
CRO004	28/05/2026	Payment	P02	Bacs	-59.47	CROP LOSS
CRO004	28/05/2026	Payment	P02	Bacs	-18.60	CROP LOSS
CRO004	28/05/2026	Payment	P02	Bacs	-20.44	CROP LOSS
CRO004	28/05/2026	Payment	P02	Bacs	-118.69	CROP LOSS
CRO004	28/05/2026	Payment	P02	Bacs	-10.74	CROP LOSS
CRO004	28/05/2026	Payment	P02	Bacs	-67.07	CROP LOSS
CRO004	28/05/2026	Payment	P02	Bacs	-68.38	CROP LOSS
ADC001	28/05/2026	Payment	INV-15341	Bacs	-9945.00	ADC (East Anglia) Ltd
ANG105	28/05/2026	Payment	16599613	Bacs	-24.86	Anglian Water (Wyberton Marsh)
AW001	28/05/2026	Payment	INV-18700	Bacs	-159.34	AW Safety Management Ltd
BOO002	28/05/2026	Payment	SI-268	Bacs	-2500.00	J N Booth and Sons
BOS002	28/05/2026	Payment	33098	Bacs	-936.00	Boston Commercial Cleaners Ltd
BUR007	28/05/2026	Payment	D22530	Bacs	-69.18	Ben Burgess Swineshead
BUS002	28/05/2026	Payment	BO222977	Bacs	-162.51	B A Bush & Sons Ltd
CRA004	28/05/2026	Payment	29617	Bacs	-10.80	Craftwork Engineering Ltd
CRP001	28/05/2026	Payment	BSIDBWINDOWS19/05/26	Bacs	-40.00	C & P Cleaning Services
DAW002	28/05/2026	Payment	33671	Bacs	-2273.38	Dawson Construction Plant Ltd
ENV001	28/05/2026	Payment	2026-223524	Bacs	-138276.00	Environment Agency
HAR001	28/05/2026	Payment	23570402	Bacs	-806.84	TC Harrison JCB
HGV001	28/05/2026	Payment	VBCV504250	Bacs	-79.10	Alliance Automotive T/A NAPA A
IRE001	28/05/2026	Payment	239520	Bacs	-730.60	Irelands Farm Machinery Ltd
KIO001	28/05/2026	Payment	SIP-1516067	Bacs	-298.74	Kiowa Ltd
KWM001	28/05/2026	Payment	17905	Bacs	-5996.64	K & W Mechanical Services Ltd

Account	Date	Type	Ref 1	Ref 2	Value	Details
LON003	28/05/2026	Payment	0020/00013591	Bacs	-48.52	Longwater Construction
MAR008	28/05/2026	Payment	FM.21358	Bacs	-4000.00	H.W.Martin (Farms) LLP
MID001	28/05/2026	Payment	13508253	Bacs	-801.30	Midlands Truck & Van Ltd
NFU001	28/05/2026	Payment	1185787054	Bacs	-2626.74	NFU Insurance
PER003	28/05/2026	Payment	73386	Bacs	-46366.94	Perfect Circle JV Ltd
PHI003	28/05/2026	Payment	0000230067	Bacs	-274.80	Phillips Animal Health Ltd
TMC001	28/05/2026	Payment	27881	Bacs	-109.64	TMC Lifting
TRA006	28/05/2026	Payment	2013000301	Bacs	-182.83	Trade UK
WOR003	28/05/2026	Payment	42096	Bacs	-1853.42	Workforce Unlimited

Account	Date	Type	Ref 1	Ref 2	Value	Details
				Total Payments	-934570.73	
				Total Discounts		
				Total Adjustments		
				Total Refunds	371.83	
				Total	-934198.90	

Payments


Bacs	-931957.72	Cheque		Direct Deb	-2613.01	Chargecard
Bulk Bacs						

Adjustments


Disc		Contra SL				
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Refunds

Refund	371.83					
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 Chief Executive



 Finance Manager

Woldmarsh Invoice January 2026

Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross	Codes		Dates		Actual/ Estimate
						From	To	
Woldmarsh	1154.00	230.80	1384.80	4105	3006			
NPower	1174.66	234.93	1409.59	2003	2014	26/11/2025	25/12/2025	Actual
NPower	837.95	167.59	1005.54	2003	2019	26/11/2025	25/12/2025	Actual
NPower	295.24	59.05	354.29	2003	2027	26/11/2025	25/12/2025	Actual
Npower	213.10	10.66	223.76	2003	2031	26/11/2025	25/12/2025	Actual
NPower	269.53	53.91	323.44	2003	2026	26/11/2025	25/12/2025	Actual
NPower	962.86	192.57	1155.43	2003	2015	26/11/2025	25/12/2025	Actual
NPower	406.37	81.27	487.64	2003	2023	26/11/2025	25/12/2025	Actual
NPower	214.90	10.74	225.64	2003	2033	26/11/2025	25/12/2025	Actual
NPower	61.23	3.06	64.29	2003	2029	26/11/2025	25/12/2025	Actual
NPower	279.46	55.89	335.35	2003	2024	26/11/2025	25/12/2025	Actual
NPower	138.39	6.92	145.31	2003	2001	26/11/2025	25/12/2025	Actual
NPower	131.16	6.56	137.72	2003	2002	26/11/2025	25/12/2025	Actual
NPower	557.45	111.49	668.94	2003	2025	26/11/2025	25/12/2025	Actual
NPower	813.83	162.77	976.60	2003	5001	26/11/2025	25/12/2025	Actual
NPower	100.79	5.04	105.83	2003	2034	26/11/2025	25/12/2025	Estimate
NPower	1283.45	256.69	1540.14	2003	2007	01/12/2025	31/12/2025	H/H
NPower	888.84	177.77	1066.61	2003	5001	26/11/2025	25/12/2025	Actual
NPower	2914.34	582.87	3497.21	2003	2032	01/12/2025	31/12/2025	H/H
NPower	2162.96	432.59	2595.55	2003	2013	01/12/2025	31/12/2025	H/H
NPower	2211.36	442.27	2653.63	2003	2004	01/12/2025	31/12/2025	H/H
NPower	1039.86	207.97	1247.83	2003	2020	01/12/2025	31/12/2025	H/H
NPower	3803.69	760.74	4564.43	2003	2021/2022	01/12/2025	31/12/2025	H/H
NPower	3262.32	652.46	3914.78	2003	2005	01/12/2025	31/12/2025	H/H
NPower	884.28	176.86	1061.14	2003	2017	01/12/2025	31/12/2025	H/H
NPower	4996.06	999.21	5995.27	2003	2028	01/12/2025	31/12/2025	H/H
NPower	859.28	171.86	1031.14	2003	2003	01/12/2025	31/12/2025	H/H
NPower	3693.72	738.74	4432.46	2003	2030	01/12/2025	31/12/2025	H/H
NPower	2883.62	576.72	3460.34	2003	2018	01/12/2025	31/12/2025	H/H
NPower	3441.40	688.28	4129.68	2003	2006	01/12/2025	31/12/2025	H/H
NPower	2804.40	560.88	3365.28	2003	2010	01/12/2025	31/12/2025	H/H
NPower	450.15	22.66	472.81	2003	2016	01/12/2025	31/12/2025	H/H
NPower	4355.83	871.17	5227.00	2003	2011	01/12/2025	31/12/2025	H/H
NPower	1744.56	348.91	2093.47	2003	2012	01/12/2025	31/12/2025	H/H
NPower	1920.04	384.01	2304.05	2003	2009	01/12/2025	31/12/2025	H/H
NPower	-813.83	-162.77	-976.60	2003	5001	26/11/2025	25/12/2025	Actual
Phillips Animal Health Ltd	109.50	21.90	131.40	4001	7811			
Fox Aggregates	353.40	70.68	424.08	4001	1506			
Fox Aggregates	312.12	62.42	374.54	4003	1506			
UK Fuels Ltd	59.18	11.84	71.02	5006	9118			
UK Fuels Ltd	47.75	9.55	57.30	5006	9133			
UK Fuels Ltd	29.15	5.83	34.98	5006	9133			
UK Fuels Ltd	67.94	13.59	81.53	5006	9135			
UK Fuels Ltd	54.36	10.87	65.23	5006	9134			
UK Fuels Ltd	150.18	30.04	180.22	5006	9120			
UK Fuels Ltd	182.97	36.59	219.56	5006	9120			
UK Fuels Ltd	7.87	1.57	9.44	5006	9140			
UK Fuels Ltd	63.32	12.66	75.98	5006	9140			
UK Fuels Ltd	58.30	11.66	69.96	5006	9114			
UK Fuels Ltd	68.27	13.65	81.92	5006	9133			
UK Fuels Ltd	68.61	13.72	82.33	5006	9135			
UK Fuels Ltd	159.61	31.93	191.54	5006	9120			
UK Fuels Ltd	102.41	20.49	122.90	5006	9120			
UK Fuels Ltd	7.83	1.57	9.40	5006	9140			
UK Fuels Ltd	21.11	4.22	25.33	5006	9140			
UK Fuels Ltd	55.17	11.03	66.20	5006	9118			
UK Fuels Ltd	67.51	13.50	81.01	5006	9133			
UK Fuels Ltd	70.04	14.01	84.05	5006	9135			
UK Fuels Ltd	65.23	13.05	78.28	5006	9134			
UK Fuels Ltd	107.70	21.53	129.23	5006	9120			
UK Fuels Ltd	54.21	10.83	65.04	5006	9120			
UK Fuels Ltd	179.48	35.89	215.37	5006	9120			
UK Fuels Ltd	62.92	12.58	75.50	5006	9140			
UK Fuels Ltd	72.00	14.40	86.40	5006	9140			
UK Fuels Ltd	54.50	10.90	65.40	5006	9114			
Yu Energy Retail Ltd	748.97	37.45	786.42	2004	5001			
Tool Station Ltd	134.58	26.92	161.50	3012	2050			
Rix Petroleum Ltd	4694.75	938.95	5633.70	C001				

£ 60,688.19 £ 11,828.96 £ 72,517.15

Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross
Woldmarsh	1154.00	230.80	1384.80
NPower	51243.25	10052.34	61295.59
Phillips Animal Health Ltd	109.50	21.90	131.40
Fox Aggregates	665.52	133.10	798.62
UK Fuels Ltd	1937.62	387.50	2325.12
Yu Energy Retail Ltd	748.97	37.45	786.42

Woldmarsh Invoice February 2026

Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross	Codes		Dates		Actual/ Estimate
						From	To	
Arraquip Ltd	1469.00	293.80	1762.80	2001	1510			
Arraquip Ltd	1469.00	293.80	1762.80	2001	1512			
Arraquip Ltd	1469.00	293.80	1762.80	2001	1514			
Arraquip Ltd	1469.01	293.80	1762.81	2001	1515			
Arraquip Ltd	1469.01	293.80	1762.81	2001	1516			
Breedon Southern Ltd	734.70	146.94	881.64	4002	1506			
Breedon Southern Ltd	734.70	146.94	881.64	4002	1506			
B A Bush & Sons Ltd	728.00	145.60	873.60	5001	9131			
NPower	473.30	94.66	567.96	2003	2031	26/12/2025	25/01/2026	Actual
NPower	64.77	3.24	68.01	2003	2029	26/12/2025	25/01/2026	Actual
NPower	568.09	113.62	681.71	2003	2026	26/12/2025	25/01/2026	Actual
Npower	100.82	5.04	105.86	2003	2001	26/12/2025	25/01/2026	Actual
NPower	495.32	99.06	594.38	2003	2025	26/12/2025	25/01/2026	Actual
NPower	326.80	65.36	392.16	2003	2027	26/12/2025	25/01/2026	Estimate
NPower	312.94	62.59	375.53	2003	2033	26/12/2025	25/01/2026	Actual
NPower	325.75	65.15	390.90	2003	2002	26/12/2025	25/01/2026	Actual
NPower	1377.53	275.51	1653.04	2003	2015	26/12/2025	25/01/2026	Actual
NPower	653.81	130.76	784.57	2003	2024	26/12/2025	25/01/2026	Actual
NPower	764.65	152.93	917.58	2003	2014	26/12/2025	25/01/2026	Actual
NPower	935.52	187.10	1122.62	2003	5001	26/12/2025	25/01/2026	Actual
NPower	382.76	76.55	459.31	2003	2019	26/12/2025	25/01/2026	Actual
NPower	109.03	5.45	114.48	2003	2034	26/12/2025	25/01/2026	Estimate
NPower	200.59	10.03	210.62	2003	2023	26/12/2025	25/01/2026	Actual
NPower	1272.94	254.59	1527.53	2003	2017	01/01/2026	31/01/2026	H/H
NPower	1272.04	254.41	1526.45	2003	2003	01/01/2026	31/01/2026	H/H
NPower	7183.76	1436.75	8620.51	2003	2011	01/01/2026	31/01/2026	H/H
NPower	3071.27	614.25	3685.52	2003	2013	01/01/2026	31/01/2026	H/H
NPower	1679.03	335.81	2014.84	2003	2020	01/01/2026	31/01/2026	H/H
NPower	5314.98	1063.00	6377.98	2003	2030	01/01/2026	31/01/2026	H/H
NPower	2709.39	541.88	3251.27	2003	2012	01/01/2026	31/01/2026	H/H
NPower	6081.73	1216.35	7298.08	2003	2006	01/01/2026	31/01/2026	H/H
NPower	4949.68	989.94	5939.62	2003	2004	01/01/2026	31/01/2026	H/H
NPower	2755.02	551.00	3306.02	2003	2009	01/01/2026	31/01/2026	H/H
NPower	4786.25	957.25	5743.50	2003	2010	01/01/2026	31/01/2026	H/H
NPower	4216.20	843.24	5059.44	2003	2018	01/01/2026	31/01/2026	H/H
NPower	5764.23	1152.85	6917.08	2003	2005	01/01/2026	31/01/2026	H/H
NPower	2881.87	576.37	3458.24	2003	2007	01/01/2026	31/01/2026	H/H
NPower	5057.33	1011.47	6068.80	2003	2032	01/01/2026	31/01/2026	H/H
NPower	7645.77	1529.15	9174.92	2003	2028	01/01/2026	31/01/2026	H/H
NPower	457.14	23.01	480.15	2003	2016	01/01/2026	31/01/2026	H/H
NPower	6572.85	1314.57	7887.42	2003	2021/2022	01/01/2026	31/01/2026	H/H
Rix Petroleum Ltd	5439.20	1087.84	6527.04	C001				
Fox Aggregates	315.52	63.10	378.62	4003	1515			
Fox Aggregates	876.30	175.26	1051.56	4001	1515			
Fox Aggregates	1791.70	358.34	2150.04	4001	1515			
Fox Aggregates	595.70	119.14	714.84	4001	1515			
UK Fuels Ltd	60.05	12.01	72.06	5006	9118			
UK Fuels Ltd	70.96	14.19	85.15	5006	9135			
UK Fuels Ltd	61.13	12.22	73.35	5006	9134			
UK Fuels Ltd	143.98	28.80	172.78	5006	9120			
UK Fuels Ltd	216.58	43.32	259.90	5006	9120			
UK Fuels Ltd	60.11	12.02	72.13	5006	9114			
UK Fuels Ltd	58.97	11.79	70.76	5006	9118			
UK Fuels Ltd	58.46	11.69	70.15	5006	9133			
UK Fuels Ltd	65.58	13.12	78.70	5006	9135			
UK Fuels Ltd	66.23	13.25	79.48	5006	9134			
UK Fuels Ltd	146.32	29.26	175.58	5006	9120			
UK Fuels Ltd	73.33	14.67	88.00	5006	9140			
UK Fuels Ltd	57.36	11.47	68.83	5006	9118			
UK Fuels Ltd	45.81	9.16	54.97	5006	9133			
UK Fuels Ltd	55.30	11.06	66.36	5006	9135			
UK Fuels Ltd	5.79	1.16	6.95	5006	9134			
UK Fuels Ltd	62.71	12.54	75.25	5006	9134			
UK Fuels Ltd	162.23	32.46	194.69	5006	9120			
UK Fuels Ltd	133.32	26.66	159.98	5006	9120			
UK Fuels Ltd	67.46	13.49	80.95	5006	9140			
UK Fuels Ltd	7.81	1.56	9.37	5006	9140			
UK Fuels Ltd	58.59	11.72	70.31	5006	9136			
UK Fuels Ltd	161.89	32.38	194.27	5006	9118			
UK Fuels Ltd	66.15	13.23	79.38	5006	9133			
UK Fuels Ltd	70.82	14.16	84.98	5006	9135			
UK Fuels Ltd	55.33	11.07	66.40	5006	9134			
UK Fuels Ltd	114.50	22.89	137.39	5006	9120			
UK Fuels Ltd	149.93	29.98	179.91	5006	9120			
UK Fuels Ltd	61.04	12.21	73.25	5006	9140			
UK Fuels Ltd	51.69	10.34	62.03	5006	9114			
Yu Energy Retail Ltd	1024.71	51.24	1075.95	2004	5001			

£ 102,818.14 £ 20,270.22 £ 123,088.36

Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross
Arraquip Ltd	7345.02	1469.00	8814.02
Breedon Southern Ltd	1469.40	293.88	1763.28
B A Bush & Sons Ltd	728.00	145.60	873.60
NPower	80763.16	16012.94	96776.10
Rix Petroleum Ltd	5439.20	1087.84	6527.04
Fox Aggregates	3579.22	715.84	4295.06

Woldmarsh Invoice March 2026

Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross	Codes	Dates		Actual/ Estimate	
					From	To		
Arraquip Ltd	114.80	22.96	137.76	4001	1510/1516			
Breedon Southern Ltd	870.00	174.00	1044.00	4002	7811			
Calders & Grandidge	1316.00	263.20	1579.20	C001				
John Davidson (Pipes) Ltd	4410.53	882.11	5292.64	4101	7811			
H & L Services Ltd	623.45	124.70	748.15	3008	5001			
NPower	-200.59	-10.03	-210.62	2003	2023	26/12/2025	25/01/2026	Actual
NPower	-495.32	-99.06	-594.38	2003	2025	26/12/2025	25/01/2026	Actual
NPower	-764.65	-152.93	-917.58	2003	2014	26/12/2025	25/01/2026	Actual
NPower	95.81	4.79	100.60	2003	2001	26/01/2026	25/02/2026	Actual
NPower	65.14	3.26	68.40	2003	2029	26/01/2026	25/02/2026	Actual
NPower	2023.96	404.79	2428.75	2003	2014	26/12/2025	25/01/2026	Actual
NPower	1879.21	375.84	2255.05	2003	2019	26/01/2026	25/02/2026	Actual
NPower	777.99	155.60	933.59	2003	5001	26/01/2026	25/02/2026	Actual
NPower	109.42	5.47	114.89	2003	2034	26/01/2026	25/02/2026	Estimate
NPower	810.31	162.06	972.37	2003	2031	26/01/2026	25/02/2026	Actual
NPower	908.61	181.72	1090.33	2003	2025	26/12/2025	25/01/2026	Actual
NPower	972.27	194.45	1166.72	2003	2026	26/01/2026	25/02/2026	Actual
NPower	1210.93	242.19	1453.12	2003	2024	26/01/2026	25/02/2026	Actual
NPower	330.67	66.13	396.80	2003	2027	26/01/2026	25/02/2026	Estimate
NPower	2671.85	534.37	3206.22	2003	2014	26/01/2026	25/02/2026	Actual
NPower	609.34	121.87	731.21	2003	2023	26/12/2025	25/01/2026	Actual
NPower	2077.34	415.47	2492.81	2003	2015	26/01/2026	25/02/2026	Actual
NPower	607.05	121.41	728.46	2003	2002	26/01/2026	25/02/2026	Actual
NPower	6549.34	1309.87	7859.21	2003	2030	01/02/2026	28/02/2026	H/H
NPower	4503.54	900.71	5404.25	2003	2010	01/02/2026	28/02/2026	H/H
NPower	7061.80	1412.36	8474.16	2003	2006	01/02/2026	28/02/2026	H/H
NPower	5716.76	1143.35	6860.11	2003	2004	01/02/2026	28/02/2026	H/H
NPower	5658.71	1131.74	6790.45	2003	2032	01/02/2026	28/02/2026	H/H
NPower	6228.57	1245.71	7474.28	2003	2005	01/02/2026	28/02/2026	H/H
NPower	2561.93	512.39	3074.32	2003	2013	01/02/2026	28/02/2026	H/H
NPower	2633.10	526.62	3159.72	2003	2009	01/02/2026	28/02/2026	H/H
NPower	7713.18	1542.64	9255.82	2003	2021/2022	01/02/2026	28/02/2026	H/H
NPower	9137.60	1827.52	10965.12	2003	2028	01/02/2026	28/02/2026	H/H
NPower	7697.90	1539.58	9237.48	2003	2011	01/02/2026	28/02/2026	H/H
NPower	1682.01	336.40	2018.41	2003	2020	01/02/2026	28/02/2026	H/H
NPower	2424.35	484.87	2909.22	2003	2012	01/02/2026	28/02/2026	H/H
NPower	1421.94	284.39	1706.33	2003	2025	26/01/2026	25/02/2026	Actual
NPower	1078.23	215.65	1293.88	2003	2023	26/01/2026	25/02/2026	Actual
NPower	508.86	101.77	610.63	2003	2033	26/01/2026	25/02/2026	Actual
NPower	1161.37	232.27	1393.64	2003	2017	01/02/2026	28/02/2026	H/H
NPower	404.37	20.35	424.72	2003	2016	01/02/2026	28/02/2026	H/H
NPower	4293.91	858.78	5152.69	2003	2018	01/02/2026	28/02/2026	H/H
NPower	3378.07	675.61	4053.68	2003	2007	01/02/2026	28/02/2026	H/H
NPower	1518.93	303.79	1822.72	2003	2003	01/02/2026	28/02/2026	H/H
Rix Petroleum Ltd	6949.20	1389.84	8339.04	C001				
Rix Petroleum Ltd	50.00	10.00	60.00	C001				
Total Aggregates Ltd	734.89	146.99	881.88	4003	1515			
Travis Perkins	75.00	15.00	90.00	C001				
Travis Perkins	150.00	30.00	180.00	C001				
Fox Aggregates	1789.40	357.88	2147.28	4003	1515			
Fox Aggregates	122.56	24.51	147.07	4003	7813			
Fox Aggregates	122.56	24.51	147.07	4003	7814			
Fox Aggregates	122.56	24.51	147.07	4003	7815			
Fox Aggregates	122.56	24.51	147.07	4003	7816			
Fox Aggregates	122.56	24.52	147.08	4003	7817			
UK Fuels Ltd	65.17	13.03	78.20	5006	9118			
UK Fuels Ltd	55.91	11.18	67.09	5006	9135			
UK Fuels Ltd	63.98	12.80	76.78	5006	9134			
UK Fuels Ltd	59.75	11.95	71.70	5006	9134			
UK Fuels Ltd	161.72	32.34	194.06	5006	9120			
UK Fuels Ltd	129.39	25.87	155.26	5006	9120			
UK Fuels Ltd	54.63	10.93	65.56	5006	9136			
UK Fuels Ltd	65.07	13.01	78.08	5006	9114			
UK Fuels Ltd	73.84	14.76	88.60	5006	9118			
UK Fuels Ltd	72.21	14.44	86.65	5006	9135			
UK Fuels Ltd	53.93	10.78	64.71	5006	9134			
UK Fuels Ltd	7.80	1.56	9.36	5006	9140			
UK Fuels Ltd	76.12	15.22	91.34	5006	9140			
UK Fuels Ltd	25.16	5.03	30.19	5006	9140			
UK Fuels Ltd	55.04	11.01	66.05	5006	9136			
UK Fuels Ltd	65.68	13.14	78.82	5006	9133			
UK Fuels Ltd	74.14	14.83	88.97	5006	9134			
UK Fuels Ltd	72.77	14.55	87.32	5006	9134			
UK Fuels Ltd	188.34	37.68	226.02	5006	9120			
UK Fuels Ltd	62.42	12.48	74.90	5006	9114			
UK Fuels Ltd	71.12	14.22	85.34	5006	9118			
UK Fuels Ltd	20.01	4.00	24.01	5006	9133			
UK Fuels Ltd	83.29	16.66	99.95	5006	9135			
UK Fuels Ltd	81.45	16.29	97.74	5006	9134			
UK Fuels Ltd	64.28	12.86	77.14	5006	9134			
UK Fuels Ltd	185.39	37.07	222.46	5006	9120			
UK Fuels Ltd	154.75	30.95	185.70	5006	9120			
UK Fuels Ltd	79.43	15.88	95.31	5006	9140			
UK Fuels Ltd	76.41	15.28	91.69	5006	9136			
UK Fuels Ltd	87.66	17.53	105.19	5006	9158			
UK Fuels Ltd	28.11	5.62	33.73	5006	9158			
UK Fuels Ltd	87.09	17.42	104.51	5006	9134			
UK Fuels Ltd	206.80	41.37	248.17	5006	9120			
UK Fuels Ltd	207.26	41.46	248.72	5006	9120			
UK Fuels Ltd	93.27	18.65	111.92	5006	9140			
UK Fuels Ltd	6.26	1.25	7.51	5006	9140			
UK Fuels Ltd	83.55	16.71	100.26	5006	9136			
UK Fuels Ltd	61.09	12.22	73.31	5006	9133			
Yu Energy Retail Ltd	843.25	42.16	885.41	2004	5001			
Ford and Son Ltd	1236.25	247.25	1483.50	4003	7811			

£ 119,959.67 £ 23,794.45 £ 143,754.12

Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross
Arraquip Ltd	114.80	22.96	137.76
Breedon Southern Ltd	870.00	174.00	1044.00
Calders & Grandidge	1316.00	263.20	1579.20
John Davidson (Pipes) Ltd	4410.53	882.11	5292.64
H & L Services Ltd	623.45	124.70	748.15
NPower	97023.81	19333.77	116357.58

Woldmarsh Invoice April 2026

Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross	Codes		Dates		Actual/ Estimate
						From	To	
Woldmarsh	1847.03	369.41	2216.44					
Arraquip Ltd	225.00	45.00	270.00					
Breedon Ltd	446.25	89.25	535.50					
Breedon Ltd	547.15	109.43	656.58					
Breedon Ltd	700.79	140.16	840.95					
Breedon Ltd	648.31	129.66	777.97					
Breedon Ltd	446.25	89.25	535.50					
Breedon Ltd	892.50	178.50	1071.00					
Noxdown	380.00	76.00	456.00					
NPower	245.53	49.11	294.64	2003	2023	26/02/2026	25/03/2026	Actual
Npower	717.57	143.51	861.08	2003	2025	26/02/2026	25/03/2026	Actual
NPower	894.88	178.98	1073.86	2003	2014	26/02/2026	25/03/2026	Actual
NPower	96.06	4.80	100.86	2003	2001	26/02/2026	25/03/2026	Actual
NPower	302.22	60.44	362.66	2003	2019	26/02/2026	25/03/2026	Actual
NPower	418.46	83.69	502.15	2003	2024	26/02/2026	25/03/2026	Actual
NPower	204.64	10.23	214.87	2003	2033	26/02/2026	25/03/2026	Actual
NPower	260.15	52.03	312.18	2003	2026	26/02/2026	25/03/2026	Actual
NPower	532.42	106.48	638.90	2003	5001	26/02/2026	25/03/2026	Actual
NPower	55.58	2.78	58.36	2003	2029	26/02/2026	25/03/2026	Actual
NPower	742.81	148.56	891.37	2003	2015	26/02/2026	25/03/2026	Actual
NPower	296.62	59.32	355.94	2003	2034	26/02/2026	25/03/2026	Actual
NPower	214.63	10.73	225.36	2003	2031	26/02/2026	25/03/2026	Actual
NPower	2332.53	466.51	2799.04	2003	2027	26/02/2026	25/03/2026	Actual
NPower	265.16	53.03	318.19	2003	2002	26/02/2026	25/03/2026	Actual
NPower	2801.09	560.22	3361.31	2003	2011	01/03/2026	31/03/2026	H/H
NPower	1436.20	71.96	1508.16	2003	2012	01/03/2026	31/03/2026	H/H
NPower	1876.06	375.21	2251.27	2003	2010	01/03/2026	31/03/2026	H/H
NPower	3193.06	638.61	3831.67	2003	2021/2022	01/03/2026	31/03/2026	H/H
NPower	1819.70	363.94	2183.64	2003	2007	01/03/2026	31/03/2026	H/H
NPower	3211.16	642.23	3853.39	2003	2030	01/03/2026	31/03/2026	H/H
NPower	3188.97	637.79	3826.76	2003	2006	01/03/2026	31/03/2026	H/H
NPower	671.08	134.22	805.30	2003	2003	01/03/2026	31/03/2026	H/H
NPower	2659.63	531.93	3191.56	2003	2005	01/03/2026	31/03/2026	H/H
NPower	2366.85	473.37	2840.22	2003	2032	01/03/2026	31/03/2026	H/H
NPower	2149.43	429.89	2579.32	2003	2004	01/03/2026	31/03/2026	H/H
NPower	1493.38	298.68	1792.06	2003	2018	01/03/2026	31/03/2026	H/H
NPower	1192.33	238.47	1430.80	2003	2013	01/03/2026	31/03/2026	H/H
NPower	1311.77	262.35	1574.12	2003	2009	01/03/2026	31/03/2026	H/H
NPower	446.67	22.48	469.15	2003	2016	01/03/2026	31/03/2026	H/H
NPower	487.36	24.52	511.88	2003	2017	01/03/2026	31/03/2026	H/H
NPower	611.35	122.27	733.62	2003	2020	01/03/2026	31/03/2026	H/H
NPower	4256.48	851.30	5107.78	2003	2028	01/03/2026	31/03/2026	H/H
Phillips Animal Health Ltd	368.00	73.60	441.60	C001				
Rix Petroleum Ltd	6133.80	1226.76	7360.56	C001				
UK Fuels Ltd	96.72	19.34	116.06	5006	9135			
UK Fuels Ltd	76.26	15.25	91.51	5006	9140			
UK Fuels Ltd	92.07	18.41	110.48	5006	9158			
UK Fuels Ltd	22.00	4.40	26.40	5006	9133			
UK Fuels Ltd	75.70	15.14	90.84	5006	9133			
UK Fuels Ltd	82.44	16.49	98.93	5006	9134			
UK Fuels Ltd	75.42	15.08	90.50	5006	9136			
UK Fuels Ltd	70.46	14.09	84.55	5006	9158			
UK Fuels Ltd	96.01	19.20	115.21	5006	9135			
UK Fuels Ltd	73.01	14.60	87.61	5006	9134			
UK Fuels Ltd	211.47	42.29	253.76	5006	9120			
UK Fuels Ltd	212.03	42.41	254.44	5006	9120			
UK Fuels Ltd	68.51	13.70	82.21	5006	9114			
UK Fuels Ltd	85.65	17.13	102.78	5006	9133			
UK Fuels Ltd	25.17	5.03	30.20	5006	9133			
UK Fuels Ltd	65.63	13.12	78.75	5006	9135			
UK Fuels Ltd	80.32	16.06	96.38	5006	9134			
UK Fuels Ltd	74.03	14.80	88.83	5006	9134			
UK Fuels Ltd	211.08	42.22	253.30	5006	9120			
UK Fuels Ltd	85.05	17.01	102.06	5006	9140			
UK Fuels Ltd	8.80	1.76	10.56	5006	9140			
UK Fuels Ltd	71.99	14.40	86.39	5006	9136			
UK Fuels Ltd	70.83	14.17	85.00	5006	9158			
UK Fuels Ltd	72.41	14.48	86.89	5006	9133			
Yu Energy Retail Ltd	612.67	30.63	643.30	2004				
Switch Electrical Supplies Ltd	524.78	104.96	629.74					

£ 58,627.42 £ 11,192.83 £ 69,820.25

Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross
Woldmarsh	1847.03	369.41	2216.44
Arraquip Ltd	225.00	45.00	270.00
Breedon Ltd	3681.25	736.25	4417.50
Noxdown	380.00	76.00	456.00
NPower	42751.83	8109.64	50861.47

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

BOARD MEETING – 23rd June 2026

AGENDA ITEM 13(c)

SCHEDULE OF CONSENTS ISSUED &

CONSENT APPLICATIONS / CONTRAVENTIONS

1. List of Consents

(a) Byelaw Consents

The following byelaw consents have been issued by the Board since 10th February 2026:

2026-B01	Ladybird Homes Hollyhock House High Gate Helpringham Lincs NG34 0RD	Install of electrical ducting via horizontal drilling Grid Refs: 516222, 339161 North Drove, Helpringham W/C 16/4
2026-B02	Dominic Coates & Hannah Edwards West View Mallard Drove Donington Spalding PE11 4XF	Install new outfall to discharge from sewerage treatment plant Grid Refs: 517846, 335118 Mallard Drove, Donington W/C 1/6
2026-B03	National Grid Alma Park, Isaac Newton Way Grantham Lincs NG31 9RT	Replace poles in situ along Old Hammond Beck Grid Refs: 524084, 342442 Sykemouth Drove, Swineshead W/C 4/3
2026-B04	Lindiwe Mafusire-Strawford Homelea Skeldyke Road Kirton Boston, Lincs PE20 1LR	Replace existing gate posts & gate Grid Refs: 534082, 336108 Land South of Marsh Road, Kirton W/C 7/12 Craile Eau
2026-B05	National Gid Alma Park Isaac Newton Way Grantham NG31 9RT	Replace 11 x poles in situ due to age & condition Grid Refs: 518574, 328330 Beck Farm South to Benners Farm W/C 22/2

(b) Culvert Consents

The following culvert consents have been issued by the Board since 10th February 2026:

2026-C02	Chris Wray (On behalf of Wray Trading) The Old Barn Northorpe Spalding Lincs PE11 4XY	Install culvert crossing for new road entrance into poultry farm Grid Ref: 519031, 335636 Land off A52, Donington Board Maintained 2/32
2026-C03	Jackson Civil Eng 30 White House Road Ipswich IP1 5LT	Construct & install 3 temp culverts in 3 locations Grid Refs: 521743, 345833 521743, 345806 521731, 345815 Trinity College PS Board Maintained 15/2, 15/3
2026-C04	Jackson Civil Eng 30 White House Road Ipswich IP1 5LT	Construct & install 2 temp culverts in 2 locations Grid Refs: 520722, 346947 520759, 346927 South Kyme PS Board Maintained 14/7, 14/8
2026-C05	Lincs County Council Lancaster House 36 Orchard Street Lincoln LN1 1YL	Install Liner through existing structure Grid Refs: 515312, 327265 Drove Culvert, Dunsby Board Maintained 25/3
2026-C06	Lincs County Council Lancaster House 36 Orchard Street Lincoln LN1 1YL	Install Liner through existing structure Grid Refs: 510862, 334430 Folkingham Road, Billingborough Board Maintained
2026-C07	Lincs County Council Lancaster House 36 Orchard Street Lincoln LN1 1YL	Install Liner through existing structure Grid Refs: 513811, 336600 Layby Culvert, Horblng Board Maintained 18/7

2026-C08	Lincs County Council County Offices Newland Lincoln LN1 1YL	Install telemetry devices to side elevation of bridge/culvert Grid Refs: 509049, 337730 532927, 340868 511605, 336746 512645, 337597 531450, 341818 531677, 341415 510995, 337806 512628, 337510 508865, 335925 508754, 336303 Spanby, Swaton, Wyberton, Threekingham Board Maintained 36/2, 36/8, 6/19, 36/1, 36/2, 5/4
2026-C09	National Grid Alma Park Isaac Newton Way Grantham Lincs NG31 9RT	Install duct inside culvert Grid Refs: 519013, 335956 Land off A52 Donington Board Maintained 2/33, 2/32

(c) Development Agreements

The following development agreements have been issued by the Board since 10th February 2026:

2026-D01	Discount Leisure Products Ltd Glenside North West Pinchbeck Spalding Lincs PE11 3SD	SW to drain into attenuation basin, hydrobrake discharged into open W.C Grid Ref: 522728, 325862 Glenside North, West Pinchbeck BSIDC W.C 22/31
2026-D02	Lincs County Council C/O Savills Olympic House Doddington Road Lincoln LN6 3SE	Discharge of SW into open W.C Grid Ref: 518535, 328169 Vicarage Farm, Pinchbeck Ordinary BSIDB maintained
2025-D09	AGR Solar 2 Ltd Fourth Floor, Burlington Building 19 Heddon Street London W1B 4BG	Installation of 7 surface water outfalls, 6 relating to solar fields & 1 for the BESS compound Grid Ref: 520352, 338205 520449, 338239 520631, 338290 520400, 338116

		<p>520200, 337739 519831, 337392 519715, 337168 Cowbridge Road, Bicker</p> <p>BSIDB W.C 4/76 & 2/5</p>
2026-D03	<p>Gusto Construction Gusto House, Green Way Collingham Newark Nottinghamshire NG23 7DX</p>	<p>Surface Water Network inc SUDS pond to be connected to existing BSIDB brick arch culvert</p> <p>Grid Ref: 530974, 338378 Station Road, Kirton</p> <p>BSIDB Maintained</p>
2026-D04	<p>D Brown Building Contractors Ltd Seas End Road Moulton Seas End Spalding Lincs PE12 6JX</p>	<p>Discharge of TW & SW into open W.C</p> <p>Grid Ref: 531351, 345433 Puritan Way, Boston</p> <p>Ordinary W.C</p>
2026-D05	<p>Mr & Mrs Eaves Ashes Barn Haconby Drove Haconby Bourne PE10 0UN</p>	<p>Install Marsh Ensign 6PE Treatment Plant</p> <p>Grid Ref: 513893, 325620 Ashes Barn, Haconby</p> <p>Ordinary</p>
2026-D06	<p>Ruth Smith Bargate Cottage Lowgrounds Swineshead Boston, Lincs PE20 3PG</p>	<p>Discharge of TW</p> <p>Grid Ref: 522423, 341573 Bargate cottage, Swineshead</p> <p>BSIDC W.C 4/2</p>
2026-D07	<p>Wherry & Sons The Old School High Street Rippingale, Bourne Lincs PE10 0SR</p>	<p>Discharge of TW</p> <p>Grid Ref: 512527, 320690 Spalding Road, Bourne</p> <p>BSIDB W.C 28/6</p>
2026-D08	<p>David Robinson The Keepers Cottage Mareham Lane Spanby Sleaford, Lincs NG34 0AT</p>	<p>Discharge of TW</p> <p>Grid Ref: 509152, 337328 Mareham Lane, Spanby</p> <p>BSIDB W.C 36/8</p>

(d) **Land Drainage Consents**

The following land drainage consents have been issued by the Board since 10th February 2026.

(e) **Extended Area Consents**

No extended area consents have been issued by the Board since 9th December 2025.

2. **Consent Applications / Contraventions**

There have been no consent applications/contraventions reported to the Board since 9th December 2025.

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

BOARD MEETING – 23rd JUNE 2026.

AGENDA ITEM 13(d)

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

February to May 2026

Greatford Hall – site inspection 03.02.26. All vegetation removed from watercourse and water flowing freely. No further action. LCC also involved & agree no further action.

Twenty, Bourne – consent given for new culvert for access in 2025. Staff member noted on passing by pipe too small. Tess/Dale visited site and advised contractor cease work as pipe too small to accommodate flow. Owner now liaised with Tess and agreed to remove and re-instate 1500MM pipe with immediate effect. A further site visit will be arranged prior to final phase. 1500MM pipe now installed and checked/passed by Dale. No further action.

Holme Farm (Kirton Holme) – Landowner still liaising with contractor re hedge cutting as he cannot start work here until 1 March and this is the start of nesting season. Tess advised contractor should carry out a bird survey and then work can still be carried out. Landowner advised court order of 5M for hedge due to noise to a property nearby. Tess advised of Land Drainage Act and insisted hedge will need to be cut to 5FT in order for us to be able to flail and de-silt with machines. Landowner to get back to B.S asap. Tess/Dale inspected 19.02.26 all work carried out and B.S now able to gain access & flail. The factory will now also remove all plastic containers currently encroaching on the 9M. No further action.

Europa Tyres (Gosberton) – quote provided on 04.02.26 for B.S to cut down and remove all problem leylandii. Await response from landowner. Landowner now instructed private contractor to cut leylandii's down to trunk mid-March. Tess inspected during April & all work complete. No further action.

Bartlett Potatoes – site visit arranged for Dale to attend 02.03.26. Laid path & installed posts without consent within 9M. Advised B.S will most likely damage the path with tracked machines, so the issue requires resolving. Tess carried out site visit 05.05.26 with Steve (employee) & he agreed that Bartletts would remove fencing & all lights prior to future flailing. They can also provide matting to try to avoid damage to path. Tess made it clear B.S would not be responsible for any damage regardless. Letter to confirm this sent same day.

Boston Rugby Club – One remaining culvert remains in unacceptable state despite allowing consent & providing B.S specification. Dale provided pics 24.02.26. Tess sent letter same day allowing 28 days to remove structure from drain or build with headwall to correct spec. Inspected with Dale again 16.04.26 & headwall of acceptable standard. No further action.

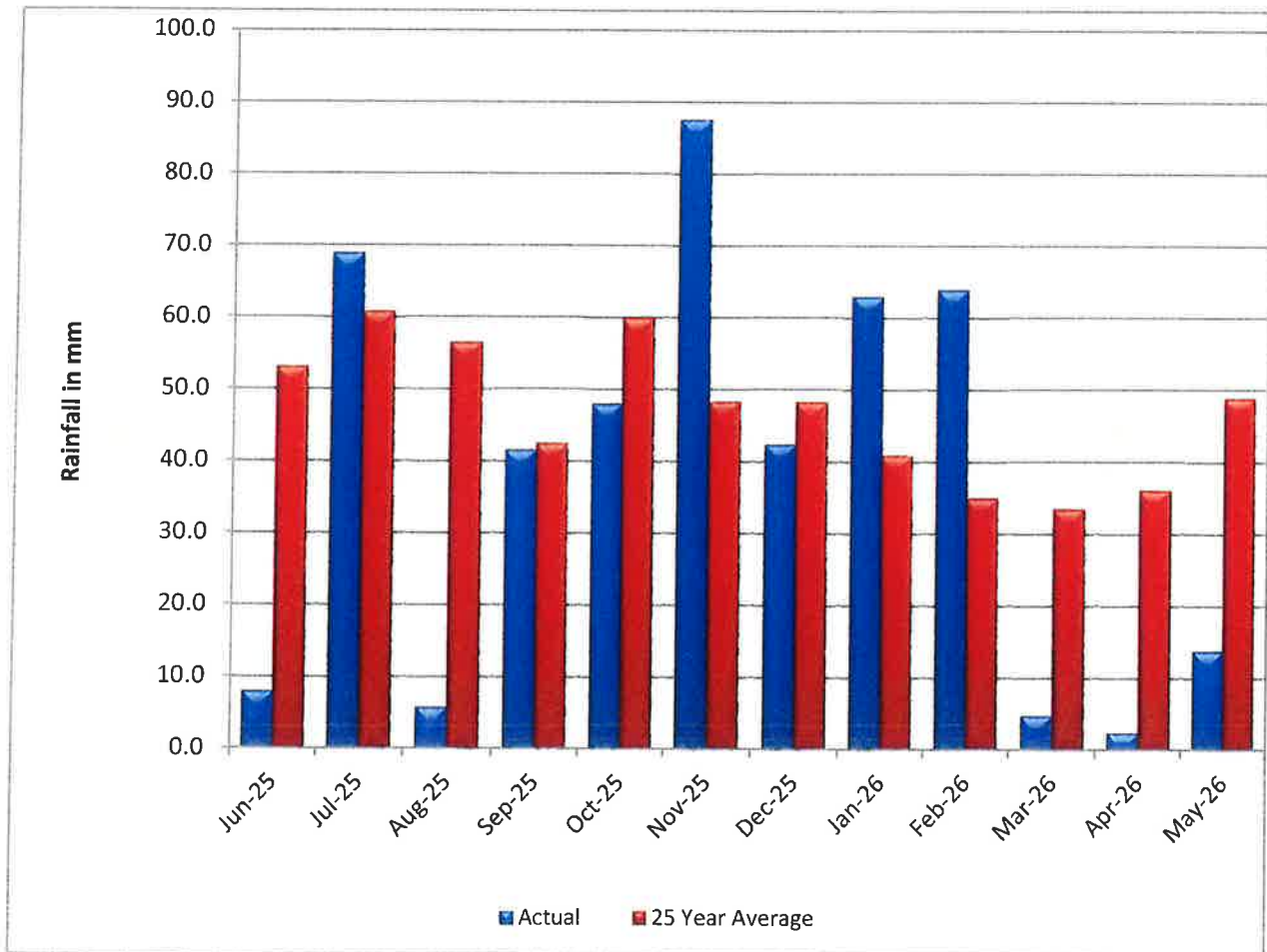
Beck Bank, Quadring Fen – drain infilled along front elevation of property recently sold. Tess obtained details via land registry and written to new owner to discuss as no consent received by B.S. To date (June) no response. Owners believed to be travellers as per previous communication involving Dale.

Red Cow Farm, Gosberton Clough – culvert at risk of collapse. Tess written to owners/residents (April) to advise riparian responsibilities and will follow this up in approx. 28 days. Residents have since been in contact & are fully aware of their responsibilities so are currently obtaining quotes to replace or make good.

Primitive Gait, Gosberton – Resident reported sewage leaking into dyke at rear of properties. Tess sent 11 letters to all properties 13.05.26 reminding them of their obligations to empty septic tanks and advised if not resolved in 28 days, it would be reported to regulatory authorities etc.

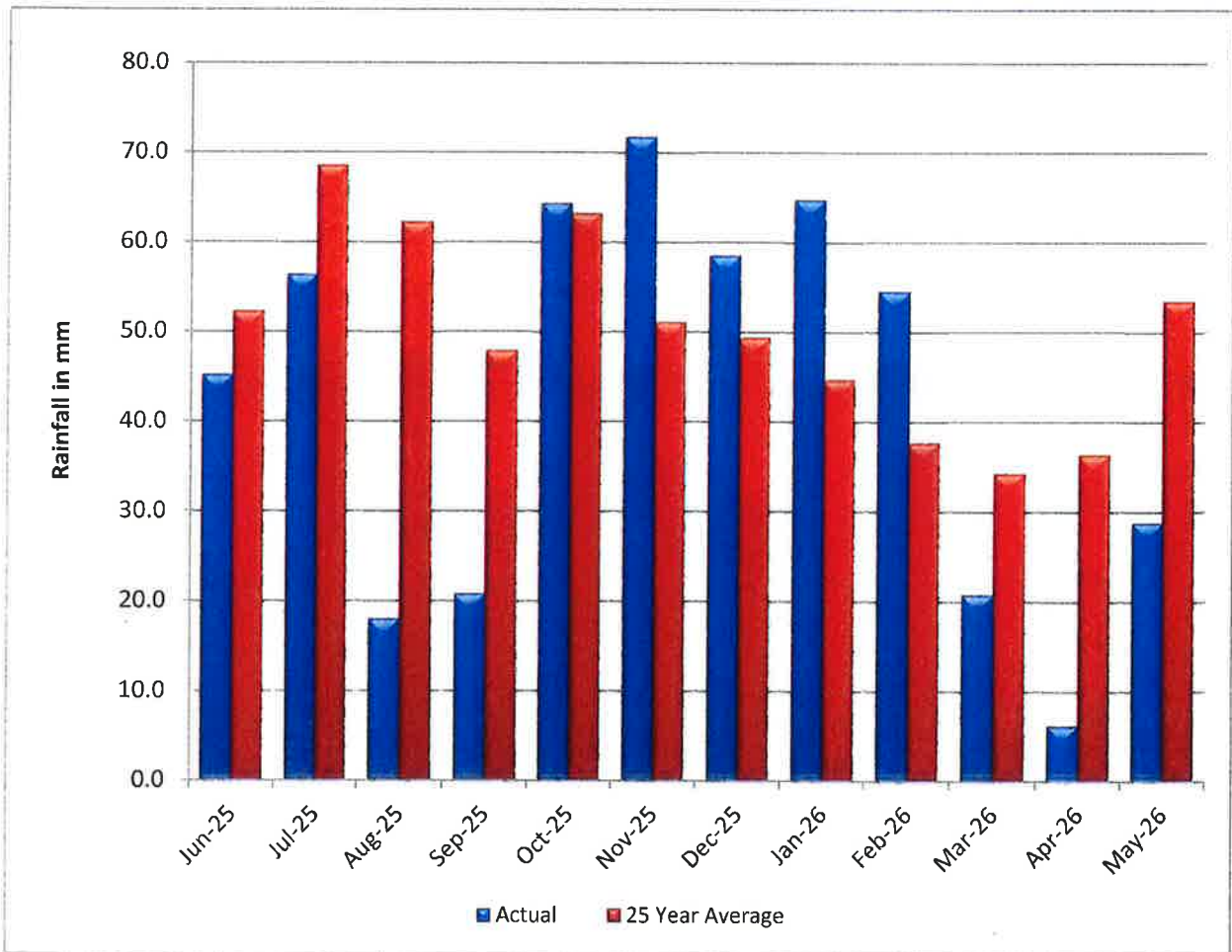
**BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
BOARD MEETING Agenda 13e
Rainfall at Black Hole Drove Pumping Station**

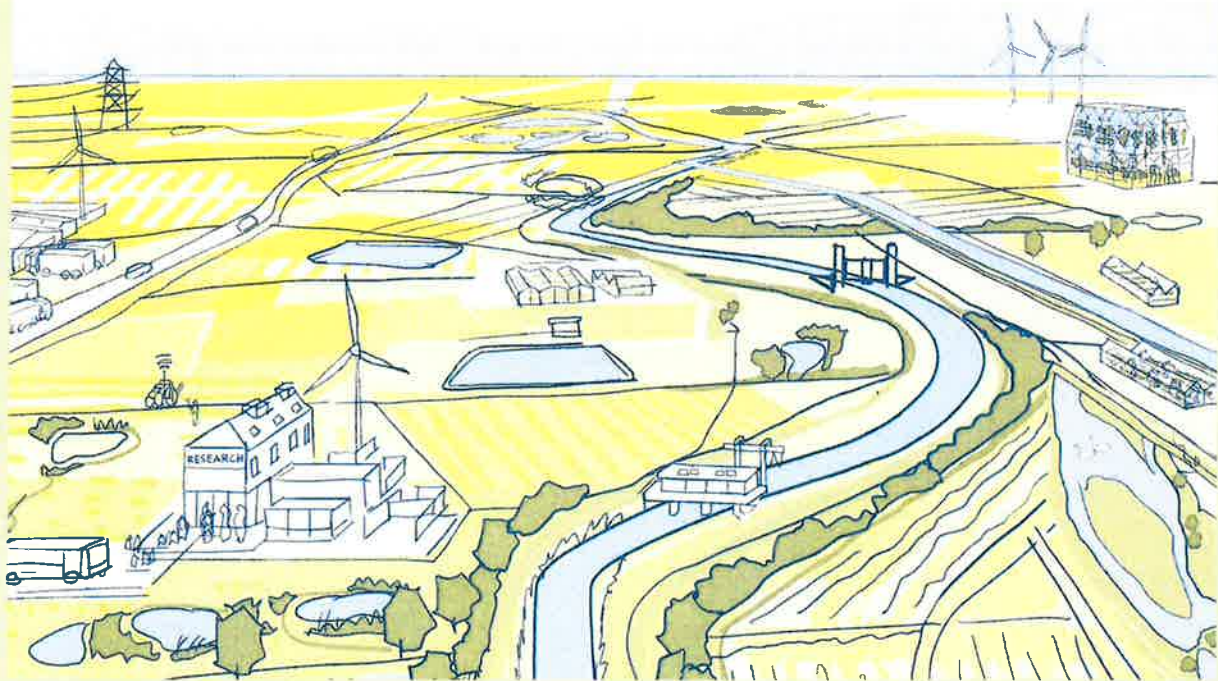
MONTH	Rainfall		Actual / Average
	Actual	25 Year Average	
	mm	mm	%
Jun-25	8.0	53.1	15.07%
Jul-25	69.0	60.8	113.49%
Aug-25	5.8	56.5	10.27%
Sep-25	41.6	42.5	97.88%
Oct-25	48.0	60.0	80.00%
Nov-25	87.6	48.3	181.37%
Dec-25	42.4	48.3	87.78%
Jan-26	63.0	40.9	154.03%
Feb-26	64.0	35.0	182.86%
Mar-26	4.8	33.5	14.33%
Apr-26	2.4	36.1	6.65%
May-26	13.8	48.9	28.22%
Totals	450.4	563.9	79.87%



BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD Rainfall at Swineshead

MONTH	Rainfall		Actual / Average
	Actual	25 Year Average	
	mm	mm	%
Jun-25	45.2	52.3	86.42%
Jul-25	56.4	68.6	82.22%
Aug-25	18.0	62.3	28.89%
Sep-25	20.8	47.9	43.42%
Oct-25	64.4	63.3	101.74%
Nov-25	71.8	51.1	140.51%
Dec-25	58.6	49.4	118.62%
Jan-26	64.8	44.7	144.97%
Feb-26	54.6	37.7	144.83%
Mar-26	20.8	34.3	60.64%
Apr-26	6.2	36.4	17.03%
May-26	28.8	53.5	53.83%
Totals	510.4	601.5	84.85%





Fens 2100+

Spring 2026 Newsletter



Fens 2100+ Spring 2026 Newsletter

We are pleased to announce the publication of our Baseline Summary Report and Case for Change!

You can access these, along with the wider evidence base here

www.gov.uk/government/publications/fens-2100

These reports were produced and published by the Fens 2100+ partnership, which came together to collaborate and agree a long-term plan for managing future flood risk.

For the first time, we have a collective set of robust evidence and key insights about flood risk and asset performance across the Fens, equipping decision-makers to shape the future of the Fens with confidence and clarity.

These publications mark a major milestone for the team, partnership and programme.



Baseline Summary Report

The Baseline Summary Report outlines evidence from the 7 catchment baseline reports.

Information includes the historical and environmental context, the function of flood risk assets and their economic impact, current and future flood risks and investment challenges and opportunities.

Case for Change and Partnership Action Plan

The Case for Change builds upon the Catchment Baseline Reports and presents an unequivocal call to action to safeguard one of the United Kingdom's most strategically important regions. It demonstrates that the Fens, home to nationally significant agriculture, infrastructure, and communities, faces a convergence of pressures that now demands decisive, coordinated and long-term intervention.



MP Event at Westminster

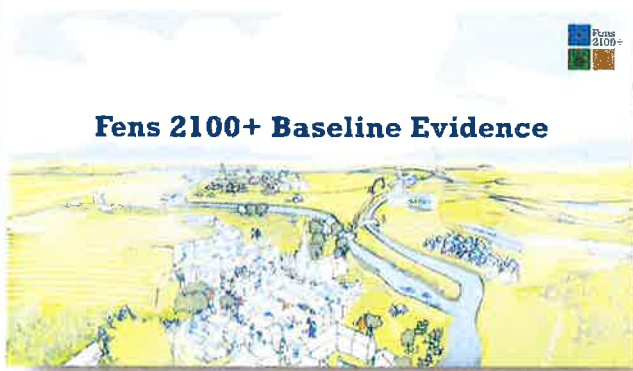
Ahead of the publication we joined other Fens 2100+ partners at Westminster to raise the profile of our work and discuss the important issues with parliamentarians and senior representatives from partners and other organisations.

This was a great way to mark this major milestone collaboratively as a partnership.

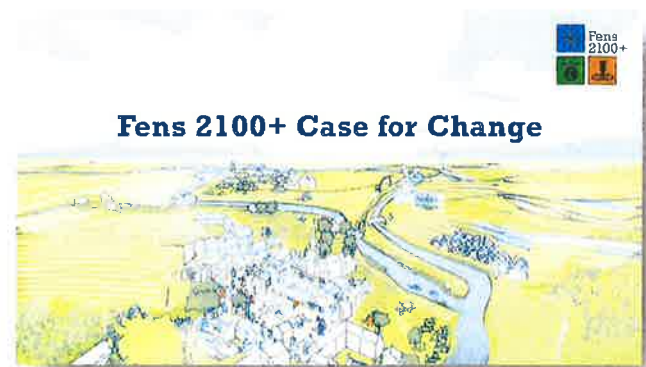


Fens 2100+ video

To support our publication we have produced some wonderful supporting videos which we highly recommend you watch and share – we are very proud of them.



<https://youtu.be/TbGky2CPOPg>

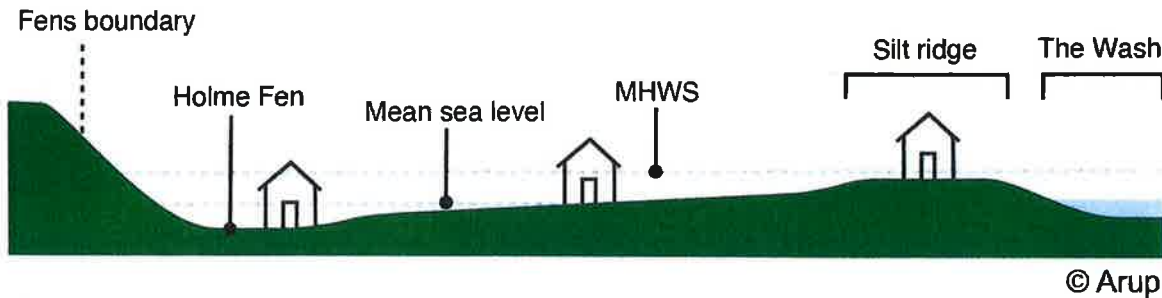


<https://youtu.be/z8qY2e-kgtY>

Together we are transforming our approach to secure a climate-resilient future for the Fens.

Thanks to the ambition, targeted investment, and collaboration of previous generations the Fens today is one of the most important regions in the UK

However, as 87% of the Fens landscape is below the mean spring tide level it is extremely vulnerable to flooding from rivers and the sea.



The environment, infrastructure and communities here only function because a complex flood risk and water management asset system keeps the land dry.

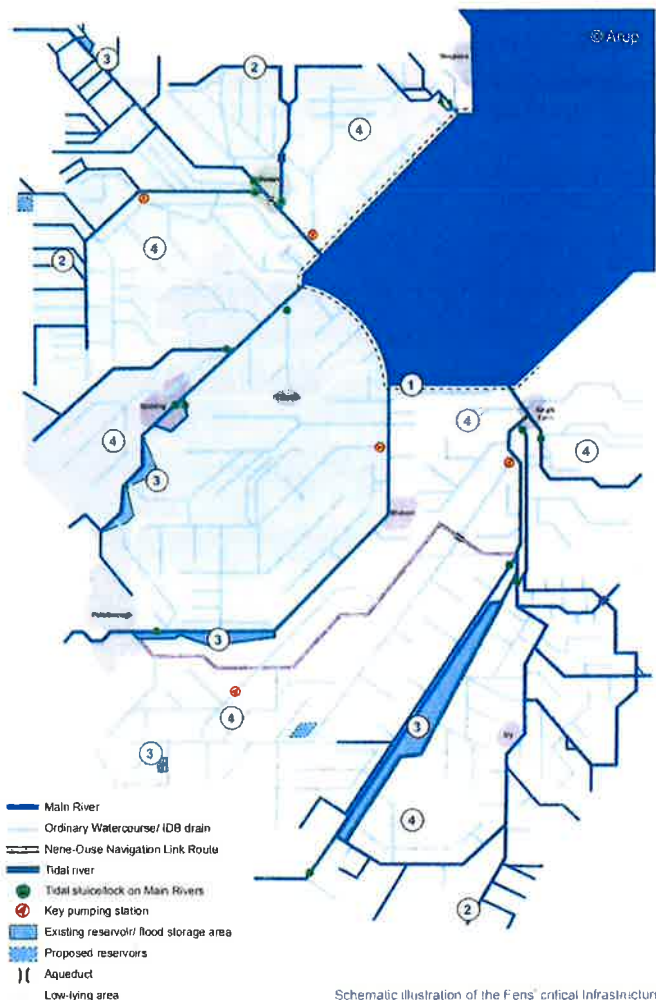
This system drains a substantially wider area than the Fens itself, moving water from 12% of England through the Fens to the sea. Protecting this infrastructure is essential to sustaining economic stability and future growth in cities such as Lincoln, Peterborough and Cambridge, where housing and employment opportunities rely on flood resilience and water security.

The Fens are entering a period of significant and accelerating risk.

Ageing assets, increasing climate pressures, and growing expectations from communities and industry mean that our existing approach to managing water, flood, and coastal risks is no longer sufficient.

The evidence is clear: without timely and coordinated intervention, the resilience of this nationally important region will continue to decline, increasing long term costs and exposing communities, infrastructure, and the wider economy to avoidable risk.

Fens 2100+ is delivering the Partnership Action Plan to help address these issues and develop a long-term plan to manage future flood risk in the Fens.



Next Steps.....

We have reached a significant milestone in the project, but that doesn't mean we have taken our foot off the gas.

Over the coming months we will continue to deliver the Partnership Action Plan and will be reaching out to stakeholders and the community across the Fens to share the work we have done to date and to collectively move towards a vibrant future for the Fens

Sign up for our
Fens newsletter



Visit the Fens
2100+ Project Page



View our reports



Vision: A climate resilient and ... "vibrant Future for the Fens".



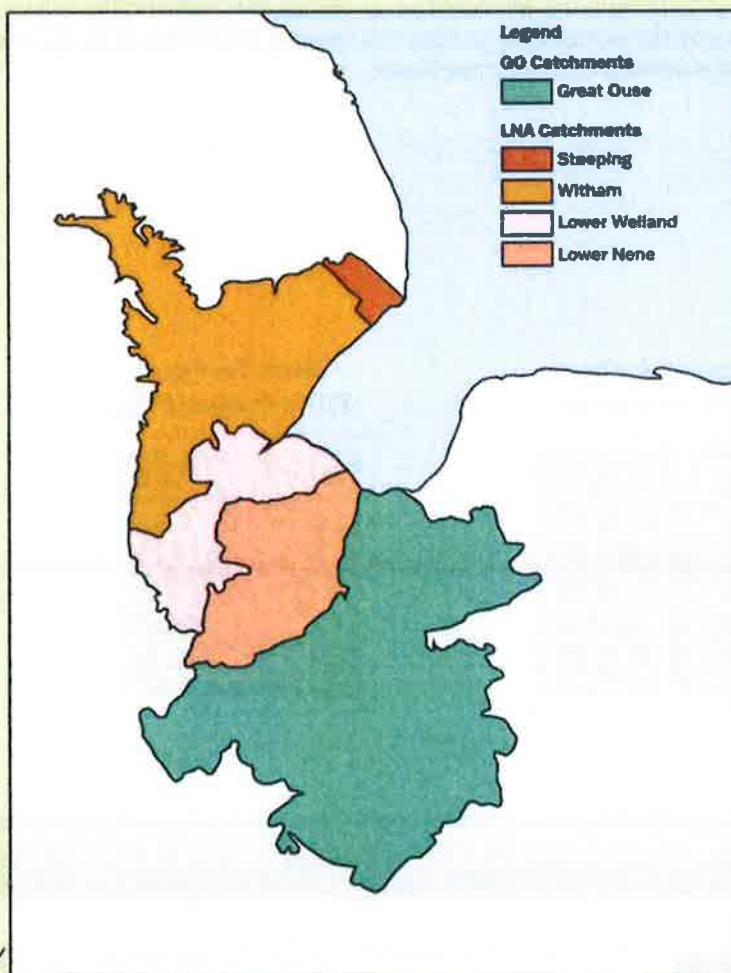
Fens
2100+



Informs (resilient) **choices** and supports future learning (and monitoring and evaluation).

Drives (integrated) **investment** through agreed ways of working and decision making.

Delivers (place-based) **impact** by creating a tactical handshake between ambitions, investment and action (2027-2033).



Contact and further information

Via our email address:
Fens2100@environment-agency.gov.uk

Visit our information page:
<https://engageenvironmentagency.uk.engagementhq.com/fens2100>

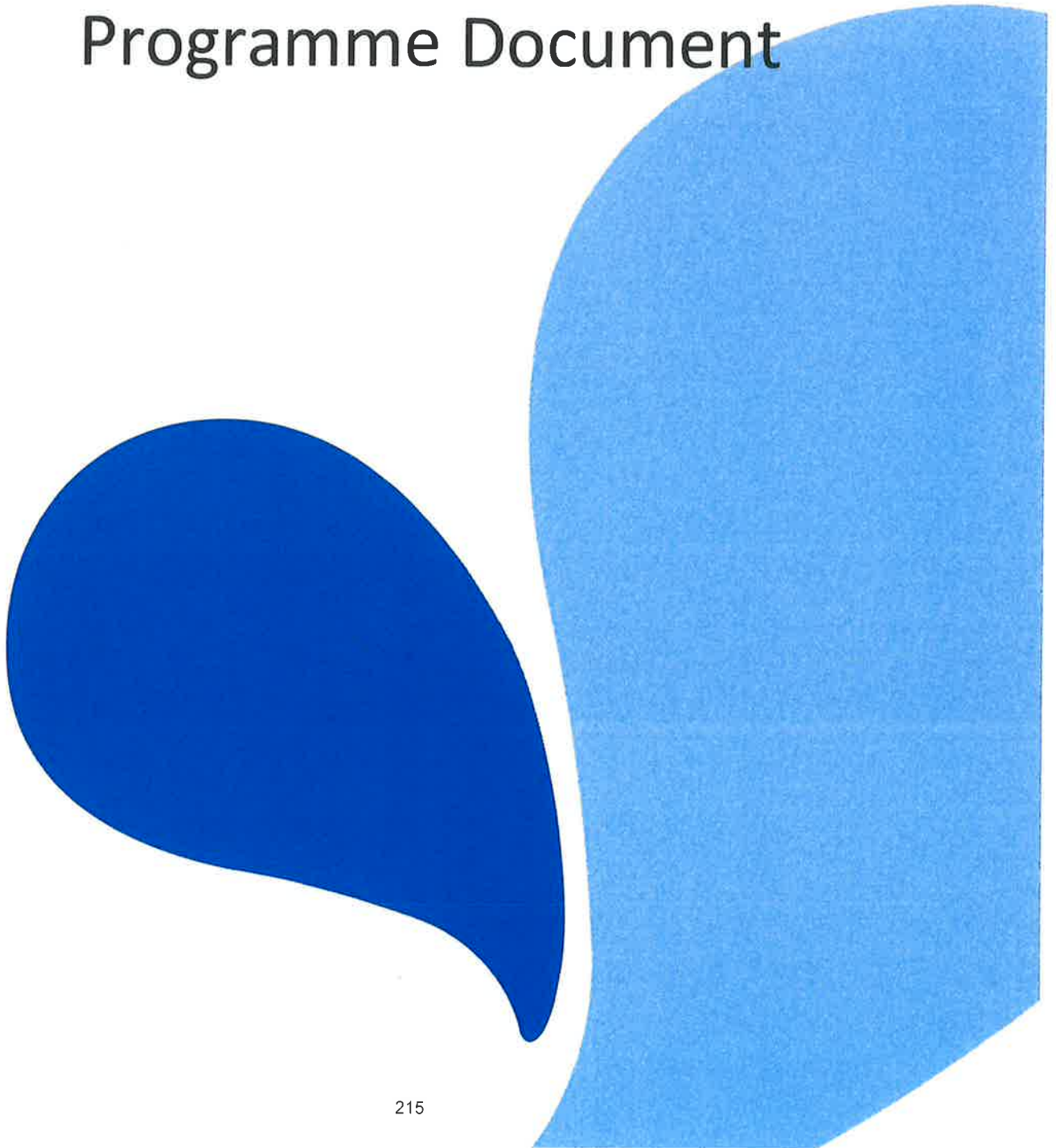
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Lincolnshire Reservoir Project

Anglian Water Services Limited

Lincolnshire Reservoir Programme Document



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1 Introduction to the Project

1.1 Propose of this Document

- 1.1.1 This Programme Document has been prepared to support the proposed application by Anglian Water Services Limited ('Anglian Water' also 'the Applicant') for development consent for the Fens Reservoir.
- 1.1.2 This Programme Document sets out the timetable and activities to be undertaken during the pre-application stage. It has been prepared in accordance with the relevant guidance set out in the National Infrastructure Planning Guidance; Planning Act 2008; Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (DLUHC April 2024) and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects; 2024 Pre-application Prospectus (DLUHC April 2024) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus - GOV.UK.
- 1.1.3 The information included in this Programme Document reflects the Applicant's current understanding of their pre- application programme and will be updated from time to time until DCO submission. This document will be published on the Applicant's website at [Welcome - Anglian Water - Lincolnshire Reservoir](#). Further information in relation to the Project can also be found there.

1.2 Background to the Project

- 1.2.1 Anglian Water is proposing to construct a new reservoir in Lincolnshire referred to as the Lincolnshire Reservoir to secure water supply to our customers for future generations. The reservoir will store water so it's on tap when it is needed, meaning less water is taken from sensitive sources, helping to protect and restore the environment.
- 1.2.2 The reservoir will help ensure a resilient water supply for decades to come and contribute to Anglian Water's long-term goals of ensuring the East of England is resilient to the risks of drought and flooding.
- 1.2.3 The Applicant's vision for the project goes beyond just building a reservoir. Anglian Water wants to create a place where water, people and nature come together. That means creating space for wildlife, such as wetlands, alongside enabling new recreational and educational facilities and natural places for people to explore. It also means creating new jobs and opportunities for local business and tourism.
- 1.2.4 The project presents significant social, economic and environmental opportunities for communities and the whole of the East of England.
- 1.2.5 The Lincolnshire Reservoir has been identified as one of several nationally strategic resource options required to help meet the growing demands on water supply in the East of England. The East of England is one of the fastest growing but driest regions in

the UK, making it particularly water stressed and vulnerable to climate placing increasing pressure upon water supply.

- 1.2.6 Every five years water companies are required to develop a Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP), setting out their plans and investments, such as: improving efficiency; addressing leakage; restoring the environment; and building new water resources. Anglian Water's adopted WRMP identifies the need for a new storage reservoir in Lincolnshire to secure clean water supply for to customers and to protect the environment from climate change.

1.3 The Applicant

- 1.3.1 Anglian Water is the largest regulated water and water recycling company in England and Wales by geographic area, supplying water and water recycling services to almost seven million people in the East of England and Hartlepool.
- 1.3.2 As a purpose led business Anglian Water is committed to bringing environmental and social prosperity to the region, through its commitment to Love Every Drop. Anglian Water seeks to contribute to the environmental and social wellbeing of the communities within the region. As one of the largest energy users in the East of England, it is also committed to becoming a net zero business by 2030.
- 1.3.3 Anglian Water is investing heavily today to help prepare for tomorrow, continuing to lead the water sector in tackling leakage and exceeding regulatory targets in excess of 10 years running.

1.4 The Proposed Development

- 1.4.1 Anglian Water is proposing to submit an application to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) for development consent for the construction, commissioning and operation of a new reservoir together with its associated water infrastructure which will be required to transport water to the reservoir, treat it and facilitate the supply of potable drinking water to our customers.
- 1.4.2 The Proposed Development is expected to comprise the following key elements
- Water storage reservoir with an approximate capacity of 55MCM and a useable volume of 50 MCM including embankments and infrastructure required for the operation of the reservoir
 - Water abstraction infrastructure required to transfer water to the reservoir and from the reservoir to supply portable water to customers. This includes pipelines, pumping stations, service reservoirs and other infrastructure required where water is transferred via open channels

- Water treatment infrastructure, including inter-catchment treatment measures if required
- Renewable energy infrastructure
- Recreational provision
- Diversion of the Screddington to Helpringham Road
- Access elements including mitigation and associated water management infrastructure. These works would also include enhancements related to Biodiversity Net Gain.
- Diversion of existing utilities where these are to be included in the Development Consent Order application
- Temporary construction works including, but not limited to compounds, construction working areas, soil and materials storage, access roads and temporary haul routes and other enabling works

1.4.3 The illustrative map shown in Figure 1-1 presented at the Applicant's phase two consultation (May- August 2024) generally shows where water will be taken from and treated. This map will be updated as the design develops.

1.4.4 North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council are the host local authorities for the main reservoir and part of the associated water infrastructure. West Linsey District Council, Boston Borough Council, South Kesteven District Council, Peterborough City Council, Huntingdonshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council are the host authorities for the areas of new development required for the associated water infrastructure. Given the very early stage of design, it is possible that design evolution of associated water infrastructure could introduce new host authorities. Should this occur, those host authorities would be consulted and involved accordingly.

1.4.5 Figure 1-1 illustrative map presented at second phase of consultation (May- August 2024) generally showing where water will be taken from, treated and transferred into supply



2 Pre- Application Programme

2.1.1 The main milestones and anticipated/indicative dates during the pre-application stage are set out in table 2-1 below. The milestones are subject to periodic review and update. Those shown in light grey are completed milestones (actual dates), others are shown indicatively.

Table 2-1 Pre-application programme

Milestone	Actual/Anticipated date
Phase One Consultation Non statutory consultation which identified the location of the reservoir	Consultation took place between 12 October 2022- 21 December 2022
Phase Two Consultation Non statutory consultation which presented an emerging masterplan for the reservoir site and identified the associated water infrastructure routes and broad locations (polygons).	Consultation took place between 30 May 2024- 9 August 2024
2025	
Project remobilisation	
2026	
Consultation Three	Autumn 2026
EIA Scoping	Winter 2026/27
2027	
Consultation 4 Statutory consultation- scope to be kept under review depending on changes following the Planning and Infrastructure Bill	Autum- Winter 2027
2028	
Environmental statement production	2028
Finalise DCO documentation including PINS review	
DCO application submission	Proposed winter 2028/2029

3 Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation

3.1 Approach to Consultation- An Overview

- 3.1.1 Consultation with the community, statutory bodies including the local planning authorities, non-statutory consultees and land interests is being undertaken iteratively across a minimum of four phases of consultation. Phase One was undertaken in 2022 and Phase Two in 2024. A Phase Three non-statutory consultation is planned for Autumn 2026 and a Phase Four consultation, is planned to be held in 2027.
- 3.1.2 No targeted consultation is currently proposed but the need for this will be kept under review as the Project develops.

3.2 Stakeholder Engagement

- 3.2.1 The Applicant has adopted a strategic and proactive approach to stakeholder engagement and there has been ongoing engagement with a range of stakeholders since the inception of the project. This includes statutory and non-statutory consultees, along with working groups with the community and relevant land interests. The Applicant has established a number of engagement forums to continue this engagement alongside the consultation phases during the pre-application process. Figure 3-1 below shows how these stakeholders are being engaged with on an ongoing basis.
- 3.2.2 There has been continuous and long-term engagement with the Lincolnshire Water Partnership. This group is made up of statutory and non-statutory stakeholders, who have technical knowledge and important local knowledge that informs the design of the reservoir and also links the reservoir to the wider systems within Lincolnshire. The aim of this partnership is to support the development of an integrated water management approach to the wider Lincolnshire area.

Figure 3.1 Ongoing Stakeholder engagement groupings

Pre-application engagement strands



Statutory Stakeholders

3.2.1 A summary of engagement with key stakeholders is set out in Table 3-1

Table 3-1 Pre-application engagement with statutory stakeholders

Group	Stakeholder	Engagement
Technical Working Groups	Attendees include a range of stakeholders including the Environment Agency, Natural England, RSPB, Host Local Authorities, Lead Local Flood Authorities	Regular engagement, at least quarterly on topic specific matters
Environment Agency	National Appraisal Unit (NAU) National Infrastructure Team	Monthly leadership meetings Monthly meeting
Natural England		Monthly meetings
HRA Forum	Natural England	Regular meetings in accordance with Evidence Plan
Water Framework Directive (WFD) meetings	Natural England and Environment Agency	Monthly meetings
Historic England		Monthly meetings
Section 42 Forum	Natural England, Environment Agency, Historic England, Middle Level Commissioners, host Local Planning Authorities	As relevant i.e. prior to consultation
Local Authority Associated Infrastructure Forum (LAAIF)	Associated water infrastructure host local authorities	As relevant, generally quarterly
Bi-lateral meetings	Stakeholders including but not limited to -Natural England, Environment Agency, Middle Level Commissioners, National Farmers Union, Host Local Authorities, Network Rail, Utility providers	As required

3.2.2 Statutory cost recovery is provided through Service Level Agreements. Draft Planning Performance Agreements (PPAs) have been prepared and sent to the host reservoir local authorities for comment. The Applicant is in the process of preparing PPAs for all Local Authorities with associated water infrastructure in their areas. Letters of Intent are currently in place to cover their costs until PPAs are in place to help facilitate their participation in the pre-application process.

Community Liaison

3.2.5 A Community Liaison Group (CLG) has been established with community representatives to engage with the local community impacted by the new reservoir. Four meetings with the CLG have taken place to date.

3.2.6 The Applicant has established a Seldom Heard Strategy (Engagement with Schools & Colleges), Engagement with businesses (BITC - Business in the Community), Engagement through the AW Internal Forum and wider AW engagement.

4 Main Issues for resolution and activities to address these

4.1.1 Table 4-1 sets out the Applicant's current understanding to the potential main issues for resolution in the application and a brief summary of the activities which are ongoing/will be undertaken to address them.

Table 4- Potential main issues for resolution

Issues	Key activities to address/resolve issues
Approach to water quality assessments and level of treatment required at various stages across the Project	The Applicant is undertaking a Water Framework Directive (WFD) Assessment and will be engaging with relevant stakeholders including the Environment Agency on the approach and outcomes including water quality monitoring and proposed mitigation.
Need to obtain the abstraction license from the Environment Agency. Potentially to be incorporated into the DCO if agreement can be reached on this with the EA; otherwise it will be sought outside the DCO application	Early engagement with the Environment Agency in relation to the license requirements leading to submission of draft license.
Approach to Flood Risk	Ongoing engagement with the Environment Agency and Lead Local Flood Authorities will be required on future scenarios including flood defence assumptions and demonstrating compliance with relevant flood risk planning policy, as well as preparation of the Flood Risk Assessment.
Approach to assessment of Emergency Draw Down (EDD)	Engagement is proposed with the Environment Agency to agree a proportionate approach to assessment.
Overlapping/adjacent NSIP	There are a number of other NSIP projects in the Lincolnshire area which could impact the Proposed Development. The Applicant is mapping other NSIPs and preparing a proactive strategy for engagement with other promoters.
Utility diversions	Work commencing with relevant stakeholders to discuss any works required, including National Grid. In particular looking at options for diverting the 132kV line across the reservoir site.

<p>Agreements with landowners</p>	<p>Identification of landowners including The Crown Estate and engagement on land rights required to negotiate voluntary agreements wherever practicable.</p>
<p>Related consents and permits</p>	<p>The Applicant is developing a list of other consents and permits and aligning these with the programme alongside ongoing engagement with relevant regulatory bodies.</p>
<p>Engagement and agreements with Internal Drainage Bodies</p>	<p>Engagement on interfaces between the Project and the Internal Drainage Boards in relation to abstraction of water, transfer of water and any impacts on drainage management functions.</p>

5 Identification of risks to the delivery of the DCO application programme

- 5.1.1 The Project is at an early stage of development and risks and opportunities are being identified and addressed as the project evolves. Risks to the programme are being identified via several routes including through internal meetings and with external stakeholders.
- 5.1.2 Table 5.1 below sets out a summary of the key risks which have currently been identified to achieving the pre-application stage of the Project. The table below will be regularly reviewed and updated as the Proposed Development progresses.

Table 5-1 Risks to Achieving the Pre-Application Stage Programme

Risks to Achievement of Pre-Application Process	Mitigation
Significant change in National Planning Policy, DCO process or other laws/policy such as national security, water quality, Reservoirs Act, climate change	Regular and early review of emerging policy/legislation, to understand and highlight implications for the Project. For example, the team is continually reviewing the progress of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill and considering implications for the project and programme.
Ground conditions- surveys may reveal poorer than anticipated ground conditions e.g. periglacial shears etc	Suitable GI techniques to allow for identification of such conditions and early collection of GI information to inform the design
Agreement required with The Crown Estate for the purchase of land, as land cannot be acquired through Compulsory Acquisition.	Anglian Water has been working with the Crown Estate from the early stages of the project to collaboratively deliver a vision for the site. This joint working will continue as the project evolves to provide certainty on the deliverability of the project and reduce the risk of delays to application submission.
Feedback from consultation which requires a significant change in design or approach including late changes to the draft Order Limits requiring an additional phase of consultation or targeted consultation thereby impacting the programme	Implementation of a multi-phase consultation approach together with continued engagement with stakeholders and the community through the pre-application process to ensure that comments and feedback are taken into account as the design

Risks to Achievement of Pre-Application Process	Mitigation
	evolves to reduce the potential for late changes
Agreements required with stakeholders and statutory undertakers to inform design decisions. If not progressed this could impact design evolution and therefore the pre-application programme and DCO submission	Early and ongoing engagement through the forums outlined in Figure 3-1 and the use of PADSS/draft SoCG to agree positions of disagreement and agreement early in the programme

Get in touch

You can contact us by:



Emailing at info@lincsreservoir.co.uk



Calling our Freephone information line on **0800 915 2491**



Writing to us at **Freepost Lincolnshire Reservoir**



Visiting our website at
www.lincsreservoir.co.uk

You can view all our DCO application documents and updates on the application on The Planning Inspectorate website:

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/WA010003>



Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

Biodiversity Action Plan

2026 - 2031

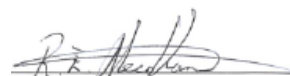
Statement

This Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) has been prepared by the Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board in accordance with the commitment in the Implementation Plan of the Defra Internal Drainage Board Review of 2007 for internal drainage boards (IDBs) to produce their own Biodiversity Action Plans. This plan sets out how the board will fulfil its strengthened biodiversity duty under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, as amended by the Environment Act 2021, and contribute to the delivery of national environmental targets.

The plan provides a strategic framework through which the board will integrate biodiversity objectives into its operational procedures. It aligns with the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023, statutory environmental targets established under Part 1 of the Environment Act 2021, and spatial priorities identified through the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Importantly, it reflects the Board's aspiration to maximise the support it provides to biodiversity, particularly priority UK species and habitats, and the wider environment in general through its day-to-day activities, by setting clear objectives, actions and targets.

The Board has adopted this Biodiversity Action Plan as one of its policies and is committed to its implementation. It will review the plan periodically and update it as appropriate.



.....
Paul Holmes

Chairperson of the Board

23rd June 2026

.....
Robert Needham

Environment Committee Chairperson

23rd June 2026

This Biodiversity Action Plan is a public statement by the Board of its biodiversity objectives and the methods by which it intends to achieve them.

We would welcome appropriate involvement in the delivery of the Plan from interested organisations, companies, and individuals.

You can contact us about this Biodiversity Action Plan by writing to the following address:

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

Station Road

Swineshead, Boston

Lincolnshire

PE20 3PW

Or via email: mailbox@blacksluiceidb.gov.uk

Further information is available on the Board's website: www.blacksluiceidb.gov.uk

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1. Introduction

1.1. What is Biodiversity and why is it important?

Biodiversity can be defined simply as “the variety of life” and encompasses the whole spectrum of living organisms, including plants, birds, mammals and insects. It includes both common and rare species, as well as the genetic diversity within species. Biodiversity also refers to the habitats and ecosystems that support these species.

Biodiversity is part of our natural capital, a vital resource providing:

- Supply of ecosystem services including water, nutrients, climate change mitigation, flood mitigation, carbon storage and pollination;
- Life resources including food, medicine, energy and raw materials;
- Improved health and well-being;
- Landscape and cultural distinctiveness;
- Direct economic benefits from biodiversity resources and ‘added value’ through local economic activity and tourism;
- Educational, recreational and amenity resources.

This Biodiversity Action Plan is part of a much larger biodiversity framework that encompasses international, national and local levels of legislation and policy and which also include ecosystem services and climate change.

1.2. Legislative Background

When carrying out its functions, an IDB must pay regard to the effect on the environment. Some environmental legislation relates specifically to maintaining or restoring the condition of protected sites or protecting certain species, but there are also statutory duties for IDBs to conserve and enhance biodiversity in and alongside the watercourses they manage and the wider landscape.

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 is the legislative foundation of the biodiversity duty framework, that first introduced a general biodiversity duty on public authorities such as IDB’s. This statutory duty was enacted by the Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021, requiring public authorities to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing biodiversity, and considering it when exercising all functions.

Other pieces of legislation, such as the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, impose legal duties where IDB activities may affect: Protected Species, Listed Habitats, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), and European Protected Species (EPS).

Therefore, as a public authority, every IDB must consider what action it can take, consistently with the proper exercise of its functions, to further the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in England.

Below is a list of key environmental legislation (by no means an exhaustive list) relevant to the work of IDBs:

- The Environment Bill (Act) 2021
- Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017
- Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009
- Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Section 40)
- The Environmental Impact Assessment (Land Drainage Improvement Works) (Amendment) Regulations 2017
- Land Drainage Act 1994
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
- The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
- The Protection of Badgers Act 1992
- Flood and Water Management Act 2010
- Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975

1.3. Policy & Strategic Background

The UK's approach to biodiversity has evolved from international commitments to a structured framework that directs environmental protection and enhancement across land and water. Successive global assessments, including reports by the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity Ecosystem Services (IPBES), highlight the accelerating loss of species and habitats, and identify climate change as a key-long term threat. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (COP15) set global targets for 2030 which included protecting 30% of land and water, restoring degraded ecosystems, and halting species decline. These objectives directly reinforced national strategies and provided a framework for local action.

At the domestic level, successive strategies and legislation have established a clear expectation that public bodies will integrate biodiversity into decision making. The biodiversity 2020 Strategy (2011) set the first comprehensive framework for reversing biodiversity loss in England, and the UK 25-year Environment Plan 2018, built on this by promoting landscape-scale recovery and ecosystem services. These strategic commitments have been embedded through the Environment Act 2021, which places the duty on IDBs to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

This BAP translates these strategic drivers into actionable commitments for the IDB. By improving habitat quality, the IDB can support priority species and contribute to national and global targets.

1.4. Purpose

This BAP has been produced to demonstrate how the IDB fulfils its legal obligations to conserve and enhance biodiversity and sets out targets and actions that contribute to local, national and international strategies and policies.

While the IDB has a statutory duty to have regard for the environment whilst carrying out their functions, for example on or within drainage assets such as watercourses and their banks, the IDB has also to give consideration to how they can contribute to the enhancement of the wider environment.

It is not within the scope of this document to set out the IDBs' objectives and actions in relation to wider environmental topics, such as reducing carbon emissions or reducing waste. However, strategies to address such topics may be mentioned in connection to the enhancement of habitats and species, such as peatland restoration and carbon sequestration.

The opportunity to work together to support and enhance biodiversity in partnership with other organisations is sought wherever possible, as the IDB recognises the additional value working in such ways can bring to the overall objectives.

The intention is that biodiversity is fully integrated into the Board's activities, policies and procedures such as annual maintenance programmes, capital works projects, training and communications.

1.5. Aims

The aims of this BAP are:

- To ensure that opportunities for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity are fully considered throughout the IDB's operations;
- To enable more effective monitoring and reporting of progress and outcomes;
- To ensure that Priority species and habitats receive effective action within defined targets within the drainage district;
- To identify targets and appropriate actions for other habitats and species of local importance within the drainage district. This includes invasive non- native species (INNS);
- To contribute to local environmental partnerships such as the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (GLNP) to ensure that programmes and priorities for biodiversity conservation are aligned and maintained in the long term;
- To raise awareness within the IDB and locally of the need for biodiversity conservation, and to communicate with the local and wider community what actions the IDB are undertaking to support biodiversity.

2. The IDB BAP Process

2.1. The Biodiversity Audit

The Black Sluice IDB has conducted a biodiversity audit of its drainage district (Figure 1) and identified those habitats and species that would benefit from particular management or actions by the IDB.

This BAP focuses on nationally important priority habitats and species, that is to say those that have been deemed of 'principal importance' in England under the NERC Act 2006. However, those that are not priority species or habitats, but may be locally significant for a variety of reasons have also been considered. Invasive non-native species have also been included.

The information gathered, which is presented in later sections, has been used to develop this IDB's Biodiversity Action Plan.

2.2. Objectives, Targets and Actions

For each relevant habitat and species, conservation objectives have been identified. The action plan then details individual actions required to achieve the objectives, and associated monitoring and reporting of progress and impact.

In order for this BAP to be as effective as possible the targets and actions have been devised to be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-limited).

Procedural targets and actions have also been considered allowing the Board to measure the way in which it considers and incorporates biodiversity across the whole range of its operations. These may involve changes to administrative, management and operating procedures.

2.3. Monitoring and Reporting

Monitoring is the on-going process of regularly collecting and analysing relevant information to make sure the actions within the Plan are positively contributing towards the targets and to capture any additional benefit achieved. The Plan sets out how and when this monitoring will take place for example, to regularly review the progress of actions against the plan at Board meetings throughout the life of the plan.

The frequency and type of information reported is also defined by the Plan and includes the publication of progress reports in the public domain via the IDB's website and in accordance with the duty set out in the Environment (Bill) Act 2021.

The overall plan will be updated at least every 5 years but as this is a dynamic document it may change more frequently. For example, in the light of routine monitoring, changes may be necessary to ensure an objective can be met.

3. The Biodiversity Audit

3.1. The Black Sluice Internal Drainage District Overview

The drainage district covers an area of approximately 47,211 ha and contains 759km of IDB maintained watercourse along with 148 km of main river. It is located in the Lincolnshire Fens generally south-west of Boston. The Board's area extends from Chapel Hill in the north, to Wilsford in the west, to Bourne then Spalding in the south back to Boston in the east. The Board's boundaries are defined by either main river, Witham and Kyme Eau to the north and Glen and Bourne Eau to the south. High contour line to the western boundary and differing catchments in adjacent Drainage Board areas to the east, the Board has 8km of boundary fronting the River Haven and Wash on the east coast below Boston. The South Forty Foot Drain, a major high consequence watercourse, effectively runs through the centre of the area, south from Guthram Gowt, north and then east into Boston and out into the River Haven and North Sea via the Wash (Figure1).

Table 1: key details of the drainage district.

Area	Size
Total area of the Black Sluice IDB Drainage District	47,211 ha
Catchment area draining to and including the District	67,293 ha
Area of Agricultural Land	43,886 ha
Area of other (non-agricultural) land	3,334 ha
Horbling SSSI	15 ha
The Wash SSSI & Ramsar	42 ha

Assets for which the Board has operational responsibility:

Table 2: board assets

Asset	Size
Watercourses (maintained)	755 km
Raised Embankments	4 km
Pumping Stations	34 (63 pumps)

Assets within or adjacent to the district that are maintained by the Environment Agency:

Table 3: EA assets

Asset	Size
Main Rivers (including highland carriers)	181.14 km
Raised embankments / flood walls	7.9 km (Sea Defences)
	184.9 km (River Flood Defences)
Pumping Stations	2: Tongue End Black Sluice (decommissioned)

3.2. Map of Audit Area (Drainage District)

The area covered by the drainage district of the IDB is shown below in Figure 1.

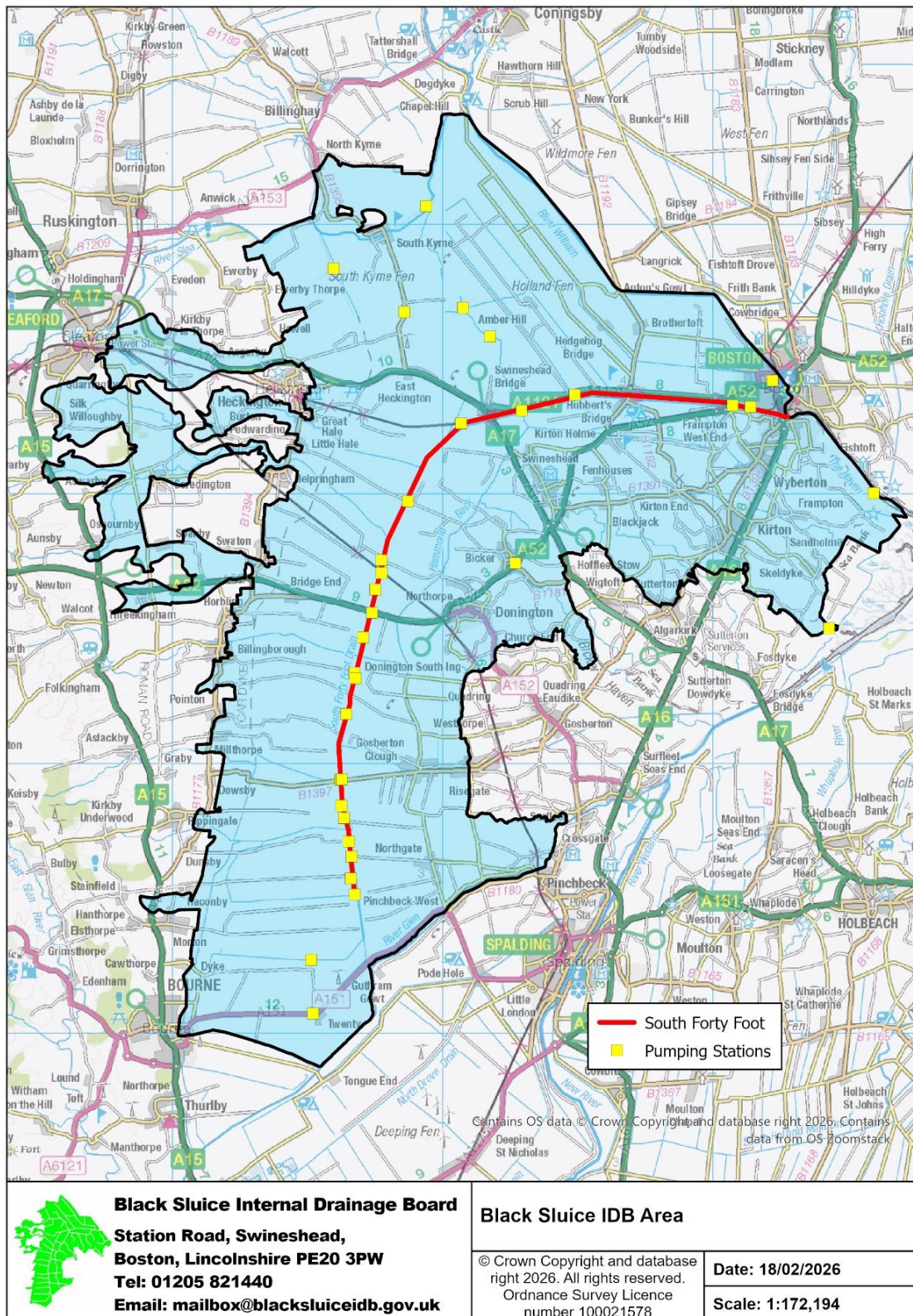


Figure 1: Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board District

3.3. Geology

The majority of the Board's area has drift geology of fenland alluvium. In the west there are small areas of fen peat, gravel, clay and limestone.

3.4. Landscape Character

Natural England has divided the whole of England into a number of National Character Areas (NCA) based on characteristic landforms, wildlife and land use. For each NCA, there is a prepared profile that characterises the wildlife and natural features, identifies the influences that act upon those features and sets objectives for nature conservation.

The majority of the Board's area lies within The Fens NCA. The part which lies between Sleaford and Heckington then south to between Swaton and Osbournby lies within the Southern Lincolnshire Edge NCA, and the very small part which lies north of Bourne to roughly the east-west line of the A52 is within the Kesteven Uplands NCA.

There are no National Parks or National Landscapes within the Board's catchment area.

3.5. Sites and Monuments

Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) are not directly related to Biodiversity matters. Information held by the Board and other sources has not therefore been collated. SAMs are only relevant where they occur adjacent to the Board's watercourses, and they would be referred to on a site-by-site basis as appropriate.

SAMs are listed by English Heritage, who together with Lincolnshire County Council's Historic Environment Record is consulted during Environmental Impact Assessment for all new schemes.

3.6. Tree Preservation Orders

Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) are legal protections for individual trees, groups, or woodlands and are administered by local authorities under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the Town and Country Planning (Trees) Regulations 1999.

TPOs can contribute to local biodiversity by protecting habitats used by birds, bats, invertebrates and other species. For IDB's, awareness of TPOs is important where they occur adjacent to managed watercourses as they may influence vegetation management, habitat restoration, or flood risk works. TPOs are considered on a site-by-site basis, and liaison with local authorities is undertaken as part of environmental assessments and operational planning.

3.7. Statutory Nature Conservation Sites

3.7.1. Internationally Designated Sites

The following internationally designated conservation sites, relevant to the water level management* and/or maintenance activities of the IDB, are found within or adjacent to the

drainage district.

Table 4: Internationally Designated Sites

Site name	Designation	Features Relevant to IDB
The Wash	In two places to the south-east of Kirton and Frampton, the Board's area lies adjacent to The Wash, which is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection area (SPA) and Ramsar site.	The Wash is the largest estuarine system in Britain. It is fed by the rivers Witham, Welland, Nene and Great Ouse. There are extensive saltmarshes, intertidal banks of sand and mud, shallow waters and deep channels. It is the most important staging post and over-wintering site for migrant wildfowl and wading birds in eastern England. It supports a valuable commercial fishery for shellfish and an important nursery area for flatfish. It holds one of the North Sea's largest breeding populations of common seal <i>Phoca vitulina</i> and some grey seals <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> . The sublittoral area supports a number of different marine communities including colonies of the reef-building polychaete worm <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> .

3.7.2. Nationally Designated Sites

The following nationally designated conservation sites, relevant to water level management and/or maintenance activities of the IDB, are found within the drainage district.

Site name	Designation	Component of an International Site	Features Relevant to IDB
The Wash TF 550400	SSSI, NNR	Yes	The whole area is of exceptional biological interest. The intertidal mudflats and saltmarshes represent one of Britain's most important winter-feeding areas for waders and wildfowl outside of the breeding season. Enormous numbers of migrant birds, of international significance, are dependent on the rich supply of invertebrate food. The saltmarsh and shingle communities are of considerable botanical interest, and the mature saltmarsh is a valuable bird breeding zone. In addition, the Wash is also very important as a breeding ground for Common Seals.
Horbling Fen TF 154353	Geological SSSI	No	This site contains sediments deposited between the end of the last Ice Age and the present day and provides a record of the inundations of the sea during this period. The site has considerable potential for future research using stratigraphic and micropaleontological studies to assess one of the most recent marine transgressions in the region and to correlate the inferred sea-level changes with numerous local archaeological finds. The Board have a WLMP agreed with Natural England.

3.7.3. Local Nature Reserves

The following Local Nature Reserves may be relevant to the activities of the IDB and are found within or bordering the drainage district.

Table 5: Local Nature Reserves

Site name	Associated WLMP?*	Features Relevant to IDB
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust Frampton Marsh	No	South East of Boston between the outfalls of River Witham and River Welland, connected to RSPB Frampton Marsh.
Mareham Pastures	No	On the Boards boundary with no relevance to the Board.
RSPB Frampton Marsh	No	Reserve is supported by the Board to wet the land.

3.7.4. Non-statutory Local Wildlife Sites

Several sites have been identified locally as being important for wildlife. Whilst these designations do not have statutory status, the sites are important for their contribution to biodiversity and planning policy requires that they are given consideration by the LPA in forming any decision. The following relevant Local Wildlife Sites are to be found within or bordering the drainage district.

Table 6: Non-Statutory Sites.

Site name	Designation	Features Relevant to IDB
Aswarby Thornes	Local Wildlife Site	Woodland
Beacon Hill Railway Cutting	Local Wildlife Site	Calcareous grassland
Botolphs Park Pond	Local Wildlife Site	Pond, Garden
Broadhurst Drain East	Local Wildlife Site	Coarse or rank grassland, Drain, Neutral grassland - semi-improved
Cobble's Lock Sedge and Reed Beds	Local Wildlife Site	Fen, Wet Woodland, Scrub, Standing Water
Cole's Lane Ponds	Local Wildlife Site	Scrub, Semi-improved neutral grassland, Pond, Marsh/fen, Reedbed
Drove Drain, Horbling Fen	Local Wildlife Site	Coarse or rank grassland, Drain, Neutral grassland - semi-improved
Dyke Fen Drains	Local Wildlife Site	Coarse or rank grassland, Drain
East Drains, Billingborough Fen	Local Wildlife Site	Coarse or rank grassland, Drain
Ewerby Pond	Local Wildlife Site	Pond, Scrub, Marsh, Field margin
Fen Road Drain	Local Wildlife Site	Coarse or rank grassland, Drain, Ruderal
Flower Pot Brick Pits	Local Wildlife Site	Semi-natural woodland, Wet woodland, dense scrub, standing water
Frampton Hall	Local Wildlife Site	Parkland, Semi-natural woodland, Scrub, Semi-improved neutral grassland, Semi-improved calcareous grassland, Improved grassland, Coarse or rank grassland, Ditch, Pond

Gravel Dike	Local Wildlife Site	Drain
Great Hale Eau	Local Wildlife Site	Drain
Guthram Gowt (River Glen)	Local Wildlife Site	Neutral grassland (semi-improved), Scrub (scattered and dense), Species-rich hedgerows, Ruderal, Pond, Floodplain
Hacconby Drove Drain	Local Wildlife Site	Coarse or rank grassland, Drain, Linear reedbed
Hall Weir	Local Wildlife Site	Wet woodland, Coarse or rank grassland, Dense scrub, Ditch, Pond, Reedbed
Hammond Beck	Local Wildlife Site	Coarse or rank grassland, Drain, Reedbed / Linear reedbed
Kirkby la Thorpe Pit	Local Wildlife Site	Standing water, Unimproved calcareous grassland, semi-improved neutral grassland, semi-natural & wet woodland, dense scrub, ruderal
Mackay's Pit	Local Wildlife Site	Pond
Mareham Pastures	Local Wildlife Site	Semi-improved neutral grassland, Woodland
Mill Drain	Local Wildlife Site	Coarse or rank grassland, Drain, Neutral grassland - semi-improved
Millthorpe Drove Drain	Local Wildlife Site	Coarse or rank grassland, Drain, Neutral grassland - semi-improved
Morton Drain	Local Wildlife Site	Coarse or rank grassland, Drain, Linear reedbed
New Dike West	Local Wildlife Site	Drain
North Drain, Billingborough Drove	Local Wildlife Site	Coarse or rank grassland, Drain
North Drain, Horbling Fen	Local Wildlife Site	Coarse or rank grassland, Drain
Old Forty Foot Drain	Local Wildlife Site	Coarse or rank grassland, Drain
Old Forty Foot to South Forty Foot Drain	Local Wildlife Site	Coarse or rank grassland, Drain
Risegate Eau	Local Wildlife Site	Coarse or rank grassland, Drain, Linear reedbed, Scrub
River Glen Corridor	Local Wildlife Site	River, Coarse or rank grassland, Semi-improved neutral grassland
Slippery Gowt Sea Bank	Local Wildlife Site	Coarse or rank grassland
South Drain, Billingborough Drove	Local Wildlife Site	Coarse or rank grassland, Drain
South Forty Foot Drain	Local Wildlife Site	Drain, Neutral grassland (semi-improved), Coarse or rank grassland
Threekingham Road Verges	Local Wildlife Site	Calcareous grassland
Twenty Foot Drain	Local Wildlife Site	Coarse or rank grassland, Drain
Tytton Lane West Pits, East	Local Wildlife Site	Pit, Dense scrub
Tytton Lane West Pits, West	Local Wildlife Site	Pit, Dense scrub
Westgate Wood and Meadow	Local Wildlife Site	Native plantation - new, Neutral grassland - semi-improved, Coarse or rank grassland, Ditch, Pond, Scrub - scattered / dense
Willow Farm Drain	Local Wildlife Site	Coarse or rank grassland, Drain

3.7.5. Landscape Scale Projects

Table 7: Landscape Scale Projects

Project	Location	Relevance to IDB
Lincolnshire Wash Landscape Recovery	RSPB Frampton Marsh, The Wash	The RSPB is looking at expanding its conservation work on the nature reserve and exploring opportunities with neighbours and partners, including Black Sluice IDB. Opportunities currently being investigated include the Defra funded Lincolnshire Wash Landscape Recovery Project, which is a collaboration between RSPB and five other local landowners. If funded is secured for the 30-year delivery phase of the project it will make meaningful change to the area's ecology through restoration of saltmarsh habitat, creation and enhancement of wetland habitats as well as provide local community benefits including education, events and greater opportunities to engage with nature and The Wash.
Bourne North Fen Project	Bourne North Fen	The Bourne North Fen project aims to restore 50ha of lost peat-fenland, creating a multi-purpose wetland which will store water for agriculture, improve water quality, and underpin a local eco tourism economy. The Board is directly involved with the project helping shape the early stages of the land, and the Board owns a section of wetland mosaic habitat on the site.

3.8. Habitat Audit Summary

This habitat audit summary lists the UK priority habitats that occur within the drainage district and are identified as likely to be influenced by the Board’s activities. Also listed are habitats deemed to be of local importance and/or featured in local nature strategies that occur in the drainage district. Finally, brief notes are included on the potential for the IDB to maintain, restore or expand its important habitats. A map of priority habitats within the drainage district can be found in the Appendix.

Table 8: Habitat Audit Summary

Priority Habitat	National Status & Extent	Local occurrence & Extent	Relevance to IDB operations	IDB Impact on & Interactions with the habitat	IDB potential for maintaining, restoring or enhancing (high, medium, low)
Arable Field Margins	<p>Arable field margins are a priority habitat in the UK under Section 41 of NERC Act. Buffer strips are also listed as a priority habitat within the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership’s, Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).</p> <p>Nationally, they have declined due to agricultural intensification. Well-managed margins</p>	<p>Arable land is dominant within the board’s drainage district, and margins are widespread but often narrow or intensively managed. More biodiverse margins are present adjacent to watercourses, drains and access tracks.</p>	<p>Arable field margins can act as buffer strips alongside the board’s managed watercourses. They are primarily in place for access but can act benefit by diffusing polluting and sediment into the drains.</p>	<p>Channel maintenance and vegetation clearance for access can affect field margins through disturbance, but IDB works can also help maintain uncropped margins by defining operational boundaries.</p>	<p>Low – management of arable field margins are largely landowner led, but IDB’s can try to avoid unnecessary disturbance during works and promote no net loss where margins might aid biodiversity. Through the timing and method of maintenance works, access management and engagement with landowners, IDB’s can help influence the condition of field margins.</p>

	support farmland birds, pollinators and small mammals.				
Engineered ditches and drains	Created primarily for land drainage and flood management, these habitats are not designated as a priority habitat under NERC, but are nationally recognised as important modified freshwater systems with high ecological potential that contribute to connectivity, biodiversity, and water quality functions.	Extensive and widespread, forming the core managed drainage network under IDB control.	Directly managed and maintained by the IDB to deliver statutory flood risk management and land drainage functions. The habitat is central to routine maintenance.	The board can never fully positively impact this habitat as the sole purpose is for flood management, but through current practices, the habitat benefits through timed maintenance routines and conservation projects. Negative interactions come from over-maintenance, disturbance to species, biosecurity risks, and loss of habitat.	High – Engineered ditches and drains are maintained and controlled by the board, so the potential to have positive ecological impact is high. The main priority of these habitats is flood risk management, but they can be managed in line with the ADA biodiversity manual and in-line with sensitive periods for key BAP species.
Hedgerows	Hedgerows are a priority habitat under section 41 of the NERC Act. Species-rich and ancient hedgerows are of particular importance in the UK. Nationally, hedgerows have experienced loss due to overly frequent cutting, agricultural	Hedgerows are widespread throughout the drainage district. The majority are species-poor and intensively managed. Small sections of more intact species-rich hedgerows will	Hedgerows can boarder IDB managed watercourses and operational land. They provide important connectivity between habitats for a wide range of species, but can provide access constraints for channel	Routine maintenance works including vegetation clearance, access management and bank maintenance can impact hedgerows through disturbance, structural damage and loss.	Medium – seasonal planning and sensitive maintenance (cutting outside of bird nesting season, March 1 st – July 31 st) is possible in some areas to maintain existing hedgerows where applicable, but hedgerows are not overly present across the district

	intensification, and removal.	persist locally, including those associated with watercourses and embankments.	maintenance.		within 9 metres of a watercourse. Where possible, the board can continue to focus on no net loss of hedgerows.
Ponds	Ponds are a priority habitat under section 41 of the NERC Act due to their widespread historical loss. Ponds support high levels of biodiversity, particularly amphibians and aquatic invertebrates.	Ponds occur sporadically across the district, including field ponds and attenuation ponds.	Ponds are not a core operational asset related to IDB's, some may occur near managed watercourses, but the greatest connection will come from board created attenuation ponds.	If any maintenance work occurs near a pond, this could impact local hydrology, or species disturbance.	Low / Medium – ponds are minimally impacted by the board's operations. The board could explore opportunities to support pond creation or retention within the district. Ponds can also be considered within natural flood management schemes.
Reedbeds	Reedbeds are a priority habitat under section 41 of the NERC Act. It is one of the most important habitats for birds and invertebrates in lowland areas. Nationally they are fragmented and vulnerable to poor management and weather.	Reedbeds occur throughout the drainage district along drains and rivers.	Reedbeds provide ecological benefits and habitat for protected species including, birds, water voles, and otter. These habitats can conflict with water conveyance and access requirements for health & safety.	Vegetation clearance and desilting can remove and fragment reedbed habitat. If unmanaged, reed growth can impede water flow.	Medium – where possible in line with flood risk management, opportunities exist to retain or allow reedbed development in low-risk areas. Operating on a bi-annual cutting regime contributes to habitat diversity and helps the protected species that live within.
Natural Rivers and Streams	Rivers are a Section 41 Priority Habitat under the NERC Act and are a focus of national river restoration, biodiversity recovery and Water Framework Directive objectives in England.	Present within the drainage district but limited in IDB extend compared to engineered systems and usually managed by the Environment	The habitat is not directly managed by the IDB and relevance is indirect via drainage connectivity, water level interactions, and works on behalf of the governing bodies.	The board's impact on natural rivers and streams is largely governed by higher authorities when working on behalf of the Environment Agency, but the	Low – Connected larger rivers and streams within the board's district are not managed by the IDB. The board only has the capacity to influence.

		Agency.		same negative impacts apply as for engineered drains, including species disturbance, over-management, and habitat loss.	
Wet Woodland	Wet woodland is a section 41 Priority Habitat under the NERC Act and is a local priority habitat within the Greater Lincolnshire LNRS. Wet woodlands are scarce and declining but are highly valued for biodiversity, natural flood management and climate resilience.	There is only currently one known area of wet woodland habitat within the IDB district which is Hall Weir in Kirton.	Relevance is very limited due to the lack of wet woodland in the district, however the board does manage a drain connected to the habitat.	Water levels need to be maintained in a wet woodland, so reduced water levels in the connecting ditch could negatively impact the habitat.	Low – wet woodlands are generally suited a low management regime, but some management can help to maintain conservation value. The board can work with the GLNP to explore ways to best manage the one site of wet woodland.
Wetland Mosaic	They comprise a complex of Priority Habitats, including fens, reedbeds, wet grassland, and open water. They are nationally important for biodiversity.	The board will have patches of wetland mosaic within the district, but they are not managed by the IDB. The board does own land near Bourne which categorises as this habitat.	IDB water level management and drainage activities can influence hydrology, connectivity, and condition of wetland mosaic habitats.	An IDB can negatively impact wetland habitats through the nature of its activities to prevent flooding. The board has connections to an area of wetland mosaic, but no management currently takes place.	Low – the board can not influence this habitat largely due to flood risk management operations, but can explore opportunities to influence the habitat through natural flood management, and can continue to explore ways to maximise the wetland mosaic site at Bourne.

3.9. Species Audit Summary

This species audit summary will include priority and other species including INNS that occur within the drainage district and are identified as likely to be influenced by the Board’s activities. Also listed are species deemed to be of local importance and/or identified by local nature strategies. Finally, brief notes are included on the potential for the IDB to improve the status of the species in the drainage district.

Table 9: Species Audit Summary.

Species	National Status	Local Status	Location within the drainage district	IDB impact on, or interaction with, the species	Potential for maintaining or increasing population and range (high/medium/low).
Amphibians					
Common toad (<i>Bufo bufo</i>)	<p>The Common toad is a native species that is declining. They are protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 and are a priority species under UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.</p> <p>More recently, the common toad is identified as a key action species in the Threatened Species Recovery Actions 2025 Baseline from Natural England.</p>	<p>Local assessment for greater Lincolnshire is data deficient for the Common toad, but the species may be widespread.</p>	<p>There are scattered records for the species within the board’s area.</p>	<p>Breeds in ponds and slow drains. Bank works cause mortality risk and toad spawns are sensitive to siltation.</p>	<p>Low – not always directly related to the board’s operations due to a lack of ponds.</p> <p>At sites where amphibians are regularly recorded, the installation of hibernacula can offer benefit to the species.</p> <p>There is a potential to investigate options to support the species with natural flood management and attenuation ponds.</p>

<p>Great crested newt (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>)</p>	<p>Great crested newt is a European protected species (EPS) and are protected under Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. They are also listed as a Priority species under UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.</p> <p>More recently, they are identified as a key action species in the Threatened Species Recovery Actions 2025 Baseline from Natural England.</p>	<p>They are widespread across lowland England, and local assessment of the species population is stable.</p>	<p>There are scattered local records of the species within the board’s area, but there is a lack of ponds within proximity to the board’s work, so the species is infrequently surveyed for.</p>	<p>Temporary dewatering, de-silting, bank reprofiling, vegetation removal near known breeding ponds risk destroying refugia or killing species.</p>	<p>Low – not always directly related to board’s operations due to a lack of ponds and there is low potential to benefit the species from habitat enhancement.</p> <p>At sites where amphibians are regularly recorded, the installation of hibernacula can offer benefit to the species.</p> <p>There is a potential to investigate options with natural flood management and attenuation ponds.</p>
<p>Birds</p>					
<p>Barn owl (<i>Tyto alba</i>)</p>	<p>Barn owls have suffered large declines over the past 50 years, but population is increasing and species are now green listed under Birds of Conservation Concern 5: Red List for Birds (2021).</p> <p>They remain a schedule 1 species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</p>	<p>Lincolnshire is one of the most important parts of Britain for barn owls, and the population is widespread and increasing, but faces annual population fluctuations due to challenges such as weather and prey availability.</p>	<p>Widespread across the IDB district. The board have installed 39 barn owl nest boxes, which are jointly managed with the Wildlife Conservation Partnership.</p>	<p>The board’s operations that influence habitat management, might impact prey availability, but the board has a positive impact on the species through nest box management to support breeding.</p>	<p>High – it is easy to maintain and enhance the network of nest boxes across the district.</p> <p>Maintenance routines for habitat enhancement can support barn owls by enabling population growth of prey species.</p>

	which offers them extra protections against disturbance during breeding.				
<p>Water Associated Birds</p> <p>Birds that rely on waterbodies, riparian zones, margins, reedbeds or wetland habitats. For example:</p> <p><i>Kingfisher, grey heron, egret species, cormorant, moorhen, coot, ducks, geese, swan, waders (lapwing, snipe, redshank, curlew), reed bunting, reed warbler, sedge warbler, wagtail species, sand martin, water rail, terns, gulls.</i></p>	<p>Many water associated birds are listed priority species, noted as Red or Amber listed and have suffered varying declines of population and distribution across farmland habitat.</p> <p>They are also protected under Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.</p>	<p>Species can be found across the drainage network throughout Lincolnshire.</p>	<p>Throughout the IDB district.</p>	<p>Birds may be impacted through bushing maintenance, tree loss, and hedgerow loss – particularly during the breeding season. Species can also be impacted by desilting in the winter, where silt is deposited on adjacent land.</p>	<p>High – Birds associated with the drainage network can be benefitted through sensitive habitat maintenance, particularly by operating outside of the bird nesting season (march 1st – august 1st) where possible.</p> <p>Species can be supported further by maintaining a minimum vegetation level where possible and promptly reseeding banks after re-profiling.</p> <p>There are opportunities to support nesting birds through habitat enhancements with capital works, and species-specific enhancements (e.g., artificial nesting sites).</p>
<p>Terrestrial Birds</p>	<p>Wild birds in England are protected under</p>	<p>Found across farmland and other</p>	<p>Widespread across drainage network.</p>	<p>Terrestrial birds may be impacted through</p>	<p>Medium – Terrestrial species can be supported</p>

<p>Birds that don't rely on waterbodies for nesting or feeding, and primarily use farmland, grassland, woodland, hedgerows, scrub. Species of principal importance in England include:</p> <p><i>Corn bunting, curlew, grey partridge, lapwing, skylark, yellow wagtail, bullfinch, linnets, reed bunting, starling, tree sparrow, turtle dove, yellowhammer.</i></p>	<p>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.</p>	<p>terrestrial habitats across lowland in England.</p>		<p>bushing maintenance, tree loss, and hedgerow loss – particularly during the breeding season. Species can also be impacted by desilting in the winter, where silt is deposited on adjacent land.</p>	<p>through sensitive cutting routines such as alternate bank cutting, and operating outside of the main nesting season (march 1st – august 1st). They can further be supported through ensuring no net loss of hedgerows, and making considerations surrounding bushing works.</p>
<p>Swallows, Martins, and Swifts</p>	<p>House martin is a red listed species, with populations down 37% between 1995 – 2020.</p> <p>Swift is a red listed species, with</p>	<p>Widespread with yearly fluctuations.</p>	<p>Present throughout the district.</p>	<p>Nest boxes are installed on Helpringham and Quadring pumping station.</p> <p>Swallow species are</p>	<p>Medium – easy to support with nest box installs at pumping stations and board building, but assessed on a site by site basis where work allows.</p>

	populations down 60% between 1995 – 2020. Barn swallow are green listed, but populations are declining.			known to nest under pumping station buildings.	
Kestrel (<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>)	Kestrel are an Amber listed species of Birds of Conservation Concern due to a decline in UK breeding population, and they are protected under Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.	Widespread with yearly fluctuations.	Present throughout the district.	Kestrels use the top of barn owl nest boxes, and frequently forage along banksides. Other impacts from habitat management that might impact prey availability.	High – easy to maintain and enhance the network of nest boxes across the district. Maintenance routines for habitat enhancement can support barn owls by enabling population growth of prey species.
Fish and Eel					
European eel (<i>Anguilla Anguilla</i>)	Priority species under the UK post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. Critically Endangered on the global IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. 95% decline in UK populations	Widespread across	Some sightings across the district but minimal records.	In-channel obstructions (pumping stations, culverts, weirs) directly impact species migration. Desilting operations can impact species mortalities.	Medium - There is high potential to benefit species migration through habitat enhancement and removal of barriers (i.e., installing fish friendly pumps and eel passes) however, logistically challenging. Improvements can be made on a gradual basis when replacements are required in-line with EA exemptions and regulations.
Invertebrates					
Pollinators: Including many	Many species have suffered serious declines and are under	Local priority species include:	Some species widespread throughout the	Maintenance operations impact habitat loss and food	High – potential to benefit species through continued sensitive maintenance

species of butterfly, moth, bees, hoverflies and other insect groups.	long-term pressure. Between 1976 – 2024, total butterfly abundance in England has fallen by 19%.	Butterfly: Large heath, Grizzled skipper, dingy skipper, marsh fritillary, duke of burgundy, grayling, wall, black hairstreak, brown hairstreak.	district but lacking internal data, except for the butterfly garden site.	availability	routines (alternate cutting), and using specialist seed mixes, coir roll planting, and habitat enhancements at select sites.
Reptiles					
Common Lizard (<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>)	Priority species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework and protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.	Widespread	Across the district but limited data.	All maintenance operations could negatively impact the species through habitat loss and machinery related mortalities.	Medium - installation of hibernacula where reptiles are regularly recorded or there are suitable ecological features present. Following sensitive regimes (alternate bank cutting) and increasing surveys can offer support.
Grass Snake (<i>Natrix Helvetica</i>)	Priority species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework and protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The species are nationally in decline.	Widespread	Across the district but limited data.	All maintenance operations could negatively impact the species through habitat loss and machinery related mortalities.	Medium - installation of hibernacula where reptiles are regularly recorded or there are suitable ecological features present. Following sensitive regimes (alternate bank cutting) and increasing surveys can offer support.
Slow worm (<i>Anguis fragilis</i>)	Priority species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework and protected under the Wildlife and	Widespread	Across the district but limited data.	All maintenance operations could negatively impact the species through habitat loss and	Medium - installation of hibernacula where reptiles are regularly recorded or there are suitable ecological features present.

	<p>Countryside Act 1981.</p> <p>The species are nationally in decline.</p>			<p>machinery related mortalities.</p>	<p>Following sensitive regimes (alternate bank cutting) and increasing surveys can offer support.</p>
Mammals					
<p>Bats All UK species</p>	<p>All species of bat and their roosts are protected by law and covered by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Bats are a European Protected Species.</p>	<p>Different species widespread across different locations.</p>	<p>Widespread across the district, but limited data on species assemblages.</p>	<p>Direct impact on bats is low. Potential impacts with capital works and pumping station refurbishments.</p> <p>Indirect impacts might come from prey availability from maintenance operations and foraging habitat loss.</p>	<p>Low – artificial nest boxes can be installed on some pumping station buildings, but there is no historical record of success within the IDB.</p> <p>Avoid the loss of mature trees across the district where possible.</p>
<p>Badger (<i>Meles meles</i>)</p>	<p>Common in the UK and protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.</p>	<p>Widespread.</p>	<p>Very common in the drainage district.</p>	<p>Species and their habitat impacted by IDB drainage operations and channel maintenance. Impact remains minimal due to IDB badger policy and licencing regulations.</p>	<p>Low – no actions to enhance but just focus on maintaining and mitigation where needed.</p>
<p>Eurasian otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>).</p>	<p>Species of Principal Importance under section 41 of Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Major declines prior to</p>	<p>Widespread.</p>	<p>Common throughout the district but lacking data.</p>	<p>Some impact on the species with potential loss of habitat.</p>	<p>Medium – potential to benefit species through habitat enhancement, such as artificial holt creation. Loss of existing habitat can be assessed when</p>

	80's but made a large comeback and now present in every county. Species remains vulnerable to local pressures and remains protected under Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.				considering bushing works through surveying and mitigating mature tree loss.
European water vole (<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>)	Most rapidly declining mammal species in Britain due to habitat loss and American mink, but numbers are boosting in certain regions due to mink eradication programmes. Fully protected by law (WCA 1981, NERC 2006).	Widespread.	Widespread across the district but lacking data.	IDB operations can have a major impact on the species and their survival, through habitat loss. Workforces have some known interactions with the species which are recorded, but not many are reported.	High – potential to benefit species from habitat enhancement and changes to maintenance regime where suitable to manage watercourses in an appropriate way for water vole survival. Partnership working with water life recovery for mink eradication ongoing.

3.10. Invasive Non-native Species Summary

Invasive non-native species are species that have become introduced in places beyond their native range and often their new environments have not developed ways of controlling their behaviour, growth, and spread. Invasive species thrive and dominate, outcompeting native species and cause problems to biodiversity, communities, and economies. The IDB has identified the following high-risk aquatic and riparian INNS within the drainage district that are likely to be influenced by, or impact upon the boards activities.

Table 7: High risk aquatic and riparian invasive non-native species summary

Species	National status and extent	Local status and extent	Year first recorded	Relevance to IDB operations	IDB potential for controlling the species (low, medium, high)
American mink <i>Neovison vison</i>	Widespread and established across England after escaping fur farms during the 20 th century. They are nationally recognised as high-impact invasive predators, decimating native wildlife, including water voles and ground-nesting birds.	Mink is a key target species regionally and they are present throughout the catchment, although populations are declining due to eradication efforts.	1989.	Mink is associated with IDB managed watercourses, drains, and bankside habitats. The watercourses provide linear corridors facilitating mink movement and access to prey.	Low – continue to offer support to WRE (Waterlife Recovery East) for the mink eradication programme where required. The board does not manage traps, but can offer assistance in certain instances and report sightings.
Chinese mitten crab <i>Eriocheir sinensis</i>	Highly invasive and established in numerous river catchments in England, particularly in eastern and southern systems connecting to the North Sea. The	Recorded within eastern parts of England and likely to occur and expand within connected lowland river systems.	No records in the district yet.	Potentially main rivers and larger connected drains.	Low – control options are limited, the IDB role is primarily monitoring and reporting.

	species spreads rapidly through connected river and drainage networks, and is categorised as a high risk INNS due to its burrowing behaviour and potential to damage flood defence infrastructure.				
Floating pennywort <i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i>	Highly invasive aquatic plant species, causing blockages and reducing flow capacity.	Present within the district and occurs in slow-flowing watercourses, but spreads rapidly smothering the channel.	2025.	The species directly affects conveyance capacity in the watercourse and increases flood risks. Poor dispersal practices by IDB's can risk reinfestation, and it requires frequent and costly removal.	Medium – early detection and control can be implemented into routine maintenance, but complete eradication can be difficult once established. Ownership for removal can fall on riparian land owners, rather than the IDB, but the board has an obligation to follow biosecurity and not spread.
Giant hogweed <i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	A very large invasive plant growing to over 3m in height, leaving other plants without sunlight and diminishes habitat for water vole.	Occurs sporadically across the district. Tends to occur in isolated strands rather than being widespread. It is toxic and presents a health and safety risk due to phototoxic sap.	1993.	Hogweed can be frequent encountered during bankside and access works, but disturbance from maintenance can encourage the spread, and present health and safety risks to staff and contractors.	Low – control is possible but requires specialist handling and treatment. The role of the IDB is to identify, monitor and report.
Himalayan	Now common	Present locally,	2018.	It can be encountered often	Medium – The board can

<p>balsam <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i></p>	<p>across riverbanks. It is an annual species dying back in the winter, leaving banks bare and vulnerable to erosion. It grows rapidly in the summer completely outcompeting other species, spreading its seeds up to 7m away.</p>	<p>particularly on disturbed banks and margins, but under-reported.</p>		<p>during routine maintenance works but soil disturbance and cuttings from machinery and maintenance can facilitate spread.</p>	<p>contribute to the eradication of balsam through planned timing of works, although long-term success depends on coordinated management surrounding IDB land. Biosecurity protocol between sites is important.</p>
<p>Japanese knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i></p>	<p>This is one of the most damaging and legally significant invasive plants in the UK. Spreading via rhizomes, it causing significant structural damage and is subject to strict waste and biosecurity protocols.</p>	<p>Occurs sporadically across the district.</p>	<p>2011.</p>	<p>Knotweed is frequently linked to embankments, watercourses and access routes. Works pose a high risk of spread, but the species itself can pose a risk to IDB operations threatening the stabilisation of banks.</p>	<p>Low – control requires specialist treatment and long-term commitment. The role of the board is largely committed to avoidance, biosecurity and reporting.</p>
<p>New Zealand pygmyweed <i>Crassula helmsii</i></p>	<p>One of the most problematic invasive aquatic species in the UK, that is capable of rapid spread and forming dense monocultures. It reduces habitat quality for</p>	<p>May occur in ponds, ditches, or slow flowing channels within the district. It is likely under-reported.</p>	<p>No records in the district.</p>	<p>Spreads through water movement and contaminated machinery. Mechanical works undertaken by the board can fragment and spread between sites.</p> <p>The dense growth of the species can reduce channel</p>	<p>Medium – early detection and control can be implemented into routine maintenance. Biosecurity protocol between sites is important.</p>

	invertebrates and amphibians and is difficult to eradicate.			capacity and complicate routine maintenance by limiting access.	
Signal crayfish <i>Pacifastacus leniusculus</i>	The species is widespread and expanding across England, displacing the native, white-clawed crayfish and causing significant bank erosion through burrowing. They are recognised nationally as a high-impact aquatic INNS with limited control options.	Locations in the district are unknown, currently under-reported.	No records in the district.	Burrowing activities of crayfish can undermine banks and embankments, which can increase erosion risk and raise maintenance and repair costs for the board.	Low – limited control options for the board, but there can be a focus on monitoring and reporting.
Water fern <i>Azolla filiculoides</i>	Water fern is widespread and established across England, particularly in lowland and slow-flowing water bodies. It spreads rapidly through fragmentation and forms dense surface mats that depletes oxygen, outcompetes native species and impairs ecological function of waterbodies.	Likely to occur sporadically across the catchments in ditches.	1972.	The dense mats of vegetation that are formed impede the flow of water and block drainage channels, causing a flood risk for the board. Accumulations can also block culverts and weed screens at pumping stations. The board's maintenance activities can fragment and spread water fern if arisings are not properly managed.	Medium – the board can manage water fern through monitoring, reporting and timely mechanical removal. Effective removal of arisings and biosecurity are important between sites.

3.11. Water Level Management Plans

Water Level Management Plans (WLMPs) provide a means by which the water level requirements for a range of activities in a particular area, including agriculture, flood defence and conservation, can be balanced and integrated. Guidance to produce WLMPs by the operating authorities for sites of conservation interest was produced by MAFF/ Defra in 1992, 1999 and 2004. This guidance concentrated on SSSIs, especially those of international importance (SPA or SAC sites).

Where IDBs are the operating authority for sites, they may or may not actively manage the water levels.

The table below provides further details of the Water Level Management Plans for which the IDB has some involvement within their drainage district.

Table 10: Black Sluice Water Level Management Plan

Site Name & Designation	Reason for WLMP (state main species or habitat)	WLMP lead and other key [partners]	Active Management by IDB	WLMP Last Updated
Horbling Fen	This site contains sediments deposited between the end of the last Ice Age and the present day and provides a record of the inundations of the sea during this period. The site has considerable potential for future research using stratigraphic and micropaleontological studies to assess one of the most recent marine transgressions in the region and to correlate the inferred sea-level changes with numerous local archaeological finds. The Board have a WLMP agreed with Natural England.	BSIDB/NE	Ops Lead	2022

4. Habitat and Species Action Plans

4.1. Introduction

Action plans comprise the targets and actions that the IDB has identified for each habitat and species to be included within the BAP. The following sections contain action plans for each of the habitats and species that have been prioritised by the IDB.

4.2. Habitat Action Plans

4.2.1. Arable Field Margins

Arable field margins are nationally recognised as important for farmland biodiversity, supporting priority birds, pollinators, small mammals and invertebrates. While not all field margins meet the definition of a Section 41 Priority Habitat, they contribute significantly to national agri-environmental and biodiversity recovery targets. The IDB has a legal duty under Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 to have regard for the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out its functions.

Table 11: Arable Field Margin Actions.

ref	IDB Target	Action ref	Action	Indicators	Action Lead	Deadline / Timeline
1	Avoid net loss of arable field margins surrounding board managed watercourses and access routes over the next 5-years.	A	Avoid unnecessary additional disturbance to field margins beyond what is required for operational access, where possible within the board's 9 metre bylaws and where health and safety risk allows.	No recorded unnecessary loss of field margins.	Operations.	On-going

4.2.2. Engineered Ditches and Drains

Although created for functional purposes regarding flood risk management, engineered ditches and streams now form an extensive artificial aquatic habitat network and support a wide range of species, including protected and priority. As the managing authority, the board has direct operational control and therefore a clear legal responsibility under Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 to integrate biodiversity conservation into their management. In addition, the IDB must comply with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 when undertaking works.

Table 12: Engineered Ditches and Drains Actions.

ref	IDB Target	Action ref	Action	Indicators	Action Lead	Deadline / Timeline
1	Maintain and enhance biodiversity on board-maintained ditches and drains across the district to continue improving habitat by 2031.	A	Ensure compliance to legislation and follow the Environmental Good Governance Guide (EGGG) and The Drainage Channel Biodiversity Manual (DCBM) when maintaining watercourses.	Maintenance records and maps of cutting programme. Habitat surveys.	Environment officer, maintenance director, operations.	On-going with annual review.
		B	Undertake annual alternate bank cutting across the catchment where flood risk and access allow.	GIS layers.		
		C	Avoid vegetation clearance during sensitive and key breeding periods (including bird nesting March 1 st – August 1 st) where possible by programming works appropriately.	Habitat enhancement plans and completion.		
		D	Identify opportunities for habitat enhancement projects within the district, such as nesting habitat for birds and otter, or opportunities to increase pollinators.			
		E	Deliver a minimum of 3 habitat enhancement projects within the board's drainage network by March 2030.			

		F	Carry out biosecurity and the control of INNS to maintain and protect native biodiversity across rivers streams and ditches within the board's area.			
		G	Where possible, do not dam and empty watercourses when desilting to reduce ecological impact.			
2	Ensure full compliance with environmental legislation, including biosecurity for all works annually.	A	Undertake staff training a minimum of once per year on priority and protected species within the board's drainage network.	Staff and contractor training records	Environment officer, planning	On-going with annual review.
		B	Undertake an annual biosecurity protocol review and deliver refresher training to the workforce.			
		C	Deliver toolbox talks to all contractors before capital works that impact ditches and drains.			
		D	Remain up to date with all relevant environmental legislation that impacts the board's operations and the species and habitats within board managed drains and ditches.			
		E	Work collaboratively with the planning department to ensure incoming applications that impact the board's drains are environmentally compliant with survey reports.			

4.2.3. Hedgerows

Hedgerows are a Priority Habitat under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006, with species-rich and ancient hedgerows of particular importance. National targets focus on halting further loss, improving structural condition and restoring connectivity across agricultural landscapes. The IDB has legal obligations and a biodiversity duty under the NERC Act to consider hedgerows in decision making, and they further have operational responsibilities under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 where hedgerows supporting nesting birds and other species.

Table 13: Hedgerows Actions.

ref	IDB Target	Action ref	Action	Indicators	Action Lead	Deadline / Timeline
1	Support hedgerow habitats by achieving no net loss on IDB-managed land.	A	Do not remove hedgerows unless operationally necessary.	No recorded unnecessary loss of field margins.	Operations and environment officer.	On-going
		B	Compensate for hedgerow removal by re-planting where removal is required.	Survey reports.		
		C	Complete ecological surveys on hedgerows prior to bushing and maintenance works to ensure no harm to biodiversity.			

4.2.4. Ponds

Ponds are a priority habitat under Section 41 of NERC Act and are recognised nationally for their high biodiversity value. National targets emphasise the protection of existing ponds and creation and restoration of clean, well-connected pond networks. While an IDB does not directly manage ponds, they have a duty under NERC to ensure their operations do not negatively impact pond habitats and take reasonable opportunities to support their conservation where this aligns with operational requirements.

Table 14: Ponds Actions.

ref	IDB Target	Action ref	Action	Indicators	Action Lead	Deadline / Timeline
1	Increase knowledge of pond locations and ecology within the district, to better enable opportunities for conservation during the next 5-year period.	A	Identify and map all ponds relevant to the board within the drainage district.	GIS layer. Survey reports.	Environment officer, ecologists.	March 2031.
		B	Undertake ecological surveys (including eDNA) on relevant ponds.			
2	Enhance pond habitat within the board's district through the creation of a new pond within the next 5-years.	A	Explore and identify a specific location for a new proposed pond within IDB managed district.	Pond creation opportunities.	Environment officer, GLNP, ecologists, operations.	March 2031.
		B	Work in partnership via the local nature recovery strategy to look for opportunities to enhance pond creation through involvement in projects.			
		C	Explore opportunities to enhance the pond at the board's office In Swineshead.			

4.2.5. Reedbeds

Reedbeds are a priority habitat under Section 41 of the NERC Act and are nationally important for biodiversity, supporting a range of priority bird species, invertebrates and aquatic fauna. National targets focus on maintaining existing reedbeds, improving condition and expanding extent. The IDB's biodiversity duty requires consideration of reedbeds during planning and delivery of works, and careful management can allow reedbeds to be maintained or enhanced while safeguarding drainage and flood risk functions.

Table 15: Reedbeds Actions.

ref	IDB Target	Action ref	Action	Indicators	Action Lead	Deadline / Timeline
1	Maintain and enhance the extent and biodiversity value of reedbed habitat within the board's district over the next 5-years.	A	Undertake annual alternate bank cutting across the catchment where flood risk and access allow.	Maintenance records and maps of cutting programme.	Operations, environment officer.	On-going
		B	Where possible, avoid vegetation maintenance during the main bird nesting season (March 1 st – August 1 st).			
		C	Explore opportunities to create new reedbed habitat during capital works or bank reconstruction.			
		D	Avoid complete removal of reedbeds unless for required for conveyance or safety, to support habitat for water voles and nesting birds.			

4.2.6. Natural Rivers and Streams

Natural rivers and streams include numerous priority habitats under Section 41 of the NERC Act. National policy and biodiversity strategies place strong emphasis on restoring natural processes, improving connectivity, enhancing habitat quality, and achieving good ecological status. Within the IDB district, responsibility for the management of these systems typically sits with larger regulatory bodies such as the Environment Agency. The IDB might influence these habitats through partnership working.

Table 16: Natural Rivers and Streams Actions

ref	IDB Target	Action ref	Action	Indicators	Action Lead	Deadline / Timeline
1	Minimise IDB ecological impacts on natural rivers and streams when undertaking works for external authorities.	A	When undertaking early maintenance cuts for the Environment Agency, ensure that nesting bird surveys have been conducted within 48 hours prior to the cut.	Survey records	Operations, environment officer, Environment Agency.	On-going
		B	Ensure compliance to legislation and follow the Environmental Good Governance Guide (EGGG) and The Drainage Channel Biodiversity Manual (DCBM) when maintaining watercourses.			
		C	Ensure all works near natural rivers and streams are screened for protected species and habitats, and that they follow appropriate legal procedures.			
2	Encourage and influence positive working practices and strategy to external authorities where possible, to boost the	A	Maintain a good communication pathway with the Environment Agency and relevant authorities regarding works, risks, and opportunities.			
		B	Encourage the uptake of beneficial			

	habitat over the next 5-years.		ecological working practices on main rivers and streams where flood risk allows, such as alternate bank cutting.			
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4.2.7. Saltmarsh and Mudflats

saltmarsh and mudflats are priority costal habitats recognised under Section 41 of the NERC Act, due to their importance for internationally significant bird populations, specialised invertebrates and costal processes. National policy places strong emphasis on their protection and sustainable management, particularly in relation to shoreline management and estuarine systems. Within relation to the IDB, these habitats are connected through local nature reserves occurring the tidal area of outfall at The Wash.

ref	IDB Target	Action ref	Action	Indicators	Action Lead	Deadline / Timeline
1	Continue to maintain and enhance related saltmarsh and mudflat habitats by working closely with local nature reserves to assist with water management and enhance biodiversity.	A	Laise with RSPB Frampton Marsh annually to discuss their requirements for water management for managing the reserve.	Agreement for delivering water to the reserve.	CEO, Environment Officer, Maintenance Director.	2031 with annual review.
		B	Deliver agreed upon water delivery arrangements.			

4.2.8. Wetland Mosaic

Wetland mosaics are recognised within national biodiversity policy as important for ecological resilience, particularly in lowland drained landscapes. Within the IDB district, wetland mosaic habitats arise primarily as a result of historic drainage infrastructure and ongoing water level management rather than targeted habitat creation. The IDB’s legal duty in relation to these habitats is limited to having regard to biodiversity under Section 40 of the NERC Act, while continuing to deliver its statutory functions. The Board may contribute to the maintenance of wetland mosaics incidentally through sensitive watercourse management and partnership working, where such actions are compatible with flood risk management objectives.

Table 16: Wetland Mosaic actions

ref	IDB Target	Action ref	Action	Indicators	Action Lead	Deadline / Timeline
1	Maintain awareness of wetland mosaic distribution within the boards district to minimise ecological impacts on the habitat.	A	Identify and map areas of wetland mosaic within or adjacent to the drainage district.	GIS layer. Survey reports.	Environment officer.	On-going monitoring with first survey report by March 2028.
		B	Undertake ecological surveys of the board owned wetland mosaic in Bourne.			



Figure 3: Bourne Fen Wetland Mosaic Habitat

4.3. Species Action Plans

Species have been put into categories based on the IDB's obligations. All species within the BAP are protected by legislation, but there is not a legal obligation to act, there is just a legal obligation to 'not cause harm'. The following categories of must, should, and could, have been created to tackle this, and species within the BAP have been placed into one with actions that reflect this.

Species that are placed in the 'must' category are directly impacted by the work of an IDB and are more sensitively protected species that live within the drainage network. Species within the 'should' category, are species found within the district that are declining and need the support of the board. Lastly, species in the 'could' category are what the board would like to help, and they can be 'easy wins' for conservation.

Table 17: Species Action Plan Categories

Priority Category	Description
Must	The species is directly impacted by our work (e.g., protected and live in the drainage channel).
Should	Species that are declining and therefore we should support them.
Could	Not in dire need of help, but we would like to support them, they might be 'easy wins'.

4.3.1. Water Vole

Must	IDB's have a statutory obligation to protect water voles and their habitats due to the species legal status and the nature of drainage operations. Water voles are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.
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Table 18: Water Vole Actions.

ref	IDB Target	Action ref	Action	Indicators	Action Lead	Deadline / Timeline	
1	Maintain and improve water vole habitat across the drainage network where flood risk allows, to support water vole population growth over the next 5 years.	A	Adopt a more sensitive maintenance routine, leaving the toe of the bank untouched on one side, where possible.	Bank toe margins left on applicable drains.	Environment Officer, Maintenance Director and Works Supervisor	Developed annually over the next 5 year-period, with continual efforts to identify and map watercourses suitable for the regime.	
		B	Continue with alternate annual bank side cutting to provide habitat for water voles.	GIS layer developed annually with suitable drains.			Environment Officer to monitor the banks during cutting to track the programme.
		C	Enhance habitat for water voles during capital schemes and bank reprofiling through efficient seeding.	Increased suitable habitat for water voles, with annual survey at select sites to monitor potential population growth.			

2	Improve knowledge of water vole presence in the Black Sluice district through surveys and tracker reports to develop a detailed map of species distribution annually.	A	Undertake water vole surveys at sensitive sites and prior to capital works and in-channel works, such as installing culverts or bank reprofiling.	GIS layer developed annually.	Workforce Environment Officer	On-going with an annual review of GIS layer growth.
		B	Workforce to report all sightings of water voles and their burrows via TomTom trackers.			
3	Reduce the presence of American mink in the IDB district by 2031.	A	Continue to work in partnership with the Waterlife Recovery Trust to deploy mink traps within the boards district.	Receive a report from WTR annually on the number of mink caught in the IDB district. Develop a GIS map over the next 5 years that plots mink trapped and water vole sightings to measure a link.	Waterlife Recovery Trust supported by Environment Officer and Operations	On-going.



Figure 4: Photo A – Mink raft used for capture. Photo B – Water vole raft with latrines used for surveying.

4.3.2. Badgers

Must	The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 protects badgers and their setts and imposes legislative duties on IDB's. The nature of drainage board operations has direct impacts on badger habitat, and members of the board operate under a CL27 Natural England licence for working around badgers.
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Table 19: Badger Actions.

Ref	IDB Target	Action	Indicators	Action Lead	Deadline / Timeline
1	Maintain existing badger habitat within the drainage network where flood risk allows and in-line with legislation and licensing regulations.	Follow CL27 Natural England badger licencing terms and regulations for operating around badgers and their setts whilst undertaking maintenance and other work. The board's obligations surrounding badgers can be found under policies on the website: 55 2025 06 24 working near badgers policy.pdf	Annual GIS layer of badger sett locations across the district, to be used when planning works.	Operations	On-going with annual review.
2	Maximise awareness and education of badger ecology, their habitats and licencing regulations within the IDB to enable no unlawful actions against badgers.	Implement an annual training schedule delivered to all field workers ensuring awareness of badgers and all relevant legislation and licencing.	Workforce attendance to training and toolbox talks.	Environment Officer	Annual training.



Figure 5: Badger photo taken from a camera trap, on a board-maintained drain.

4.3.3. Bats

Must	All species of bat in England are strictly protected by law. IDB’s frequently work around structures and habitats that are favourable for bats and therefore have legal responsibilities. Bats are a European Protected Species (EPS) and are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The IDB must consider bats in all operations involving structures and mature trees.
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Table 20: Bat Actions.

Ref	IDB Target	Action ref	Action	Indicators	Action Lead	Deadline / Timeline
1	Gain a better understanding of the distribution and ecology of bats across the district and all board pumping stations over the next 5-years.	A	Emergence surveys to be undertaken by the Environment Officer at all pumping stations.	GIS layer for bats, and survey reports.	Environment officer, local bat groups, ecologists.	All pumping stations bat surveyed by October 2028.
		B	Further licenced surveys to be undertaken by external consultants where bat presence is confirmed or suspected ahead of any works.			
2	Maintain and enhance the current distribution and abundance of bats within the district through habitat management and roost support.	A	Where possible, do not remove prey rich habitat and potential roost sites, such as mature trees and ensure no net loss of hedges. Mature tree removal to be considered on a case-by-case basis and surveyed.	Survey reports for bats and trees.	Environment Officer, operations, ecologists.	On going with a review in October 2028.
		B	Support bat food availability by maintaining the drainage in line with alternate annual bank cutting to provide a mosaic of vegetation heights and flowering plants.	Alternate bank cutting regime.		

		C	Review and select pumping stations suitable for artificial bat boxes and install them.	Number of bat boxes installed.		
--	--	----------	--	--------------------------------	--	--

4.3.4. Birds – generic

Must	All wild birds, their nests and eggs, receive legal protection in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. As IDB operations involve vegetation management and drainage maintenance, they have a legal duty to avoid harming breeding birds. It is an offence to act recklessly, e.g., carrying out vegetation clearance without checking for nesting birds.
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Table 21: Birds Actions.

Ref	IDB Target	Action ref	Action	Indicators	Action Lead	Deadline / Timeline
1	Maintain and enhance breeding bird habitat in line with legislation and guidance.	A	Alternate annual bank cutting to maintain habitat.	Survey reports and survey sheets by the field workers.	Environment officer, operations.	On-going.
		B	Cutting outside of the peak nesting season (March 1 st – August 1 st) where possible, to not disturb or harm birds unlawfully.			
		C	Undertake bird surveys prior to any early cuts and other works between March 1 st – August 1 st .			
		D	Leave exclusion zones of 10m around active nests during works.			
2	Improve knowledge of the distribution and abundance of priority bird species within the drainage district.	A	Keep a record of bird sightings on surveys in an excel spreadsheet.	Database and GIS layer for priority species.	Environment Officer.	On going.



Figure 6: Nesting swan at Chain Bridge pumping station.

4.3.5. Eel

Must	The European eel is protected through a combination of UK and international legislation that places responsibilities on operating authorities such as IDBs. Although not protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the eel is subject to specific statutory duties aimed at restoring passage and reducing mortality within managed water systems. The Eel Regulations 2009 places direct legal duty on IDB's as they manage structures and channels that obstruct eel movement. The board must Work with the Environment Agency to determine requisite eel measures for appropriate pumping stations to install eel pass, as required under regulation 17(4) of the Eels Regulations 2009. This action is to be undertaken in accordance with the terms specified within eel screen exemption notices served to the board.
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Table 22: Eel Actions.

Ref	IDB Target	Action ref	Action	Indicators	Action Lead	Deadline / Timeline
1	Maintain and where possible, increase the habitat range and population of eels within the boards area through the installation of approved eel passes and fish friendly pumps.	A	Liaise with the Area Fisheries Officer to enable application of the Eels Regulations regulatory assessment process, and determine the requisite eel measure for relevant pumping stations, by the date specified on each exemption notice.	Eel exemption notices and approved plans for the delivery of the requisite eel measure.	Environment officer, CEO, Area Fisheries Officer.	On-going with reviews as and when pump refurbishments / replacements are required in-line with EA exemptions.
		B	Agree the timescale for delivery of the eel requisite eel measure with the Area Fisheries Officer, by the date specified on each exemption notice.			
		C	Deliver the requisite eel measure by the date agreed with the Area Fisheries Officer.			
2	To support natural eel passage through effective watercourse management.	A	Identify redundant barriers to eel migration within the district and explore opportunities to remove unnecessary	GIS layer of eel passage restrictions in the drainage district.	Environment Officer and operations.	On going.

			restrictions (e.g., old culverts).			
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4.3.6. Otters

must	<p>Otters are one of the most strictly protected mammals in the UK, and IDB’s must ensure their operations comply with legislation. Otters receive full protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and are a European Protected Species. IDB’s are obliged to assess whether otters and their nesting sites are present before impacting the habitat.</p>
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Table 23: Otter Actions.

Ref	Target	Action ref	Specific Actions	Measurable Indicators	Action Lead	Timeline
1	Maintain natural existing otter habitat within the drainage network where flood risk allows to minimise habitat loss.	A	Identify sites that have suitable habitat features for otters (secluded vegetation cover and trees) and sensitively manage these features where flood risk allows.	Areas of otter habitat and sightings mapped on a GIS layer annually.	Environment Officer.	On going with annual review.
		B	Environment Officer to undertake surveys prior to bushing works in areas where otters could be present.	Annual otter survey undertaken at select sites of suitable habitat.		
2	Increase the availability of suitable breeding habitat for otters in the boards district over the next 5-years.	A	Explore and identify suitable locations within the district that could support an artificial otter holt.	Creation of new holts, with an annual survey to monitor usage and population growth.	Environment Officer, supported by operations.	March 2030.
		B	Install two new artificial otter holts at appropriately selected locations.			
3	Develop a stronger overview of otter population numbers across the boards district.	A	Workforce to report sightings via TomTom trackers whilst in the field.	GIS layer of otter reports.	Workforce, with support from Environment officer.	Annual review.



Figure 7: Photo of an otter taken from a camera trap at Damford pumping station.

4.3.7. Pollinators

should	Butterflies and moths are not generally protected through individual species legislation, but IDBs still have clear statutory responsibilities because many species - especially those associated with wetlands, grasslands and riparian margins are listed as conservation priorities. The legal duties relate to managing habitats, avoiding biodiversity loss, and supporting national conservation priorities. Butterflies are undergoing a significant, long-term decline in England, and the board can support their conservation efforts through habitat management.
---------------	---

Table 24: Pollinator Actions.

ref	Target	Action Ref	Specific Actions	Measurable Indicators	Action Lead	Timeline
1	Increase pollinator populations and species diversity across the board's drainage district over the next 5-years.	A	Re-seed banks after maintenance works such as re-profiling with a targeted, locally sourced seed mix, including species that are good for pollinators but low maintenance and low impact on the banks and channels (<i>e.g., Marjoram, birds-foot trefoil, hemp agrimony, red campion</i>).	Total area of newly seeded bank after a 5-year period mapped on a GIS layer. Annual butterfly survey at sample sites across the district to map growth.	Environment Officer, supported by operations.	On going.
		B	Identify at least five appropriate pumping station sites where pollinators can be supported and planted.			
		C	Plant native pollinators in designated unused areas around the pumping station buildings.			
		D	Explore opportunities to plant pollinators at the board's office.			
		E	Maintain the bug hotel at the board's office.			
2	Enhance and maintain the minimum plant diversity already present	A	Continue with alternate bank side cutting each year where risk allows to promote vegetation growth and	Annual schedule for alternate bank cutting.	Operations	On going.

	within the drainage ditches to provide habitat for butterflies and caterpillars.		pollination for butterflies.			
3	Encourage butterfly population growth by working with the butterfly garden managers annually, to maintain the area and enhance the habitat.	A	Correspond with the garden managers annually to coordinate essential light maintenance that aligns with their goals for butterfly habitat.	Annual butterfly report.	Environment Officer and operations.	Annual.



Figure 8: Photo of a Peacock butterfly taken at the Amber Hill Butterfly Garden.

4.3.8. Swallows, Martins & Swifts

should	Hirundine have the same legal protections as all other nesting birds in the UK, but the species have undergone notable population declines due to habitat loss, agricultural practices, and food reduction. House Martins are now a red-listed species in the UK and is of high conservation concern. IDB's have the opportunity to support Hirundines across the drainage district.
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Table 25: Swallows, Martins, and Swifts Actions.

Ref	Target	Action Ref	Specific Actions	Measurable Indicators	Action Lead	Timeline
1	Increase nesting opportunities for hirundine species by installing a minimum of 10 nest boxes at suitable pumping stations across the district by April 2030.	A	Assess pumping stations for suitability for nest boxes.	GIS layer of nest box locations. Spreadsheet of annual monitoring and reports of species sightings and box usage.	Environment Officer	10 boxes installed by April 2030.
		B	Install hirundine nest boxes at a minimum of one new site per year over the next 5-years.			
		C	Environment Officer to undertake annual monitoring at all sites with a nest box to monitor population.			

4.3.9. Reptiles & Amphibians

should	Reptiles and amphibians are partially protected under UK law, but IDB's frequently carry out works that can impact these species and their habitats and therefore can act to help conservation efforts. All native reptiles are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Special note is given to Great crested newt, which are a European Protected Species.
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Table 26: Reptile and Amphibian Actions.

ref	Target	Action ref	Specific Actions	Measurable Indicators	Action Lead	Timeline
1	Increase the range of reptiles through the district by creating artificial nesting sites at appropriately selected locations over the next 5-years.	A	Identify suitable sites and create hibernacula where appropriate.	Number of hibernacula created.	Environment Officer	On going with review March 2027.
		B	Maintain existing and new hibernacula sites annually.	Annual survey of nest sites for evidence of breeding and usage.		
2	Improve knowledge on distribution and abundance of priority reptile species throughout the district, for example grass snake	A	Encourage increased tracker reporting by the workforce via TomTom trackers.	GIS layer.	Environment Officer.	On-going.
		B	Undertake annual surveys at key locations.			
		C	Explore and develop a relationship with ARG UK to monitor the status of grass snake and other reptiles in key areas.			

4.3.10. Barn owl & Kestrel

Should	Barn owl and kestrel have the same legal protections as other nesting birds in the UK, but the species benefit from extra protections as Schedule 1 listed birds, meaning it is an offence to disturb the birds in addition to the nest. Both species face yearly fluctuations which is largely influenced by food availability as a result of climate. However, barn owls have increased in certain areas and are now a green listed species. Kestrel remains an amber listed species.
---------------	---

Table 27: Barn owl and Kestrel Actions

ref	Target	Action ref	Specific Actions	Measurable Indicators	Action Lead	Timeline
1	Continue to enhance the range and population of barn owl and kestrel in the district, by maintaining and developing nesting opportunities.	A	Monitor nest boxes annually working with the Wildlife Conservation Partnership (WCP).	Annual nest box report from WCP.	Environment Officer, supported by WCP.	On going with annual review.
		B	Maintain, repair and replace existing nest boxes in the district as and when required.	New box and replacement installations.		
		C	Seek opportunities and locations to install new nest boxes to continue to grow available nesting habitat.	GIS layer of nesting locations.		



Figure 9: Photo A – nest box installation on Damford Grounds. Photo B – Barn owl during licenced ringing.



Figure 10: Kestrel chicks in a board nest box.

4.3.11. Kingfisher

could	Kingfishers are a schedule 1 protected species under UK law and are associated with habitats present in the IDB drainage district such as rivers and ditches. IDB's frequently work in suitable kingfisher habitat, often having negative impacts due to necessary habitat repairs for flood management. There are options where the board could help support kingfisher conservation through habitat management.
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Table 28: Kingfisher Actions.

Ref	IDB Target	Action ref	Action	Indicators	Action Lead	Deadline / Timeline
1	Expand the extent of suitable kingfisher habitat throughout the drainage district to support population increases.	A	Identify areas where the board can retain earth cliffs without risk.	GIS layer.	Environment officer, operations.	On-going.
		B	Consider and review select bank-reprofile sites where surrounding habitat is suitable for the species, to install artificial nests within the bank.			



Figure 11: Artificial kingfisher nest site at Rippingale.

5. Implementation

The actions within the BAP will be executed via the following means:

- 1) The actions which can be delivered through adaptations or inclusions to general maintenance programmes will be identified and integrated accordingly into board operations and feedback will be delivered to ADA where appropriate.
- 2) Actions which require independent and additional execution such as bat and bird box erection and surveys or training will identified, resources planned and engaged and / or planned into the relevant resources' work schedules.
- 3) Actions which can be executed through capital works programmes will be integrated into the relevant project plans.
- 4) Actions which can be delivered through collaboration with partners will be formally agreed in writing with such partners with responsibilities, timescales and reporting requirements defined.
- 5) Actions which can be delivered through developer, or consented works will be identified and integrated into project plans.

6. Monitoring & Reporting

Appropriate indicators have been set for each of the IDB's biodiversity actions. Indicators have been chosen which provide the IDB with ways of measuring both the current status of biodiversity and also ways of measuring achievements in delivering biodiversity objectives and targets. The individual action plans set out the indicators and measurables which will be used to assess progress and execution against the plan. The IDB will routinely monitor biodiversity actions using the indicators and measurables and will review actions and indicators at least annually.

The overall plan will be updated at least every 5 years but is a dynamic document so may change more frequently for example in the light of monitoring outcomes.

The Board is responsible for ensuring that progress against the Plans' targets are routinely reported, at least annually, at Board meetings to allow the Board to discuss and review BAP activity and to modify the BAP and actions to meet the objectives where necessary.

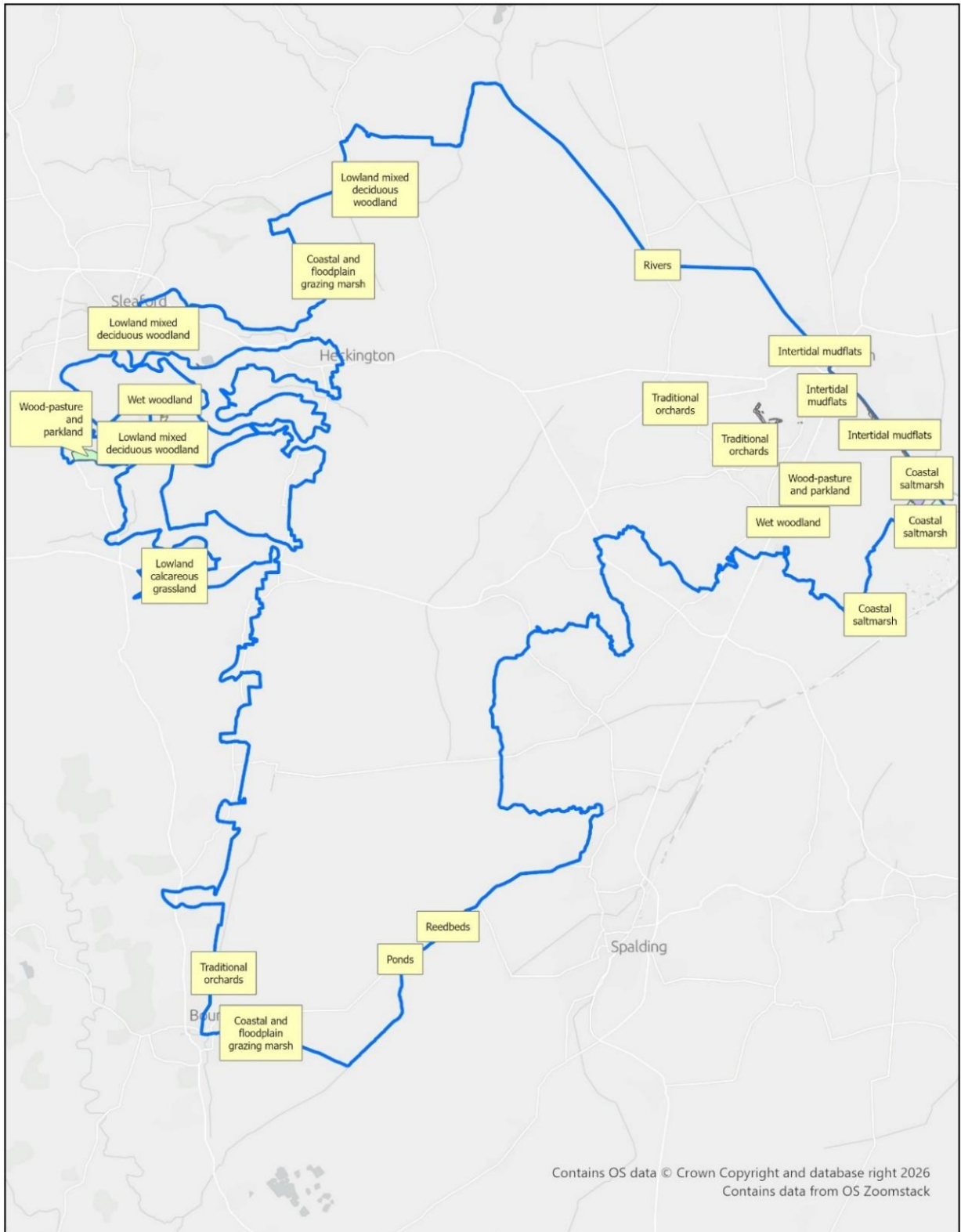
Annual summary progress reports will detail which actions have been progressed according to the plan, any new opportunities identified, risks and issues affecting the objectives or actions, and the contribution actions have made towards achieving the objectives. Recommendations will be made in the light of the monitoring outcomes.

Making this information available to a wider audience is important in increasing the understanding of the importance of the Boards' actions regarding biodiversity and inspiring people about biodiversity. As such, the IDB will make the summary reports available externally in the following ways:

- In the public domain via the IDB's website through the Environment Committee minutes and report.

- Provided to conservation partners to assist with further local biodiversity conservation planning;
- Provided to local authorities in order to contribute towards their legislative biodiversity reporting requirements including the NERC 2006 Act, Habitats Directive, Environment Bill and the Local Nature Recovery Strategies;
- The Local Biological Records Centre.

7. Appendix



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 Contains data from OS Zoomstack

 <p>Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board Station Road, Swineshead, Boston, Lincolnshire PE20 3PW Tel: 01205 821440 Email: mailbox@blacksluiceidb.gov.uk</p>	Priority Habitats Annotated	
	© Crown Copyright and database right 2026. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100021578	Date: 29/01/2026
		Scale: 1:175,000

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

Unaudited Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 31st March 2026



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Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board - Members

Elected Members		Electoral District
Paul Holmes	Chairperson - Board	G
	Chairperson - Executive Committee	
Mark Rollinson	Chairperson - Northern Works	F
	Vice Chairperson - Board	
Mark Leggott	Chairperson - Audit & Risk Committee	A
Robert Needham	Chairperson - Environment Committee	B
Chris Wray	Chairperson - Southern Works	E
William Ash		D
Tom Ashton		G
George Atkinson		D
Victor Barker		C
Mark Mowbray		E
Peter Robinson		B

Members Appointed by District Councils

Boston Borough Council	
Richard Austin	
Peter Bedford	Chairperson - Structures
James Cantwell	
Neil Drayton	
Stuart Evans	
Ralph Pryke	
Claire Rylott	
David Scoot	
Suzanne Welberry	

South Holland District Council	
Margaret Geaney	

South Kesteven District Council	
Zoe Lane	

North Kesteven District Council	
Andrew Hagues	

Senior Officers	
Mr Daniel Withnall MCGI MloL FMAAT	Chief Executive Officer
Paul Nicholson	Projects Director
Amy Chamberlain MAAT	Finance & Admin Director
Simon Harrison	Maintenance Director

ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction

The Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board is an independent body created under land drainage statutes responsible for flood risk, land drainage and water level management works, other than on main rivers, in the Black Sluice IDB area. Board Members are either elected by and represent the occupiers of land in the area or are nominated by the District Councils in the Board's area. The Board consists of 11 elected members and 12 nominated members. Further details are on page 4.

The Board secures income mainly from drainage levies on farmers and other occupiers and from special levies on local authorities. The Board also pays levies to the Environment Agency to fund works on main rivers that protect the drainage district.

This document is the statement of accounts of Black Sluice IDB for the financial year ending 31st March 2026, set out on pages 6 to 14. The accounts consist of:

The Annual Governance Statement

The system of internal control is designed to manage the risk to a reasonable level, the IDB's statement details how this is achieved.

The Statement of Responsibilities

This statement identifies the officer who is responsible for the proper administration of the Board's financial affairs.

The Statement of Accounting Policies

This statement details the legislation and source of accounting principles on which the financial statements are prepared.

The Income and Expenditure Account

This statement summarises the resources that have been generated and consumed in providing services and managing the IDB during the last year.

The Balance Sheet

This statement is fundamental to the understanding of the Board's financial position at the year end. It shows the balances and reserves at the Board's disposal and the fixed and net current assets employed in its operation, together with summarised information on the fixed assets held. The statement also includes assets and liabilities of the Board.

Notes to the Accounts

The notes relating to the statements above are detailed after the core statements.

THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

We acknowledge as the Members of the Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ended 31st March 2026, that:

	Agreed - Yes or No	Yes' means that the board:
1 We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	Yes	prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
2 We maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	Yes	made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.
3 We have assured ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	Yes	has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with proper practices in doing so.
4 We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	Yes	during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.
5 We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	Yes	considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and has dealt with them properly.
6 We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	Yes	arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.
7 We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	Yes	responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.
8 We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	Yes	disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.
9 For local councils only	N/A	
10 We have put in place arrangements for the effective IT and data management in accordance with proper practices during the year under review.	Yes	has made suitable arrangements for its IT and data management and has complied with proper practices in doing so.

This annual governance statement is approved by the body and recorded as minute reference dated 23 June 2026.

Signed on behalf of Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board.

.....
Paul Holmes
Chairman
23 June 2026

.....
Daniel Withnall
Chief Executive
23 June 2026

THE STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Board is required:

- a) to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Board, that officer is the Chief Executive.
- b) to manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.

The Chief Executive's Responsibilities

The Chief Executive is responsible for the preparation of the Board's Statement of Accounts which is required to present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Board at the accounting date and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2026.

In preparing this statement of accounts, the Chief Executive has:-

- a) selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently,
- b) made judgement and estimates that were reasonable and prudent,
- c) compiled the accounts in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practices,
- d) applied the accounting concept of a 'going concern' by assuming that the IDB will continue to operate for the foreseeable future.

The Chief Executive has also:-

- a) kept proper accounting records which were up to date;
- b) taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Certificate of the Chief Executive

These Financial Statements present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Board at 31 March 2026 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

.....
Daniel Withnall
23 June 2026

Certificate of the Chairman of the Board

I confirm that these accounts have been approved by the Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board at a meeting held on the 23 June 2026.

.....
Paul Holmes
23 June 2026

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. General

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the following accounting concepts:- Accruals, Relevance, Consistency, Reliability, Comparability, Understandability, Materiality and Going Concern.

2. Fixed Assets

Fixed assets are recognised as expenditure on acquisition, creation or enhancements with a value in excess of £5,000 and a useful life in excess of one year.

Fixed assets are valued on the following basis:-

- a) Land is included at historic cost.
- b) Operational Buildings are included in the balance sheet at valuation. The Offices and Depot were valued on 31st March 2021 by Mr Robert J Hurst FRICS FAAV, Chartered Surveyor, at market value. It is the Boards intention to retain these values in the accounts as a nominal value and not depreciate in the intervening years.
- c) Pumping Stations were valued on 31st March 2009 by Mr JW Castley FRICS FAAV, Chartered Surveyor, at open market valuation. It is the Boards intention to retain these values in the accounts as a nominal value and not depreciate in the intervening years.
- d) Non - Operational Property is included in the balance sheet at market value. It was valued on 31st March 2021 by Mr Robert J Hurst FRICS FAAV, Chartered Surveyor, at market value. It is the Boards intention to retain these values in the accounts as a nominal value and not depreciate in the intervening years.
- e) Vehicles, Plant & Equipment are included at cost less depreciation.

Disposals are written off at cost less depreciation. Any surplus/deficit arising is charged/credited to the appropriate reserve.

Depreciation has been provided on a straight line basis, on motor vehicles and equipment, excavators and plant, computers, office equipment with a purchase cost in excess of £5,000.

Plant & Vehicles	7 Years
Equipment	4 Years

3. Income

Income includes drainage rates on local agricultural land and buildings, special levies on district/borough councils, recharged works, government grants, rental income and interest on investments. Where applicable, this is net of Value Added Tax and is recognised when the Board has a right to receive the income.

4. Expenditure

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis.

5. Stock & Work in Progress

Stocks and work in progress are stated at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

6. Government Grants and Contributions

Government grants and contributions have been credited to the income and expenditure account on an accruals basis. Government grants used for the acquisition of fixed assets have been deducted from the purchase price of the asset.

7. Provisions

The Board sets aside provisions where there is a definite liability, but the amount and timing of settlement is not known. Details are given as notes to the accounting statements.

8. Pensions

The Board paid an employers contribution of £276,035 on employees pensionable pay into the Lincolnshire County Council pension fund.

9. Discontinued Operations

The Board had no material operations which it acquired or which were discontinued in the year and therefore no separate disclosure is required in respect of the Income and Expenditure account and balance sheet accounts.

10. Internal Interest

Interest is allocated to the Income and Expenditure Account, Development Fund, Plant Fund and Wages Oncost Fund based on the average level of their balances.

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

Income and Expenditure Account

For Year Ended 31st March 2026

	Note	2025/26	2024/25
Income		£	£
Grant Income (Including Local Levy)	1	4,704,346	4,660,148
Special Levies on Councils	2	1,780,120	1,657,742
Drainage Rates		1,617,954	1,558,607
Income from Rechargeable Works		435,617	270,537
Sundry Income	3	95,837	54,920
Interest		86,222	66,075
Investment Income		8,508	7,506
Rental Income		7,201	7,201
Development Reserve Contribution		5,000	5,000
		8,740,805	8,287,736
Expenditure			
Asset Refurbishments	4	3,186,878	3,602,710
Drain Maintenance		897,138	726,107
Pumping Stations		787,733	266,464
Administration Costs		586,105	551,674
Cost of Rechargeable Works		384,688	251,857
Environment Agency Precept		276,552	276,552
Establishment Charges		84,366	83,277
Depot Costs		60,209	60,963
Environmental Schemes		48,777	39,069
Miscellaneous Charges		41,224	37,477
		6,353,670	5,896,150
Surplus / (Deficit)		2,387,135	2,391,586

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2026

	Note	2024/25	2024/25
Fixed Assets			
Pumping Stations		3,861,354	3,861,354
Land & Buildings		1,009,350	1,009,350
Vehicles, Plant & Equipment		1,628,006	1,309,964
Non Operational Assets		165,000	165,000
	8	6,663,710	6,345,668
Current Assets			
Stock		102,424	87,477
Debtors & Prepayments	9	526,219	333,326
Investment Valuation		443,071	422,372
Cash at bank & in hand	10	7,634,756	5,140,702
		8,706,470	5,983,877
Current Liabilities			
Creditors	11	(1,502,846)	(1,073,704)
Net Current Assets		7,203,624	4,910,173
Liability related to defined pension scheme		1,881,000	1,471,000
Total Assets less Liabilities		15,748,334	12,726,841
Capital Reserve		6,663,708	6,345,666
Pension Reserve		1,881,000	1,471,000
Investment Revaluation Reserve		(56,929)	(77,628)
		8,487,779	7,739,038
Revenue Reserve		6,200,960	3,813,828
Development Reserve		683,929	665,584
Plant Reserve		(38,428)	189,573
Wages Oncost Reserve		414,094	318,818
		7,260,555	4,987,803
	12	15,748,334	12,726,841

Mr P Holmes
Chairman
23 June 2026

Mr DJ Withnall
Chief Executive
23 June 2026

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

Notes to the Accounts

	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
1 Government Grants received from Defra		
Embankments	1,555,000	
Holland Fen Structural Repairs	496,000	
Great Hale Structural Repairs	435,000	
Chain Bridge Refurbishment	395,000	
Donington NI Refurbishment	395,000	
Cooks Lock Structural Repairs	328,000	
IDB Recovery Fund - South Kyme PS Refurbishment	182,000	249,709
Swineshead Structural Repairs	150,000	
IDB Recovery Fund - Ewerby PS Refurbishment	105,000	314,709
Gosberton Structural Repairs	100,000	
Horbling Fen Structural Repairs	100,000	
IDB Recovery Fund - Pinchbeck PS Refurbishment	68,000	195,000
IDB Recovery Fund - Helpringham PS Refurbishment	68,000	184,709
Wyberton Marsh Structural Repairs	65,000	
IDB Recovery Fund - Dunsby Fen PS Refurbishment	60,000	144,709
Black Hole Drove Structural Repairs	50,000	
Damford Embankment	42,138	
IDB Recovery Fund - Bank Slips	40,000	857,219
IDB Recovery Fund - Donington Northorpe Culvert Repair	40,000	125,000
IDB Recovery Fund - Damford PS Refurbishment	30,208	151,000
Allan House PS scheme		571,291
IDB Recovery Fund - Electricity		452,936
IDB Recovery Fund - Mobile Pumps		250,000
Black Sluice Catchment Modelling Study		235,000
IDB Recovery Fund - Donington North Ings Access Track		185,430
Peat Restoration Project- Bourne		136,132
Wyberton Marsh Transformer		130,000
IDB Recovery Fund - Level Controllers		80,000
Trinity College PS Bank Repair Specification		65,000
Black Sluice NFM Works		60,304
South Kyme PS Bank Repair Specification		60,000
Ewerby Fen PS Bank Repair Specification		60,000
Damford PS Bank Repair Specification		60,000
Sempringham PS Refurnishment		50,000
IDB Recovery Fund - Dyke Fen PS AWC Refurbishment		25,000
IDB Recovery Fund - Great Hale PS Refurbishment		17,000
	4,704,346	4,660,148
	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
2 Special Levies		
Boston Borough Council	1,293,006	1,232,588
South Holland District Council	243,670	232,006
North Kesteven District Council	148,316	104,824
South Kesteven District Council	95,128	88,324
	1,780,120	1,657,742

	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
3 Sundry Income		
Sundry Income	70,676	35,265
Solar Income	25,161	19,655
	<u>95,837</u>	<u>54,920</u>

	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
4 Asset Refurbishments		
IDB Recovery Fund Schemes	1,895,387	2,924,654
Pumping Station Refurbishments	1,234,804	451,587
Drain Asset Improvements	56,687	3,151,123
	<u>3,186,878</u>	<u>6,527,364</u>

5 Remuneration

The table below shows the number of employees whose remuneration was greater than £50,000:

Band £	2025/26	2024/25
50,000 to 59,999	4	3
60,000 to 69,999	1	1
70,000 to 79,999	1	1
80,000 to 89,999	1	0
100,000 to 109,999	0	1
110,000 to 119,999	1	0
	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>

6 Audit Fees

	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
Fees paid to the Board's External Auditor	<u>3,780</u>	<u>3,360</u>

7 Related Party Transactions

Some members of the Board pay Drainage Rates at the prevailing rate.

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

Notes to the Accounts

8 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Land & Operational Buildings £	Pumping Stations £	Non Operational Property £	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £	Total £
<u>Cost</u>					
Opening Balance	1,009,350	3,861,354	165,000	2,595,755	7,631,459
Additions	0	0	0	612,217	612,217
Disposals	0	0	0	(548,788)	(548,788)
Revaluation	0	0	0	0	0
As at 31st March 2026	1,009,350	3,861,354	165,000	2,659,184	7,694,888
<u>Depreciation</u>					
Opening Balance	0	0	0	(1,285,791)	(1,285,791)
Disposals	0	0	0	483,142	483,142
Charge for year	0	0	0	(228,529)	(228,529)
As at 31st March 2026	0	0	0	(1,031,178)	(1,031,178)
<u>Net Book Value</u>					
As at 31st March 2025	1,009,350	3,861,354	165,000	1,309,964	6,345,668
As at 31st March 2026	1,009,350	3,861,354	165,000	1,628,006	6,663,710

9 Debtors & Payment in Advance	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
Prepayments	114,946	125,395
HM Revenue & Customs (VAT)	132,933	119,606
Trade Debtors	257,878	60,577
Rechargeable Work in Progress	6,550	21,584
Officers Car Loans	2,583	5,336
Drainage Rate Debtors	11,329	828
	526,219	333,326

10 Cash at Bank & in hand	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
Bank Deposits	7,634,636	5,140,636
Petty Cash	120	66
	7,634,756	5,140,702

11 Creditors	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
Trade Creditors	1,324,913	907,544
Accruals	177,933	166,160
	1,502,846	1,073,704

12 Reserves

	Balance 31/03/2025	Additions in Year	Withdrawals in year	Balance 31/03/2026
Capital Reserve	6,345,666	546,571	(228,529)	6,663,708
Pension Reserve	1,471,000	410,000		1,881,000
Investment Revaluation Reserve	(77,628)	20,699		(56,929)
Revenue Reserve	3,813,828	2,387,132		6,200,960
Development Reserve	665,584	105,926	(87,581)	683,929
Plant Reserve	189,573	384,217	(612,218)	(38,428)
Wages Oncost Reserve	318,818	267,097	(171,821)	414,094
	12,726,841	4,121,642	(1,100,149)	15,748,334

Development Reserve- The Board makes a one off charge to developers to allow an increase in flow into the Board's drainage system. These charges are kept in the Development Fund and used to fund future improvements to the Board's drainage system to accommodate these additional flows.

Plant Reserve - The Plant Fund generates income internally throughout the year from all works carried out using the Board's plant. Offset against this income are all the expenses related to the plant and the fund is built up to replace the plant items when required. The depreciation is also charged to this account.

Wages Oncost Reserve - The Wages Oncost Fund generates income internally throughout the year from all work using the Board's Labour. Offset against this income are all the expenses related to employing the workforce.