
Broads (2006) Internal Drainage Board
East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board
King's Lynn Internal Drainage Board
Norfolk Rivers Internal Drainage Board
South Holland Internal Drainage Board

Planning and Byelaw Strategy

July 2019



MEMBER INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS



Broads (2006) IDB, East Suffolk IDB, King's Lynn IDB,

Cert No. GB11990

Norfolk Rivers IDB, South Holland IDB

Cert No. GB11991

DEFENDERS OF THE LOWLAND ENVIRONMENT

i. Abbreviations

i.i Abbreviations used in this document are set out below;

DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EA	Environment Agency
FCERM	Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management
FRA	Flood Risk Assessment
FRMP	Flood Risk Management Plan
GIS	Geographic Information System
ha	Hectares
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
IDB	Internal Drainage Board
IDD	Internal Drainage District
LDA	Land Drainage Act 1991
LFRMS	Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
LGO	Local Government Ombudsman
LLFA	Lead Local Flood Authority
LPA	Local Planning Authority
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
NCC	Norfolk County Council
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NRA	National Rivers Authority
PPG	Planning Practice Guidance
RoFSW	Risk of Flooding from Surface Water
RMA	Risk Management Authority
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
SI	Statutory Instrument
SMO	Standard Maintenance Operations
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
WCS	Water Cycle Studies
WMA	Water Management Alliance

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1. Introduction

Purpose of the Strategy

- 1.1. This Planning and Byelaw Strategy has been produced by the [Water Management Alliance](#) (“WMA”) group of Internal Drainage Boards, (“IDBs”). It has been compiled to communicate the way in which the WMA member Boards undertake their flood risk and water management functions and to consolidate and highlight the existing IDB policy framework that supports the delivery of this work. Specifically, the purpose of this strategy is to provide;
- A public statement of the Boards rationale and approach to its management of flood risk and water levels in its area in-line with National and Local Policy.
 - Guidance on how the Boards will review and comment on planning applications within their Internal Drainage Districts (“IDDs”) or that have the potential to significantly impact their IDD.
 - Guidance to organisations and individuals on the Boards regulatory requirements and processes.
 - Information on the policies against which it will assess and determine applications
- 1.2. This document is intended for use by IDB Board Members and Officers, the Members and Officers of other Risk Management Authorities (“RMAs”) as well as to assist land managers and developers that are undertaking works and developments within IDB districts or their highland catchments. It is a non-statutory document and is intended to support the strategies and plans of other RMAs that relate to flood risk, erosion and environmental matters. It does not seek to repeat the work of these other documents. Where there is a relevant interaction between this strategy and another document it will signpost the relevant document for the benefit of the reader. Please note where reference is made to the “Board” within this document this should be taken as meaning any of the member Boards of the WMA as detailed in [Section 2](#) of this document.

Background

- 1.3. IDBs are local public authorities that manage flood risk and land drainage within areas of special drainage need in England. Each IDB has permissive powers to undertake water management activities within their IDD. The purpose of delivering this work is to reduce flood risk to people and property and to manage water in a way that meets the local needs of business and agriculture, including during times of drought, whilst also dealing with its obligations and commitments to the environment.
- 1.4. IDBs exercise a general power of supervision over all matters relating to water level management within their district. This is undertaken through the use of permissive powers that enable IDBs to regulate works on, or affecting, the watercourses within their area. Advice is also provided by IDBs through the planning system to ensure that planning applications for new development within their districts are supported by appropriate drainage strategies. IDBs conduct their work in accordance with a number of general environmental duties and promote the ecological wellbeing of their districts. They have a specific duty to further the conservation and enhancement of all designated environmental sites within their districts such as Site of Special Scientific Interest (“SSSIs”).

Legislative Context

- 1.5. The current legislative framework for the management of flood risk and drainage in England is a product of significant amounts of historic and modern legislation. The forebears of the

WMA member IDBs were first created under Ministerial Orders or Orders under the Land Drainage Act 1930. This legislation was, in many ways, a successor to the large number of Drainage Acts that had been pursued across the Country in the preceding centuries in low lying areas or areas of special drainage need. A number of the current WMA member Boards are direct beneficiaries of the work and organisations set up under this historic legislation.

- 1.6. In more recent times the [Land Drainage Acts 1991](#) and [1994](#) and the [Environment Act 1995](#) have reshaped the powers available to IDBs as well as their oversight and policy requirements. Specifically the Environment Act 1995 created the [Environment Agency](#) ("EA") in 1996, subsuming in the process the National Rivers Authority ("NRA") and its powers of supervision over IDBs.
- 1.7. In 2010, Government incorporated into legislation a number of Sir Michael Pitt's recommendations from his [review](#) into the significant flooding experienced across England and Wales in 2007. This legislation was the [Flood and Water Management Act 2010](#) and further reshaped the powers and duties of IDBs. Specifically, it acknowledged formally flooding from ordinary watercourses, groundwater and surface run-off as Local Flood Risk. It further recognised those organisations working to manage risk from these sources as Risk Management Authorities ("RMAs"). The Act gave the EA a 'strategic overview' of Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management ("FCERM"), created upper tier Local Authorities (County and Unitary Councils) as Lead Local Flood Authorities ("LLFAs") and placed a duty of co-operation on RMA's. LLFA's have a number of statutory duties and powers to help coordinate the management of local flood risk across their area, including the duty to produce local strategies. As such the WMA Boards are covered by four LLFAs, Cambridgeshire County Council, Lincolnshire County Council, Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council.

National and Local Policy

- 1.8. In November 1999 the then Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food ("MAFF") set out its policy approach for IDBs in a document titled High Level Targets for Flood and Coastal Defence Operating Authorities and Elaboration of the EA's Flood Defence Supervisory Duty. The first target in this document required each operating authority to publish a policy statement setting out their plans for delivering the Government's policy aim and objectives in their area. This included an assessment of the risk of flooding in their area, and what plans they had to reduce that risk.
- 1.9. In June 2001 MAFF's role was subsumed into the new [Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs](#) ("DEFRA"). DEFRA's wide remit includes policy responsibility for flood and coastal management in England. From 1 April 2004 DEFRA brought IDBs under the jurisdiction of the [Local Government Ombudsman](#) ("LGO") and introduced a model complaints procedure for IDBs to use.
- 1.10. In May 2011 DEFRA and the EA published the [National FCERM Strategy for England](#). This forms the basis of Government's policy response to the changes in legislation brought about under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. In March 2016 the Environment Agency published their [Flood Risk Management Plan \("FRMP"\) for the Anglian River Basin District](#) which forms their current policy framework for the management of flooding across the WMA member Board areas. Other key documents that affect the work of IDBs are the Local Flood Risk Management Strategies for [Cambridgeshire](#), [Lincolnshire](#), [Norfolk](#) and [Suffolk](#) as well as the Local Plans developed by each Local Planning Authority ("LPA") whose district intersects with a member Board's area.

2. The Water Management Alliance

Overview

- 2.1. This strategy has been prepared on behalf of the member Internal Drainage Boards (“IDBs”) of the [Water Management Alliance](#) (“WMA”). The WMA is a group of 5 IDBs who share vision, values and standards, and have chosen to jointly administer their affairs in order to reduce costs, strengthen their own organisations and increase influence at both a national and regional level, without losing an unacceptable degree of autonomy. The WMA IDBs operate in the Anglian Region of the United Kingdom and manage the drainage infrastructure and flood risk from watercourses across some 548,000 hectares of East Anglia. This drainage districts of the 5 IDBs comprises parts of the counties of Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk and intersect with 472 parishes.
- 2.2. Member IDBs in the WMA include the Broads (2006) IDB, East Suffolk IDB, King’s Lynn IDB, Norfolk Rivers IDB and South Holland IDB. More detail on each of these Boards is set out in this section. The WMA also provides support services to the Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board.

Broads (2006) IDB

- 2.3. The Broads (2006) IDB was established by [The Broads \(2006\) Internal Drainage Board Order 2006 \(SI 2006 No. 773\)](#). This statutory instrument amalgamated The Lower Yare First IDB (1941-2006), The Lower Yare Fourth IDB (1941-2006) and The Broads IDB (2005-2006) into one Board covering one Internal Drainage District. This consolidation has been preceded by the amalgamation of 6 IDBs into the Broads IDB in 2005 under [The Broads and Norfolk Rivers Internal Drainage Boards Order 2005 \(SI 2005 No. 429\)](#). The Boards amalgamated at that time were The Happisburgh to Winterton IDB (1935-2005), The Lower Bure, Halvergate Fleet and Acle Marshes IDB (1945-2005), The Muckfleet and South Flegg IDB (1936-2005), The Repps, Martham and Thurne IDB (1942-2005) the pumped catchment of The Middle Bure IDB (1935-2005) and The Smallburgh IDB (1936-2005). As such the Broads (2006) IDB is formed from the sum of 8 historic Boards. For more detail on the history of these Boards please see [Appendix C](#) of this strategy.
- 2.4. The Board’s IDD covers 19,050 hectares. This area is made up of 16,137 hectares of agricultural land including designated wildlife sites and 2,913 hectares of residential, industrial and other property. Within the District there are 4,585 hectares of designated wildlife sites. The total catchment area draining to and including the Board's District totals 45,602 hectares. The Board's infrastructure includes 340 kilometres of Board-maintained watercourses, 37 pumping stations, 62 Water Level Controls and 6 kilometres of raised embankments. Within the Board's IDD the Environment Agency has 137 kilometres of watercourses designated as Main River, 137 kilometres of raised embankments and 18 kilometres of sea and tidal defences for which they are the responsible authority.
- 2.5. The Board’s IDD sits within the Broads area and River Yare catchment. It is organised into 59 separate catchments and sub-catchments and includes significant sub-catchments such as those of the River Thurne and River Ant. The drainage district is bounded by the dune system and the sandstone cliffs bordering the North Sea to the north east, and by the River Yare to the south. Predominantly the drainage district forms those lowland areas historically created, improved and maintained and manipulated by pumping regimes. Large areas of farm and marshland have been reclaimed from the sea and therefore a large proportion of the catchments lie below sea level. The water managed within the drainage district ultimately drains into Environment Agency (“EA”) managed main rivers before finally meeting the sea as

part of the River Yare primary catchment. As such a large proportion of the drainage district is at some risk of flooding (including tidal flooding).

- 2.6. The drainage district includes some of the country's finest grazing marshes and arable land as well as several hugely important local, national and internationally designated wildlife sites. Much of the local economy in the area is derived from agriculture and tourism that is drawn to this internationally acclaimed wildlife haven. The district services a largely rural population with the area having approximately 50,000 people. It drains several large villages such as Hickling, Upton and Sutton, the towns of Acle and Caister as well as small outlying villages and smallholdings. A map of the Board's IDD can be accessed using the following link https://www.wlma.org.uk/uploads/84-BIDB_drainindex.pdf
- 2.7. The Board's IDD intersects with 7 planning authority areas, these are; [Broadland District Council](#), [Great Yarmouth Borough Council](#), [North Norfolk District Council](#), [Norwich City Council](#), [South Norfolk District Council](#), [Norfolk County Council](#) and the [Broads Authority](#). The IDD also intersects with 55 Parish Councils. Other key partners that work within Board's area include The Environment Agency, Natural England and the [Norfolk Wildlife Trust](#).

East Suffolk IDB

- 2.8. The East Suffolk IDB was established [by The East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board Order 2008 \(SI 2008 No. 750\)](#). This statutory instrument amalgamated 8 IDBs into 1 Internal Drainage District ("IDD"). The Boards amalgamated were The Alderton, Hollesley and Bawdsey Drainage Board (1922-2008), The River Blyth IDB (1934-2008), The River Deben IDB (2005-2008), The Fromus, Alde and Thorpeness IDB (1936-2008), The River Gipping IDB (1933-2008), The Lower Alde IDB (2000-2008), The Minsmere IDB (1937-2008) and The Upper Alde IDB (1936-2008). The River Deben IDB was itself a recent creation in 2005 under [The River Deben Internal Drainage Board Order 2005 \(SI 2005 No. 2515\)](#). This had merged The River Deben (Upper) IDB (1933-2005) and The River Deben (Lower) IDB (1933-2005) into 1 Board and 1 Internal Drainage District. The Lower Alde IDB was another recent creation from 2000 when the Lower Alde IDB (1941-2000) and the Middle Alde IDB (1941-2000) had been amalgamated under [The Amalgamation of the Lower Alde and Middle Alde Internal Drainage Districts Order 2000 \(SI 2000 No. 1463\)](#). As such the East Suffolk IDB is formed from the sum of 12 historic Boards. For more detail on the history of these Boards please see [Appendix C](#) of this strategy.
- 2.9. The Board's IDD covers 13,414 hectares. This area is made up of 11,804 hectares of agricultural land including designated wildlife sites and 2,034 hectares of residential, industrial and other property. Within the District there are 2,034 hectares of designated wildlife sites. The total catchment area draining to and including the Board's District totals 160,290 hectares. The Board's infrastructure includes 102 kilometres of Board-maintained watercourses and 10 pumping stations. Within the Board's IDD the Environment Agency has 321 kilometres of watercourses designated as Main River, 59 kilometres of raised embankments and 88 kilometres of sea and tidal defences for which they are the responsible authority.
- 2.10. The East Suffolk IDB serves the low-lying land within the catchments of the Rivers Blyth, Minsmere/Yox, Thorpeness Hundred, Alde/Ore, Deben and Gipping. The drainage district is organised into 34 catchments and sub-catchments. It services a widely dispersed population and drains several towns and villages including Stowmarket, Woodbridge, Halesworth, Framlingham, Saxmundham, the outlying areas of Ipswich as well as small outlying villages and smallholdings. The area includes fine arable land and grazing marsh along with several important local, national and internationally designated wildlife sites; most notably the

internationally acclaimed Minsmere-Warberswick Heaths and Marshes. The area also falls within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Much of the prosperity of the area is derived from agriculture. It has a thriving local economy and is a hugely popular tourist destination. A map of the Board's IDD can be accessed using the following link https://www.wlma.org.uk/uploads/ESIDB_Index_plan.pdf

- 2.11. The Board's IDD intersects with 6 planning authority areas, these are; [Suffolk Coastal District Council](#), [Mid Suffolk District Council](#), [Ipswich Borough Council](#), [Babergh District Council](#), [Waveney District Council](#) and [Suffolk County Council](#). The IDD also intersects 154 Parishes. Other key partners that work within Board's area include The Environment Agency, Natural England, [RSPB](#) and the [Suffolk Wildlife Trust](#).

King's Lynn IDB

- 2.12. The King's Lynn IDB was established in 2004 under [The Amalgamation of the West of Ouse, Gaywood, Magdalen, Marshland Smeeth and Fen, and Wingland Internal Drainage Districts Order 2004 \(SI 2004 No. 1657\)](#). This statutory instrument amalgamated 5 IDBs into 1 Internal Drainage District. The Boards amalgamated were The West of Ouse IDB (1944-2004), The Magdalen IDB (1937-2004), The Wingland IDB (1938-2004), The Gaywood IDB (1985-2004) and The Marshland Smeeth and Fen IDB (1937-2004). A further statutory instrument in 2013, [The Reconstitution of Kings Lynn Internal Drainage Board Order 2013 \(SI 2013 No. 3317\)](#) made changes to the Board's constitution regarding the number of elected members, reducing it from 15 to 10. For more detail on the history of these Boards please see [Appendix C](#) of this strategy.
- 2.13. The Board's IDD covers 35,771 hectares. This area is made up of 31,467 hectares of agricultural land including designated wildlife sites and 4,304 hectares of residential, industrial and other property. Within the District there are 450 hectares of designated wildlife sites. The total catchment area draining to and including the Board's District totals 64,523 hectares. The Board's infrastructure includes 598 kilometres of Board-maintained watercourses, 15 pumping stations, 10 first and second line sluices, 15 Water Level Controls and a number of kilometres of raised embankments. Within the Board's IDD the Environment Agency has 34 kilometres of watercourses designated as Main River, 34 kilometres of raised embankments and 20 kilometres of sea and tidal defences for which they are the responsible authority.
- 2.14. Much of the Board's drainage district is bounded by sea defences and some of the area abuts the Wash SSSI directly, at Heacham and Snettisham. The area runs south from Hunstanton and is bounded to the West by the River Nene and is bisected by the River Ouse at King's Lynn. The IDD is organised into 31 catchments and sub-catchments.
- 2.15. The Board's infrastructure drains a population of approximately 100,000 individuals. It removes water from the easterly uplands, including the villages of Heacham, Ingoldisthorpe, Dersingham, Pott Row and Gayton and large residential and industrial areas of King's Lynn itself. To the west, the large fenland villages of Terrington St Clements, Clenchwarton and West Lynn and serviced by drainage board infrastructure along with many small outlying villages, homesteads and large areas of prime agricultural and arable land. A map of the Board's IDD can be accessed using the following link https://www.wlma.org.uk/uploads/128-KLIDB_index.pdf
- 2.16. The Board's IDD intersects with 4 planning authority areas, these are; the [Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk](#), [Fenland District Council](#), [Norfolk County Council](#) and

[Cambridgeshire County Council](#). The IDD also intersects 42 Parishes. Other key partners that work within Board's area include The Environment Agency, Natural England, and the [Norfolk Wildlife Trust](#).

Norfolk Rivers IDB

- 2.17. The Norfolk Rivers IDB was established by [The Broads and Norfolk Rivers Internal Drainage Boards Order 2005 \(SI 2005 No. 429\)](#). This statutory instrument amalgamated 7 IDBs into 1 Internal Drainage District ("IDD"). The Boards amalgamated were The River Wensum IDB (1933-2005), The Upper Bure IDB (1951-2005), The Upper Yare and Tas IDB (1934-2005), The Upper Nar IDB (1944-2005), The North Norfolk IDB (1995-2005) and the gravity catchments of the Middle Bure IDB (1935-2005) and Smallburgh IDB (1936-2005). The North Norfolk IDB was itself a recent creation in 1995 under [The Amalgamation of the Holme Common, River Burn and Stiffkey River Internal Drainage Boards Order 1995 \(SI 1995 No. 1325\)](#). This had merged The River Burn IDB (1921-1995), The Stiffkey River IDB (1922-1995) and The Holme Common IDB (1962-1995) into 1 Board and 1 Internal Drainage District. As such the Norfolk Rivers IDB is formed from the sum of 10 historic Boards. For more detail on the history of these Boards please see [Appendix C](#) of this strategy.
- 2.18. The Board's IDD covers 15,023 hectares. This area is made up of 12,853 hectares of agricultural land including designated wildlife sites and 2,170 hectares of residential, industrial and other property. Within the District there are 1,851 hectares of designated wildlife sites. The total catchment area draining to and including the Board's District totals 239,005 hectares. The Board's infrastructure includes 405 kilometres of Board-maintained watercourses, 2 first and second line sluices and 6 Water Level Controls. Within the Board's IDD the Environment Agency has 311 kilometres of watercourses designated as Main River, 100 kilometres of raised embankments and 9 kilometres of sea and tidal defences for which they are the responsible authority.
- 2.19. The Boards district covers a large number of river valleys that all drain by gravity. The majority of these rivers (Wensum, Bure, Tas and Ant) flow east, ultimately discharging to sea via the River Yare; others (Stiffkey) flow north to the sea or west (part of the Nar catchment) towards the River Great Ouse. Man made and improved drainage has developed alongside these rivers, utilising them to mitigate and manage flood risk and drainage. These drains have historically developed for agricultural purposes however have been subject to greater use by industrial, commercial and residential development for the drainage of surface water including the large towns of Fakenham, Aylsham, North Walsham, Dereham and Wymondham, thus serving many thousands of people. This change represents a significant drainage input and challenge to the Boards maintained system as it is a gravity system and drainage capacity is limited.
- 2.20. The Norfolk Rivers IDB watercourses typically cover superficial geology of gravel or chalk and therefore have significant environmental potential for both habitat and species. In addition to the built environment mentioned previously, the majority of the drainage district serves fertile agricultural land, much of which is arable or grazing marsh. A map of the Board's IDD can be accessed using the following link https://www.wlma.org.uk/uploads/179-NRIDB_Index.pdf
- 2.21. The Board's IDD intersects with 7 planning authority areas, these are; [Breckland District Council](#), [Broadland District Council](#), [North Norfolk District Council](#), [Norwich City Council](#), [South Norfolk District Council](#), [Norfolk County Council](#) and the [Broads Authority](#). The IDD also intersects 208 Parishes. Other key partners that work within Board's area include The Environment Agency, Natural England, and the [Norfolk Wildlife Trust](#).

South Holland IDB

- 2.22. The South Holland IDB was established by [The Anglian Water Authority \(South Holland Internal Drainage District\) Order 1974 \(SI 1974 No. 1209\)](#). This statutory instrument amalgamated 5 IDBs into 1 Internal Drainage District. The Boards amalgamated were The Holland Elloe IDB (1940-1974), The South Holland IDB (1970-1974), The South Holland Embankment Drainage Board (1940-1974), The South Welland IDB (1938-1974) and The Sutton Bridge IDB (1936-1974). Further statutory instruments in 1978, 1993 and 2009 have altered the boundaries of the Board's Internal Drainage District or made changes to its constitution regarding electoral divisions and the number of Board members. These orders included [The Anglian Water Authority \(South Holland Internal Drainage District\) \(Amendment\) Order 1978 \(SI 19778 No. 1589\)](#), [The Reconstitution of the South Holland Internal Drainage Board Order 1993 \(SI 1993 No. 453\)](#), [The National Rivers Authority \(Alteration of Boundaries of the South Holland Internal Drainage District\) Order 1993 \(SI 1993 No. 723\)](#) and [The North Level District Internal Drainage District and the South Holland Internal Drainage District \(Alteration of Boundaries\) Order 2009 \(SI 2009 No. 1170\)](#). For more detail on the history of these Boards please see [Appendix C](#) of this strategy.
- 2.23. The Board's IDD covers 38,461 hectares. This area is made up of 35,333 hectares of agricultural land including designated wildlife sites and 3,128 hectares of residential, industrial and other property. Within the District there are 41 hectares of designated wildlife sites. The Board is a watershed Board in that there are no other catchment areas draining to the Board's IDD. The Board's infrastructure includes 700 kilometres of Board-maintained watercourses, 17 pumping stations, 21 first and second line sluices and 9 Water Level Controls. Within the Board's IDD there are no watercourses designated as Environment Agency Main River however there are 26 kilometres of Main River adjacent to the Board's district. The EA also manage 12 kilometres of raised embankments and 42 kilometres of sea and tidal defences within the district for which they are the responsible authority.
- 2.24. The Board's drainage district extends along the seaward toe of the sea defence of the Wash and the district is bounded to the east and west by the Rivers Nene and Welland respectively. South Holland IDB infrastructure takes surface water from the market towns of Long Sutton and Holbeach and the many and various outlying villages and homesteads, draining a catchment that serves an estimated 60,000 individuals. Much of the arable land to the north of the catchment has been reclaimed from the sea and the drainage district as a whole includes some of the most fertile arable land in the country. As such significant areas of the district are below sea level, experience high water tables and are susceptible to groundwater flood risk. The IDD is organised into 19 catchments and sub-catchments. A map of the Board's IDD can be accessed using the following link https://www.wlma.org.uk/uploads/210-SHIDB_Index.pdf
- 2.25. The Board's IDD intersects with 3 planning authority areas, these are; [Boston Borough Council](#), [South Holland District Council](#) and [Lincolnshire County Council](#). The IDD also intersects 22 Parishes. Other key partners that work within Board's area include The Environment Agency, Natural England, and the [Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust](#).

3. Vision and Mission Statement and links to National Objectives

Vision

- 3.1. The vision of the Water Management Alliance (“WMA”) is to make each Member Board’s Drainage District and watershed catchment area a safer place to live, work, learn, grow and have fun; as a model of sustainable living in a high flood risk area.

Mission Statement

- 3.2. The WMA member Internal Drainage Boards (“IDBs”) aim to:
- Reduce the risk to people, property, infrastructure and the natural environment by providing and maintaining technically, environmentally and economically sustainable flood and coastal defences within our coastal zones and hydraulic sub catchment areas.
 - Become the local delivery partner of choice for all flood and coastal erosion risk management services in our coastal zones and hydraulic sub catchments, by working closely with other Risk Management Authorities (“RMAs”), partners and stakeholders.
 - Enable and facilitate land use for residential, commercial, recreational and environmental purposes by guiding and regulating activities that would otherwise increase flood or coastal erosion risk.
 - Nurture, enhance and maintain the natural habitats and species which exist in and alongside watercourses and other Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (“FCERM”) infrastructure.

National Objectives

- 3.3. The Environment Agency (“EA”) has a duty under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a [National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management \(“FCERM”\) Strategy for England](#). The EA is also required to report to the Minister on flood and coastal erosion risk management including the application of the National Strategy. The EA publishes this report annually.
- 3.4. The overall aim of the National FCERM Strategy is **“to ensure the risk of flooding and coastal erosion is properly managed by using the full range of options in a coordinated way”**. Set out in the table below are the key objectives included in the National FCERM Strategy to achieve this aim.

The Government will work with individuals, communities and organisations to reduce the threat of flooding and coastal erosion by:

- *understanding the risks of flooding and coastal erosion, working together to put in place long-term plans to manage these risks and making sure that other plans take account of them;*
- *avoiding inappropriate development in areas of flood and coastal erosion risk and being careful to manage land elsewhere to avoid increasing risks;*

- *building, maintaining and improving flood and coastal erosion management infrastructure and systems to reduce the likelihood of harm to people and damage to the economy, environment and society;*
- *increasing public awareness of the risk that remains and engaging with people at risk to encourage them to take action to manage the risks that they face and to make their property more resilient;*
- *improving the detection, forecasting and issue of warnings of flooding, planning for and co-ordinating a rapid response to flood emergencies and promoting faster recovery from flooding.*

3.5. The WMA member Board's support the Government's policy aim and objectives for the management of flood and coastal erosion risk and water levels. Each member Board has an adopted Business Plan Policy Statement that sets out the Board's approach to meeting the national policy aims and objectives. These policy statements are available on the links below;

- [Broads \(2006\) IDB Policy Statement](#)
- [East Suffolk IDB Policy Statement](#)
- [King's Lynn IDB Policy Statement](#)
- [Norfolk Rivers IDB Policy Statement](#)
- [South Holland IDB Policy Statement](#)

4. Internal Drainage Boards (“IDBs”) and flood risk and water management

IDB functions

- 4.1. As highlighted in the introduction, IDBs were established for predominantly low-lying areas where flood risk management and land drainage measures are necessary on a continually managed basis to sustain developed land uses and agriculture. Many of these measures are delivered through the use of permissive powers and are classed as Flood Risk Management Functions¹ under Section 4 of the [Flood and Water Management Act 2010](#).
- 4.2. To achieve the objectives of each Board’s policy statements, as well as to support the delivery of national and local strategies, Water Management Alliance (“WMA”) member Boards as Risk Management Authorities (“RMAs”) can;
- **Undertake works** (this is the physical and practical management of water levels through the use of pumping stations and water level controls and the sustaining of volumetric capacity and flow rates within the watercourse network through maintenance activities such as desilting).
 - **Regulate third party activities** (this is the consenting and enforcement of changes within their district that effect watercourses and their access and maintenance land. These changes could be the erection and alteration of structures or changes in the flow rate and volume). – See [Section 5](#)
 - **Communicate and engage with other parties and regulatory regimes** (this is the highlighting of IDBs role, functions and requirements; (See [Section 6](#))
 - through the planning process to ensure that permissions granted by planning authorities are sustainable and can be implemented; - See [Section 7](#)
 - to riparian owners to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities under common law
 - to other Risk Management Authorities to ensure IDB infrastructure and works are appropriately acknowledged, funded and coordinated to achieve best value.

Undertaking works

- 4.3. IDBs deliver their practical management of flood risk and water levels through capital works projects and revenue maintenance programmes.
- 4.4. Capital works are infrastructure replacement and improvement schemes that are usually funded through bids to regional and national funding programmes. Bids are submitted and reviewed on an annual basis for inclusion in the Environment Agency’s (“EAs”) Medium Term Plan (“MTP”). The MTP is a 6 year programme of capital works projects that are aggregated at a regional level. The bids are subject to approval through the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (“DEFRA”) and EA administered project appraisal process. The MTP is approved by the relevant Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (“RFCC”) that covers the submitting RMAs area. The three RFCCs that cover the WMA member Boards are the Anglian (Eastern), Anglian (Central) and Anglian (Northern) RFCCs. Progress on submission and delivery of funded capital projects is reported to the relevant WMA member Board on a quarterly basis. Further detail of the flood and coastal erosion risk management investment programme 2015 to 2021 can be found using this [link](#).

¹ "Flood risk management function" means a function under; Part 1 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, Section 159 or 160 (and a flood defence function within the meaning of section 221) of the Water Resources Act 1991, The Land Drainage Act 1991, Sections 100, 101, 110 or 339 of the Highways Act 1980, The Flood Risk Management Functions Order 2010.

- 4.5. Each WMA member Board delivers a Revenue Maintenance Programme. This is formed of an annual, and in some Board areas, a 5 yearly schedule of works aimed at maintaining the Boards infrastructure. The programme details the type of activity to be undertaken, where it is to be delivered (in some Board areas to the nearest drain reach) and when work is due to be undertaken (approximate to the month). Progress on the delivery of the programme is reported to the relevant Board and reviewed periodically to ensure it is delivering the appropriate standards. The Revenue Maintenance Programme for each Board is available on the WMA website.
- 4.6. IDB revenue programmes are generally funded by drainage rates collected from occupiers of agricultural land within the IDD as well as through special levies raised from District authorities who pay on behalf of occupiers of land within the IDD not used for agriculture (e.g. houses; businesses; shops). These occupiers pay their part of this levy as a proportion of Council Tax or Business Rates which is paid to their Local Authorities. In addition, some Boards also raise highland water contributions from the EA under Section 57 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 for the receipt of water into an IDD from lands at a higher level outside of the IDD.

Maintenance responsibilities

- 4.7. Generally watercourses within IDB Internal Drainage Districts (“IDDs”), unless vested in some other authority, are the responsibility of riparian or private owners to maintain, repair and improve as necessary to ensure effective drainage. A ‘riparian owner’ is a person who owns land or property adjacent to a watercourse. A private owner is a person who owns land or property with a watercourse within their title. The definition of watercourse includes streams, ditches (whether dry or not), ponds, culverts, drains, pipes or any other passage through which water may flow.
- 4.8. Purchasers of property are often unaware of their inherited riparian or private duties. These are outlined in the Land and Property Act 1925 (Section 62), which states that “a conveyance of land shall be deemed to include and shall by virtue of this Act operate to convey with the land all buildings, hedges, ditches, fences, ways, waters, watercourses, liberties, easements, rights and advantages whatsoever appertaining or reputed to appertain to the land or any part thereof”.

Responsibilities of Riparian Owners

- 4.9. Riparian owners have the following responsibilities;
- Duty of care towards neighbours upstream and downstream, avoiding any action likely to cause flooding.
 - Entitled to protect their properties from flooding and their land from erosion (once the correct permissions have been obtained).
 - May be required to maintain the condition of their watercourse to ensure that the proper flow of water is unimpeded.
- 4.10. The government has produced a number of web pages that explain riparian responsibilities and the need for maintenance of watercourses. These are available using the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse>.

Approach to maintenance by the IDB

- 4.11. IDBs often carry out their drainage/water level management responsibilities through the designation of ordinary watercourses as 'Main Drains' or 'District Drains'. In general the Boards only adopt or "en-main" watercourses which are critical to the effective drainage or water level management of a particular area. The simple criteria governing the adoption of watercourses are set out in [Policy 8](#) of this strategy. This designation is usually made on the recommendation of IDB officers to the Board alongside consultation with the riparian landowners affected.
- 4.12. The status of 'Main Drain' is an acknowledgement by the IDB that the watercourse is of arterial importance to the IDD and normally will receive maintenance from the IDB. This maintenance is not necessarily carried out on an annual basis but on a recurrence deemed necessary to meet water level management requirements. The designations are made under permissive powers and there is no obligation for IDBs to fulfil any formal maintenance requirement and there is no change in the ownership or liability associated with the watercourse.
- 4.13. Where evidence is available to the Board it is used to assist the determination of the criticality of watercourses. In general each WMA member Board assesses the flood risk within its IDD by taking into account the following:
- a) Assets in place taking into consideration their design standard, general condition and economic life;
 - b) Environment Agency Flood Risk Maps, Catchment Flood Management Plans, System Asset Management Plans and Shoreline Management Plans;
 - c) Local Flood Risk Strategy, as developed by the Local Flood Risk Management Partnership;
 - d) Hydrological and hydraulic models covering the Board's catchment area;
 - e) Access to adequate revenue funding for maintenance work and capital finance for improvement work;
 - f) Other information such as the history of flooding and land use impacts.
- 4.14. For some time the EA has classified its main rivers to assist with prioritising work and expenditure, and the WMA Members Boards have seen fit to apply similar appraisals of watercourses under their care. For more information on the prioritisation of watercourses please see each Board's asset prioritisation criteria as included in the policy section of the WMA website.

IDB Infrastructure and Standard of Protection

- 4.15. A large proportion of each Boards drainage district is at some risk of flooding (including tidal flooding). Flood risk from ordinary watercourses (that the Board is the relevant Risk Management Authority for), is controlled wherever it is practically and financially viable to do so. However, some variation in the standards of protection will apply.
- 4.16. Assets for which each Board has operating authority responsibility for are also recorded in the Register of Drainage Infrastructure, as shown on each Board's Area webpage. It should be noted that for some IDBs their systems are wholly and completely dependent upon a number of strategic assets controlled by the Environment Agency that pass through or are adjacent to the Drainage District; the nature and extent of which is also shown on our website.

- 4.17. The WMA Boards monitor and review the condition of its watercourses and other assets (such as pumping stations and water level control structures), particularly those designated as high priority, over-spilling from which could affect people and property. Where standards of protection or condition are not at the desired level, improvement works will be sought where they are considered to be practical and financially viable by the Board. Where improvement works meet the criteria set by Defra, financial support will be sought from the Government's Flood and Coastal Resilience Partnership funding.
- 4.18. The Board welcomes any comments from its agricultural ratepayers, special levy paying councils, flood risk management partners and members of the public on the condition of its drainage system, which could lead to any increased flood and coastal erosion risk.

5. IDBs regulatory purpose and process

Regulatory Context

- 5.1. The oversight, management and regulation of watercourses in England is delivered across a number of regulatory authorities. Under section 1(2)(d) of the Land Drainage Act 1991 (“LDA”), each Internal Drainage Board (“IDB”) has a duty to exercise a general supervision over all matters relating to the drainage of land within their Internal Drainage District (“IDD”). In pursuance of this role IDBs have permissive powers to regulate (consent and enforce) third party activities effecting watercourses within their district. The purpose of watercourse regulation is to control certain activities that might have an adverse flooding impact and to ensure that riparian owners carry out their responsibilities. As the majority of the watercourse network within IDBs are in private or riparian ownership the role of the IDB as a regulator is key in ensuring positive action is undertaken by third parties.
- 5.2. IDBs can apply byelaws (under Section 66, LDA) relating to the management of watercourses within their district. These cover a wide set of third party activities that could impact the drainage network. Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 IDBs can designate key third party owned structures or features within their district that relate to the management of flood risk.
- 5.3. All areas outside of an IDD are regulated by Lead Local Flood Authorities (“LLFAs”) with District Councils able to exercise permissive works powers and create byelaws. It should be noted that most District Councils have not set byelaws to cover the management of watercourses within their jurisdiction, as such the regulatory and works controls outside of IDB areas are usually less comprehensive.
- 5.4. The Environment Agency (“EA”) has permissive powers for managing watercourses designated as “Main Rivers”. These watercourses are defined on the EA’s Main River map and applications for any works to main rivers should be submitted to the EA.

WMA approach

- 5.5. As part of each Board’s Business Plan Policy Statement (set out in 3.5 in [Section 3](#)) the Board have set out their approach to the regulation of third party activities. It is;

“The Board will regulate as necessary, using available legislative powers and byelaws, the activity of others to ensure their actions within, alongside, and otherwise impacting its drainage system do not increase flood risk, prevent the efficient working of drainage systems, or adversely impact the environment.”

- 5.6. When regulating ordinary watercourses the Water Management Alliance (“WMA”) member Boards will act in a manner consistent with the policies set out later in this document and as included in the relevant Local and National Flood Risk Management Strategies.

Requirement for consent

- 5.7. The LDA and the Board’s Byelaws require written consent to be sought prior to undertaking certain types of activities within a Board’s Drainage District. As a rough guide, the following

activities would in most circumstances require the person undertaking the works to obtain the IDBs prior written consent:

- The alteration of a watercourse by culverting, bridging, installing a control structure, filling-in or changing its existing course;
- The discharge of surface water flows (rate or volume) into any watercourse within the Board's Internal Drainage District;
- The discharge of significant flow (rate or volume) into the Board's Drainage District from outside of the Board's District
- The discharge of treated foul water (effluent) into any watercourse;
- The building, planting (trees or shrubs) or working within 9 metres of the edge of a Board's maintained watercourse;

- 5.8. To obtain the Board's written consent an application form should be submitted to the relevant IDB for consideration. The application form is available on the relevant Boards webpage.

Determination of consents

- 5.9. Applications that are made to the Board will be determined by officers against the Policies set out later in this document. Applications that contravene these policies will be refused. Where the applicant or agent, (or if the applicant or agent is a company, where a partner or director thereof), is a member or employee of the Board, or is related to a Member or employee then the application will have to be determined by the Board.
- 5.10. Board meetings are usually only held between 3 and 6 times each year. Due to the need to prepare reports, it will not normally be possible to discuss at the meeting applications received less than 14 days before a meeting. It may therefore be some time after submission of an application when it is discussed by the Board. The applicant will be advised of the date of the relevant meeting as soon as possible.
- 5.11. Applications for consent under the LDA must be decided within two months of the date they are validated by the relevant Board. Please note applications are not deemed valid unless they are accompanied by the appropriate application fee and all information necessary for understanding the nature and impact of the proposed works. Applications for consent under the terms of a Board's Byelaws have no set time limit for determination.

Conditions of consent

- 5.12. Consent may be issued subject to conditions. Conditions can cover technical requirements, legal requirements, environmental matters and the need for financial payments. All conditions specified as part of any consent must be met before the Board's formal consent is deemed valid. The Boards all draw on a common set of standard conditions that are applied to each consent. In general these conditions include;
- The requirement to notify the Board of when works are to be started
 - Specific stipulations regarding the nature and extent of the works
 - The requirement for environmental mitigation
 - The requirement to enter into any legal agreements
 - The requirement to pay any financial contributions such as Surface Water Development Contributions ("SWDCs") or Commuted Maintenance Fees ("CMFs")

Environmental considerations

- 5.13. IDBs are also designated as a section 28G authority or “Operating Authority” under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. This means that before permitting the carrying out of operations likely to damage any of the flora, fauna or geological or physiographical features by reason of which a site of special scientific interest is of special interest, the IDB must consult with Natural England. This consultation period extends for 28 days. As such when a Byelaw or Land Drainage Act 1991 consent application is received that includes works that may have an impact on the interest features of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), or on a European-designated wildlife site, the Board must consult Natural England on the potential environmental implications of the application. The results of any consultation may be to seek environmental mitigation for the proposed works which may be conditioned, to seek material amendments to the proposals or to require the refusal of the application.

Legal Agreements and Consent

- 5.14. Approval of certain consents may be given subject to the applicant entering into a Deed of Indemnity. A deed of indemnity is an agreement between two or more parties, the purpose of which is to specify the actions and consequences which will result should a particular event or events occur. In drainage matters the agreement essentially attempts to negate or limit the risk which the IDB is exposed to as a consequence of the third-party activities the Board has consented to. The Deed must be completed, signed by all affected parties (including mortgage lenders on the property, if appropriate) and successfully registered against the property at HM Land Registry, before the Board’s consent will be valid.
- 5.15. Where a property is not currently registered, the Deed will have to be noted on the property’s title documents, and written confirmation to this effect be provided by a solicitor. Most Deeds once registered against a property require the restriction to be continued at the point of sale of the title via the purchasers entering into a Deed of Covenant with a certificate of compliance being issued to HM Land Registry.
- 5.16. Deeds of Indemnity are usually prepared by IDB Officers and are subject to a small administration fee (see the [Boards Development Control Charges and Fees](#) document) along with the fee charged by Land Registry for lodging the document with them (see Land Registry website). Where a Deed is more complex, is time consuming to prepare or involves a solicitor’s input, then the administration fee would be increased to reflect the additional costs to the Board.

Financial Contributions including Surface Water Development Contributions

- 5.17. Conditions of consent can include the requirement to make financial contributions to the Board. Where a development will result in an increase in the rate or volume of surface water in any watercourse one of the conditions imposed would be the payment of a development contribution to the Board. Surface Water Development Contributions are payable at the time the consent is granted, at the rate applicable when the consent application is validated by the Board. Charging rates are determined by assessing the discharge rate and volume of the proposed development relative to the increase in impermeable area arising from the development against the [Boards Development Control Charges and Fees](#). SWDCs are used by the Board to part-fund assessments and improvements required to its maintained drainage infrastructure to cater for any additional rate or volume of surface water in order to ensure there is no net increase in local flood risk or adverse effect on the standard of local drainage arising from new development.

- 5.18. Where consented third party structures are to be adopted by the Board a condition of the consent would be the payment of a Commuted Maintenance Fee. This fee is derived from the costs that will be incurred by the Board in maintaining the structure over its lifetime. More information on this fee is set out in the Board's policy on adoption of assets.

Right of appeal against consent decisions

- 5.19. Where you believe that consent has been unreasonably withheld by the Board then under the Land Drainage Act 1991 you have a right of appeal to an independent arbitrator. Ahead of any formal appeal to an arbitrator, when an application is refused by the Board the Board's policy is to afford the applicant a right of reply to the Board. This should take the form of a written statement setting out why the application should be considered favourably, despite being against Boards policies. The matter will then be taken to the next Board meeting where it will be re-considered.

Implementation timescales of consents

- 5.20. All consents granted by the Board are subject to the approved works being completed within a period of 3 years from the date of the Board's decision. The consent cannot be sold, inherited or otherwise passed on. Any person wishing to undertake work that was previously consented to another party should apply for their own consent to undertake the works in the normal manner.

Enforcement

- 5.21. The WMA member Boards set out in their Business Plan Policy Statements that;

"The Board will take appropriate steps to help riparian owners understand their responsibilities for maintenance, byelaw compliance and environmental regulations."

- 5.22. As there are many reasons why watercourses are found to be in poor condition the WMA member Boards recognise that such neglect may not be deliberate and therefore will seek to inform and educate riparian and private owners to seek their cooperation in undertaking required works in the first instance. Notwithstanding the desire to work with landowners, if flooding is to be avoided, important but neglected or damaged drainage features need to be brought back to a functional state within a reasonable timescale. As such the policies within this document relating to enforcement seek to guide the use of the Boards enforcement powers if any unreasonable delay in restoring the functionality of a watercourse or structure is likely to result in flooding.

Other requirements

- 5.23. Please note the IDB consenting process is independent of the need for planning permission and the granting of planning permission does not necessarily imply that consent will be granted by the relevant drainage authority. Furthermore it does not imply that an applicant's proposal will comply with the requirements of any other interested parties, including the Local Planning Authority, Water Company, land owners or occupiers, and it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that they do. If the IDB is made aware of any inconsistencies then IDB officers will inform the applicant and the appropriate authorities.

6. Communication and Partnership working

Stakeholder Engagement

- 6.1. In order for the Water Management Alliance (“WMA”) member Internal Drainage Boards (“IDBs”) to deliver their objectives as set out in each Board’s Business Plan Policy Statement (linked in 3.5 of [Section 3](#)) it is clear we need to work in partnership with a large number of organisations and communities. Given the large number of individuals, groups and organisations that each Board could engage with a Strategic review of stakeholders and their alignment to our outcomes was undertaken. As such we believe our key stakeholders fall broadly into the following groups;
- people and places at flood risk
 - those that support people and places that are at flood risk
 - influencers, policy and decision-makers
 - the public
- 6.2. Through identifying the stakeholder groups set out above we have been able to consider the different ways we may need to engage with them to deliver IDB or shared objectives. We have also considered what our customers can expect from us and how we will know if we have achieved our stakeholder engagement objectives.
- 6.3. Our Stakeholder engagement policies recognise that we do not have dedicated communications expertise. Instead we will ensure all staff members are familiar with the WMAs approach to engaging with stakeholders and the public and are aware of the specific needs of individual stakeholders.
- 6.4. We will also ensure our engagement with stakeholders and partnerships is fully endorsed by each relevant IDB Board. As such we will regularly seek the views of Board members on our approach and will report back to each Boards for their information and advice.

Delivering our stakeholder objectives

- 6.5. The WMA recognises that in order to engage our existing stakeholders, partners and customers, as well as to attract potential new ones we need to have a clear engagement plan. As such we will develop a communications strategy for the WMA member IDBs which will seek to deliver against our stakeholder engagement objectives.
- 6.6. Our communications strategy will highlight existing and new opportunities for engaging and communicating with others. It will include timetables for action and act as an over-arching plan for individual stakeholder engagement approaches targeted at specific issues, projects or key stakeholders as and when there is a need. Our communications plan will need to be measurable and we will actively seek feedback from stakeholders to ensure we are meeting their needs as we aim to deliver our business objectives.

Public Sector Co-operation Agreements and Delegation of functions

- 6.7. Under Section 13 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 a Risk Management Authority (such as an Internal Drainage Board) must co-operate with other relevant authorities in the exercise of their flood and coastal erosion risk management functions. This can take the form of information sharing but can also include the delegation of activities by one Risk Management Authority to another. This delegation is usually achieved through a

Public Sector Co-Operation Agreement (“PSCA”). A number of WMA member Boards already have these agreements in place with the Environment Agency and have undertaken a number of projects on their behalf.

Data sharing

- 6.8. As set out above Section 13 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires our member Board’s to share information with other Risk Management Authorities where this is relevant to the exercise of their flood and coastal risk management functions. To this end each Board within the Water Management Alliance has provided the Environment Agency and the relevant Lead Local Flood Authority with information on the major flood defence assets for which the Board has operating authority responsibility. We will also seek to share information with other RMAs as part of, or related to, the development of flood reports, works undertaken in response to flooding, to help compile finance returns or to support the collation of environmental data.

Stakeholder Engagement on Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management

The WMA member IDBs will;

- i. Ensure our stakeholders understand their flood risk and how we can help manage that risk. We will signpost advice from other Risk Management Authorities (“RMAs”) and support groups to ensure our stakeholders understand how they can manage their own flood risk.
- ii. Communicate our role in managing flood risk to all existing stakeholders and undertake to broaden our communications approach to extend our engagement to new customers and partners.
- iii. Develop a strategic communications plan to target our engagement to ensure we understand our stakeholders needs and all our stakeholders are aware of our role and what we can offer.
- iv. Report to the IDB members and Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (“RFCCs”) to inform them of our progress, highlight any successes or risks and seek their guidance and steer on future progress.
- v. Seek media opportunities to highlight flood risk issues to raise awareness for our customers and those at flood risk.

What our stakeholders can expect from us

- i. Our customers can expect a professional service from an organisation that has a long history in flood and water management.
- ii. Our stakeholders will understand their flood risk and how we and they can help manage that risk.
- iii. Our stakeholders will have sufficient information to understand the role of IDBs and our communication materials will be accessible to existing and potential new customers and partners.
- iv. Our Board members and the RFCCs will be informed of our progress and have sufficient information to advise and steer our work programmes.

- v. Our Board members, the RFCCs and ADA will understand our work and any issues or opportunities for WMA so that they can represent our views at a national level.
- vi. The media will be prepared for proactive publicity opportunities and will approach WMA for further stories and updates as and when appropriate.

Stakeholder Engagement on delivery partner of choice

The WMA member IDBs will;

- i. Work with RMAs to understand their needs through dedicated meetings with officers and managers to discuss our work programmes where we will seek collaborative working opportunities to deliver more for people and the environment.
- ii. Work with existing and potential customers to deliver value for money and offer additional services as part of existing works and projects wherever possible.
- iii. Demonstrate our ability to be the delivery partner of choice through existing and new working agreements and highlight our successes and good practice to our partners through reports, case studies and promotional materials.
- iv. Report to the IDB members and the RFCCs to share our successes and good practice.
- v. With ADA, seek ongoing support for our role in national policy and legislative discussions with Defra, other RMAs and Government.
- vi. With ADA, identify opportunities for WMA to promote our work to existing and potential customers and partners alongside other IDB's nationally.
- vii. Seek proactive media opportunities to advertise our work and promote our projects in the local and national media and with industry and related publications.

What our stakeholders can expect from us

- i. RMAs will understand our business and will seek collaborative working opportunities to deliver more for people and the environment.
- ii. RMAs will support ongoing funding of WMA from national and local government sources because they are confident in our ability to deliver value for taxpayers' money.
- iii. Existing and potential customers will choose the WMA as their preferred delivery operative because we deliver value for money and offer additional services as part of existing works and projects.
- iv. Report to the IDB Boards and the RFCCs to share our successes and good practice.
- v. Defra, other RMAs and Government will be aware of WMA, understand impacts to our business from potential policy or legislative change and involve us in consultation.

- vi. ADA will be able to fully promote our work to existing and potential customers and partners alongside other IDBs nationally.

Stakeholder Engagement on planning and regulatory matters

The WMA member IDBs will;

- i. Work with Planning Authorities to improve the mechanism by which the IDBs are involved in reviewing new planning applications.
- ii. Develop standard paragraphs to support planning advice that reflects the WMA position to future developments in each IDB catchment.
- iii. Identify and engage with developers strategically and opportunistically to secure viable clay materials arising from building works for flood defence projects and reduce waste to landfill.
- iv. Support landowners and community groups wishing to undertake flood defence projects with technical advice and support for consents and licences.

What our stakeholders can expect from us

- i. Planning Authorities will have a framework for working with IDB's when reviewing new planning applications and recognise the value of our involvement.
- ii. Planners and developers will receive consistent advice from WMA regarding future developments in each IDB catchment. The advice will also be consistent with LLFA advice when responding to consultations on major applications.
- iii. Developers will be aware of the opportunity to work with the WMA to share suitable building materials arising from building works for flood defence projects and reduce waste to landfill.
- iv. Landowners and community groups will be aware of WMA and understand our ability to support partnership approaches to flood risk management. They will be able to seek technical support for consents and licences and receive consistent professional advice.
- v. Natural England and other environmental organisations will trust WMA as a delivery body for environmental management and enhancement in all our routine works and capital schemes.
- vi. Our contractors and operators will be informed of our environmental policy and practice and understand our expectations regarding environmental projects and outcomes.
- vii. Our partners will view WMA as an organisation that understands partnership working and funding and will seek opportunities to work with us.

Stakeholder Engagement on the Environment

The WMA member IDBs will;

- i. Work to enhance our reputation as a trusted delivery body for environmental management and enhancement in all our routine works and capital schemes through regular programme meetings with Natural England and relevant environmental organisations to discuss our programme. We will seek their views and share our approach to ensure good environmental outcomes and strengthen our reputation as an environmental enabler.
- ii. Encourage good environmental practice in all our works by communicating our Environmental Policy to all our contractors and ensuring our Standard Maintenance Operations instructions are available to all staff and operators.
- iii. Engage with partners to develop projects and schemes that meet EU and national environmental legislative requirements and deliver major environmental outcomes using a range of funding sources. Take part in meetings and discussions to identify projects and offer WMA support as a delivery partner and match-funder.
- iv. Through existing river and estuary partnerships we will support landowners and community groups wishing to undertake environmental projects with technical advice and support for consents and licences.

7. IDBs and the planning process

- 7.1. Each Boards Business Plan Policy Statement (linked in 3.5 of [Section 3](#)) sets out that the Board will take an active role in the assessment of individual planning applications as well as planning policy documents to prevent inappropriate development and land use to ensure that flood risk is not increased. This includes providing pre-application advice and supporting the development of local plans and their evidence base as part of Water Cycle Studies (“WCS”) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (“SFRAs”). This section of the strategy highlights in more detail how the Board will seek to involve itself in the planning process.
- 7.2. The WMA member Boards cover parts of 20 Local Planning Authority (“LPA”) areas. (15 Borough, City or District Council areas, four County Council areas as well as part of the Broads Authority’s executive area). For a breakdown of the authorities covered please see [Appendix A](#) of this document.

The principle of the IDB role in the planning process

- 7.3. According to the National Planning Policy Framework (February 2018), strategic policies set by Local Planning Authorities in their Local Plans should take into account advice from the Environment Agency and other relevant risk management authorities, such as lead local flood authorities and internal drainage boards.
- 7.4. In determining planning applications in accordance with national policy, local policies and relevant guidance, LPAs take into account advice from a number of different sources. These sources include from statutory consultees (such as Lead Local Flood Authorities (“LLFAs”) and the Environment Agency (“EA”)) as well as from other Risk Management Authorities (“RMAs”) on a non-statutory basis such as Internal Drainage Boards (“IDBs”), Anglian Water or the [Canals and Rivers Trust](#).
- 7.5. Between December 2014 and March 2015 Government reviewed and consulted the arrangements for providing advice to planning authorities on drainage and flood risk. As part of their [response](#) to this consultation Government stated they recognised the important role IDBs fulfil in flood risk management and agreed that *“there may be local instances where they should be consulted on new development proposals on a non-statutory basis.”* Government considered at that time that the provision of advice from these bodies would best be established through local arrangements. The purpose of this section of our strategy is to set out where we believe consultation with our member Boards is of value to both LPAs and developers.

The scope of IDB comments to the planning process

- 7.6. The scope of IDB comments on planning applications relates primarily to each Boards role as a RMA as defined by Section 6 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. In March 2012 Government published the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (“NPPF”). This is a key element of the planning framework used by LPAs and decision-makers, both in drawing up plans and making decisions about planning applications. This framework was revised in July 2018 and the latest version published in February 2019. Section 14 of this document, “Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change” (paragraphs 148 to 169) contains key information on how flood risk and Sustainable Drainage Systems (“SuDS”) should be considered as part of new development.

- 7.7. Paragraph 156 of the NPPF states that strategic policies should be supported by a SFRA and should manage flood risk from all sources. It further highlights that in developing these policies LPAs should take into account the advice from other relevant flood risk management bodies such as IDBs. Paragraph 163 of the NPPF includes important references to flood risk and SuDS for LPAs considering planning applications. Amongst many other considerations it highlights that when determining planning applications, LPAs should for all types of development ensure flood risk is not increased elsewhere
- 7.8. In addition to Planning Policy, Government has updated Planning Practice Guidance (“PPG”) to include a section on [Flood risk and coastal change](#). This includes a number of references to IDBs including Paragraph 006 which states that LPAs should confer with IDBs to identify the scope of their interests. Paragraph 011 also highlights that SFRAs should be prepared by LPAs in consultation with IDBs alongside other RMAs. Furthermore, the technical nature of the type of issues that Government believes IDBs could provide advice on is highlighted by Paragraph 086 which advises LPAs to consult IDBs where the proposed drainage system from a new development may directly or indirectly involve the discharge of water into an ordinary watercourse within the board’s district.
- 7.9. The link between such technical matters as surface water discharges from new development to the policy considerations of the NPPF relate primarily to the potential consequences of unregulated activities on the IDB network and how they may impact the communities they serve. For example, un-attenuated discharges into IDB watercourses can, in many cases, lead to an increase in flood risk downstream of the development site or, in extreme cases, on the development site itself. Where either scenario may occur then the matter becomes a material planning consideration as it would contravene the NPPF statement under Paragraph 163. To this end Table 1 has been included in this document to summarise when the Board should be consulted by LPAs as the consequence of unregulated activities may contravene planning policy or impact the ability of developers to implement their planning permission, both of which may be material planning considerations.

The purpose of IDB involvement in the planning process

- 7.10. By engaging with the planning process the WMA member Boards are seeking to;
- Reduce flood risk to communities within its Internal Drainage District and highland catchment
 - Promote sustainable development in sustainable locations
 - Support sound planning decisions that can be implemented by applicants and developers
 - Reduce the potential for conflict between the planning process and the IDB regulatory process
 - Develop an understanding within other authorities and third parties of the flood risk and capacity issues within IDB areas so they can be considered through the planning process

Table 1: When should the IDB be consulted?

When should the IDB be consulted?	Why should they be consulted	Preferred Planning stage at which IDB consent should be given
The development is located wholly or partly within the Internal Drainage District and;		
a) The site is within 9 metres of a Board-maintained watercourse, or	Consent from the Board is required for works within 9 metres of the brink of the watercourse	Full Applications or Reserved Matters (as there may be a risk that if a layout is approved through planning it cannot be implemented unless the IDB consent works within 9 metres of the watercourse).
b) Proposes works within Board-maintained or privately-maintained watercourses that require consent under the Boards Byelaws or the Land Drainage Act 1991, or	Consent from the Board is required for works within watercourses for example where a new drain crossing is to be constructed, or where a treatment plant will outfall to a watercourse.	
c) The site proposes the alteration of site levels	Post development site levels could displace flood water into the Board-maintained network leading to an increase in flood risk.	
d) The means of surface water disposal is indirect or direct positive discharge into a Board-maintained or privately-maintained watercourse	Consent from the Board is required for direct discharges of surface water run-off into the IDD	Outline or Full Applications (as the principle of discharging surface run-off to a watercourse may be the only viable option. This may influence the viability and principle of development established at this stage)
e) The site is in an area known to suffer from poor drainage.	Where drainage strategies rely on infiltration in poor ground conditions they may fail, necessitating a positive discharge into the Boards network to be consented. The site may also be liable to flooding as indicated by historic records.	
The development is located wholly outside the Internal Drainage District but within its highland catchment and;		
a) A significant volume of surface water run-off will flow into the Board's district as a result of the development proposals.	Consent from the Board is required for indirect discharges of surface water run-off into the IDD	Outline or Full Applications (as the principle of discharging surface run-off to a watercourse may be the only viable option. This may influence the viability and principle of development established at this stage).

8. Policies

- 8.1. This section details the policies that the Board applies when seeking to regulate activities within its Internal Drainage District (“IDD”). These policies provide guidance on how applications made to the Board will be determined. It also details if further conditions would be stipulated or separate agreements or payments required.

Discharges

Policy 1 – Discharge of Treated Foul Water

Consent is required where the installation of a treatment plant and associated outfall are proposed within the Internal Drainage District that would lead to the discharge of treated foul water into a watercourse (whether privately-maintained or Board-maintained).

On all watercourses where the discharge is to an open drain, the discharge pipe should be installed through a pre-cast concrete outfall unit dug in flush with the drain batter. Suitable erosion protection should be installed below the headwall down to the toe of the watercourse and also dug in flush with the drain batter.

On Board-maintained watercourses consent will only be granted where the following points are complied with:

- All elements of the works except the outfall pipe are at least 9 metres from the edge of the drain.
- Where the discharge is to a piped watercourse, the discharge pipe should be connected into an existing inspection chamber, or a new inspection chamber should be constructed to the Board's specification to accommodate the outfall. In either case, the inspection chamber wall around the incoming pipe is to be repaired to the Board's satisfaction prior to completion of the works.
- The applicant must enter into the Board's standard Deed of Indemnity prior to undertaking the works.

Conditions of consent;

- On all watercourses drain improvement works may be required to be undertaken at the applicants cost to bring the receiving watercourse up to a maintainable standard to enable it to accommodate the proposed flows.
- On Board-maintained watercourses a Commuted Maintenance Fee may be payable if new assets are built within a Boards watercourse to accommodate the proposed discharge e.g. a new inspection chamber.
- On all watercourses, although a development contribution will not normally be payable for treated foul water discharges, the Board reserves the right to require a payment to be made if it feels it is warranted (such as where the amount of the proposed treated water discharge is significant e.g. comparable to surface water run-off rates of discharge).

Applications may be refused if the Board's Officers consider that the receiving watercourse will not be capable of accepting the planned additional flows.

Policy 2 – Discharge of Surface Water run-off

Applications for consent to discharge surface water run-off into any watercourse within the Boards Internal Drainage District will be considered against the capacity of the receiving watercourse to accept the proposed surface water flows (rate and volume).

The Board may require the applicant to undertake hydraulic modelling work (at the applicant's cost), or to make amendments to one of the Board's existing models to assess the impact of the proposed discharge. Please note the cost incurred by the applicant in undertaking this work would be in addition to any development contribution due to the Board.

Conditions of consent;

- On all watercourses drain improvement works may be required to be undertaken at the applicants cost to bring the receiving watercourse up to a maintainable standard to enable it to accommodate the proposed flows.
- On Board-maintained watercourses a Commuted Maintenance Fee may be payable if new assets are built within a Boards watercourse to accommodate the proposed discharge e.g. a new inspection chamber.
- Where a development will result in an increase in the rate or volume of surface water in any watercourse one of the conditions imposed would be the payment of a development contribution to the Board. (See 5.17 of Section 5 of this document and the [Boards Development Control Charges and Fees.](#)).

It should be noted that it is the Board's preference that any system serving multiple properties is adopted by a statutory authority.

Applications may be refused if the Board's Officers consider that the receiving watercourse will not be capable of accepting the planned additional flows.

Alterations to watercourses

- 8.2. The alterations of Board-maintained as well as riparian/private owned/maintained watercourses are covered by both a statutory provision (Section 23, Land Drainage Act 1991 as well as under each of the WMA Board's Byelaws (Byelaw 4 - Operation of Water Control Structures and Alteration, Improvement or Removal of Structures). Both these provisions concern the erection of any mill dam, weir or other like obstruction to the flow of any ordinary watercourse or the raising or otherwise altering of any such obstruction. This activity also includes specifically the erection of culverts in ordinary watercourses or the alteration of culverts in a manner that would likely affect the flow of an ordinary watercourse. Written consent is required from the Board prior to undertaking the activities outlined above and as set out in Byelaw 4. The policies below set out how the Board will determine applications received seeking consent to alter a watercourse. Please note Byelaw 4 also covers the operation of water control structures.

Policy 3 – Alterations of watercourses (including culverting)

As part of any application to alter a watercourse (including culverting), the applicant has the responsibility to prove that the proposed works would not increase flood risk or negatively impact the efficiency of local drainage. Where it is appropriate to do so, adequate mitigation must be provided for damage caused to the watercourse.

In line with good practice, the Board will only approve an application to culvert a watercourse if;

- There is no reasonably practicable alternative.
- The detrimental effects of culverting would be so minor that they would not justify a more costly alternative.
- The proposal is for a replacement culvert or bridge.
- The piping/bridge is for the sole access to a field, property, building plot or an estate development and the total length of piping or width of the bridge is the minimum required for the access.
- The total length of drain to be piped/bridged is 18 metres or less.*

Applications for the installation of weirs, flow control and other structures (not including culverting) as well as the infilling of watercourses will be considered on a case by case basis.

Applications may be refused if the Board's Officers consider that the proposed works will;

- Increase flood risk or negatively impact the efficiency of local drainage
- Cause environmental harm that cannot be mitigated
- Negatively impact the ability of the Board to carry out its operations

If consent is granted by the Board, this may be conditional. Conditions may;

- Specify the technical detail of the works to be constructed
- Require the need for an environmental survey
- Include the requirement for Commuted Maintenance Fee may be payable where the new assets (within a Board-Adopted watercourse) are to be adopted by the Board.

Wherever practical the IDB will seek to have culverted watercourses restored to open channels.

*Where applications are received to culvert long sections (over 18 metres) of watercourse these applications will need to demonstrate an overriding need for the piping (e.g. for health and safety reasons). The application must include a clear appraisal of the environmental impact of the proposal. Applications of this nature will be considered on a case by case basis, including an appraisal of potential impact on the Boards operations (especially for Board-adopted watercourses).

Work within 9 metres of Drainage and Flood Risk Management Infrastructure

- 8.3. Consent is required for all works within 9 metres of the edge of drainage and flood risk management infrastructure. Within each Boards Internal Drainage District this infrastructure is principally Board maintained watercourses and water management assets such as pumping stations, sluices and inlets etc. These are all clearly identified on each Boards mapping available on the Water Management Alliance website and available on links in [Section 2](#) of this document.
- 8.4. The 9 metre distance is measured from the edge of the drain (whether open or piped). In the case of an open drain this is 9 metres from an imaginary infinite vertical line running through the drain brink, or landward toe of the embankment if the watercourse is embanked.
- 8.5. The policies set out below outline the approach the Board takes when determining applications for works that qualify for the need for consent including those activities the Board will determine on a case by case basis and those the Board does not find acceptable in any circumstance. A separate policy is also included detailing the approach the Board will take to accommodating services.

Policy 4 – Works within 9 metres of Boards maintained drainage and flood risk management infrastructure

The Board will only approve applications for a relaxation of Byelaw 10 (to allow works within 9 metres of Boards adopted drainage and flood risk management infrastructure) if the proposals meet the criteria set out in the Board's listing of acceptable works (generally reflecting works that can be easily removed if required).

Permanent works should be sited a minimum of 9 metres from the Board's infrastructure, this is regardless of the position of any previous building or structure. For clarity this includes:

- The construction of a new or replacement building (residential or commercial)
- The construction of a two-storey or ground-floor extension (including conservatories)
- Permanent fencing, the erection of a wall, hedging or tree planting
- The boundary treatments of a new development
- All other permanent above ground structures
- All elements of a structure which may protrude into the 9 metre zone above ground level (such as the blades of a wind turbine or fixed canopy).
- Fishing lakes or reservoirs (including surrounding bunds or banks)
- Un-adopted service runs alongside watercourses (electricity cables, telephone wires, gas, water or sewerage pipes or any other services)

Where this is not achievable the matter will be considered by the Board on a case by case basis. These applications will be determined with reference to the impact on the Board's operations (e.g. by assessing current access arrangements).

If consent is granted by the Board, this may be conditional. Whilst dependent on the nature of the proposal, conditions may;

- Specify the technical detail of the works to be constructed
- Require the need for an environmental survey

- Require the applicant to apply for SSSI consent or a Habitats Regulations Assessment ("HRA")
- Require the applicant to enter into the Board's standard Deed of Indemnity
- Require written confirmation from a suitably qualified, independent structural engineer showing that the proposed intended foundation design will ensure the structure does not have an adverse impact on the watercourse, or vice-versa.

Applications may be refused if the Board's officers consider that the proposed works will;

- Negatively impact the ability of the Board to carry out its operations
- Increase the liabilities of the Board

8.6. Under Byelaw 26 of the Board's Byelaws a number of organisations are identified as being exempt from their requirements. This status is dependent upon certain criteria and specifically whether any works proposed by these organisations makes use of, or interferes with, the Board's infrastructure. The policy below has been drafted to clarify the Board's position on this matter.

Policy 5 – Exemptions to the Board's Byelaws

Where the body proposing to undertake works within the Internal Drainage District is an organisation defined by Byelaw 26 of the Board's Byelaws an application to register the exemption is required. This registration process is aimed to confirm that the applicant is exempt from the need for consent where they comply with the conditions of the exemption. Where the applicant cannot meet all the conditions of the exemption (as set out in our guidance) they are likely to be interfering with or making use of the Board's infrastructure and therefore must apply for consent from the relevant Board. The purpose of registering the exemptions is to ensure that the Board is made aware of works within its Internal Drainage District to minimise the conflict with its own operations.

Table 1 – WMA member Board’s listing of acceptable works within 9 metres of Board maintained watercourses

Proposed works >					Un-adopted Service runs alongside watercourses (Electricity cables, telephone wires, gas, water or sewerage pipes or any other services)
Type of Board maintained watercourse V	Demountable Fencing ⁱ	Garage - Moveable ⁱⁱ	Access roads, driveways and parking areas constructed from gravel and/or tarmac chippings	Planting of hedges and/or shallow-rooted bushes ⁱⁱⁱ	
Open drains where machinery access <u>IS</u> currently available to the Board	At least 7 metres from the brink of the watercourse	At least 7 metres from the brink of the watercourse	At least 7 metres from the brink of the watercourse	At least 8 metres from the brink of the watercourse and maintained to a minimum of 7 metres when mature	Considered on a case by case basis
Open drains where <u>NO</u> machinery access is currently available	At least 1 metre from the brink of the watercourse or nearest outside edge of the pipe	At least 3 metres from the brink of the watercourse or nearest outside edge of the pipe	At least 1 metre from the brink of the watercourse or nearest outside edge of the pipe	At least 2 metres from the brink of the watercourse and maintained to a minimum of 1 metre when mature	
Culverted watercourses				Considered on an individual basis ^{iv}	

ⁱ Fencing – This should be of a ‘temporary’ nature, with no posts concreted in. All fencing should be not taller than 1.80 metres (6 feet). If longer poles are required to allow for extra stability this will be considered on a case by case basis.

ⁱⁱ Garage - Moveable – This should be a temporary, sectional garage on loose-laid paving slabs or other non-permanent base.

ⁱⁱⁱ Planting - Consent is subject to this strip being maintained in perpetuity to allow unimpeded machine access alongside the watercourse. All approved hedging/bushes must be kept cut so they are no more than 1.80 metres (6 feet) tall. Consent may be granted for hard landscaping (e.g. patios) at the same distances as shown from hedges and/or shallow-rooted bushes. However, with open drains, hard landscaping must slope away from the watercourse, to avoid possible saturation of the drain bank by surface water run-off. When planting to achieve the 7 metre wide clear strip the hedging plants will need to be set back to ensure the growth (once mature) does not encroach on the 7 metre strip.

^{iv} Planting - Where the pipeline is close to ground level, of a small diameter, and does not drain a large area of land, it may be possible to plant hedges and/or shallow-rooted bushes up to 3 metres from the nearest outside edge of the pipe. However, in other situations, a relaxation to 6 metres may be more appropriate. All approved hedging/bushes must be kept cut so they are no more than 1.80m tall.

Enforcement

- 8.7. As highlighted in [Section 5](#) of this document the Water Management Alliance (“WMA”) member Internal Drainage Boards (“IDBs”) will seek to take appropriate steps to help riparian owners of ordinary watercourses within their Internal Drainage Districts (“IDDs”) to understand their responsibilities for maintenance, byelaw compliance and environmental regulations. To enable IDBs to achieve this objective Boards can draw on powers under the Land Drainage Act 1991 and their byelaws.
- 8.8. Specifically these powers as set out under Sections 21, 24 and 25 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 and in the Board’s Byelaws allow the serving of notices on individuals who have caused contraventions. In issuing a notice the IDB may set out the works required to resolve the contravention to an acceptable standard and the date by which the works should be completed. If the works are not completed by the date set out in the notice, the Board may take action to remedy the effect of the contravention or failure and seek to recover the costs incurred, as well as pursue any necessary prosecution.

Policy 6 - Enforcement

Where responsibility for maintenance of ordinary watercourses rests with a land owner, the Board will take appropriate steps to secure their co-operation to ensure maintenance takes place. Where necessary the Board will draw on powers of enforcement to secure this maintenance of the removal of any unauthorised works or obstruction.

The WMA member Boards will take a risk-based and proportionate approach to exercising their regulatory powers under the Land Drainage Act 1991 and byelaws, taking into account the location and nature of any contravention, nuisance or flooding caused by;

- the failure to repair or maintain watercourses, bridges or drainage works
- un-consented works including works within 9 metres of the edge of drainage and flood risk management infrastructure
- impediments to the proper flow of water

This approach will take into account whether the contraventions have or are likely to increase flood risk and what the consequences of any increase in risk may be. Where works are un-consented the relevant IDB would require the landowner, person and/or Risk Management Authority responsible for the works to prove that the un-consented works would not cause a nuisance or increase flood risk. For the avoidance of doubt the Board will take enforcement action where there is, or has been, a risk to life or serious injury, internal flooding of residential or commercial properties or flooding impacting on critical services.

Where works are un-consented and the relevant landowner, person and/or Risk Management Authority responsible provides no evidence or insufficient evidence to support an assertion that the un-consented works would not cause a nuisance or increase flood risk, there will be a presumption that the un-consented works would cause a nuisance or increase flood risk, unless visible evidence suggests otherwise.

The Board may close an enforcement case file and/or take no action where:

- there is a lack of physical evidence to corroborate the impact of a flood event and/or
- there is no actual or potential risk to properties or infrastructure; and/or
- that the matter complained of is not the cause of the drainage problem; and/or

- the matter is trivial in nature (de minimis)

Where no enforcement action is taken correspondence may inform and advise individuals of their riparian owner responsibilities and of the route for settling disputes with other riparian owners where appropriate including referral to the First-tier Tribunal (Property Chamber) Agricultural Land and Drainage where appropriate.

Where the Board are made aware of breaches to other legislation they will advise the appropriate authorities.

- 8.9. The process of enforcement by WMA member Boards will follow the staged approach set out below;
 - Initial response and assessment
 - Investigation
 - Determination
 - Serving of notices (where appropriate)
- 8.10. Once a complaint about an ordinary watercourse is received by the Board, officers will carry out an initial assessment to establish;
 - If a WMA member Board is the relevant regulatory authority and;
 - Whether the actual or potential impact of the contravention meets our threshold for intervention.
- 8.11. The initial assessment will consider the on-site conditions, the impact on the Boards operations, any available historical data and high level indicators of potential flood risk, such as Environment Agency ("EA") flood risk maps as well as flood risk modelling outputs held by the relevant IDB. It will also consider conservation designations and the type of land holdings.
- 8.12. To substantiate contraventions reported to the Board we will need to be provided with the location of the contravention and one or more of the following types of evidence:
 - Dated photos of the contravention or impact caused by the contravention
 - A written report from another Risk Management Authority (such as a LLFA flood investigation)
- 8.13. This assessment should be completed within 21 days of receipt of the complaint however, it may be necessary to extend the period of assessment for more complex matters, high demand on the service and/or to accommodate environmental circumstances e.g. weather, flood conditions, etc. An initial response will then be sent to the reporter of the contravention.
- 8.14. Once an initial assessment has been carried out the complainant will be informed in writing as to the next course of action. As stated in the above enforcement policy the Board may take no action where there is not enough evidence to support enforcement or where there is no or minimal impact. Examples of matters not requiring action may include minimal silting of the watercourse, slight vegetation growth, the accumulation of a small quantity of debris etc.
- 8.15. In some circumstances the Board may require further information on the contravention. As such officers may arrange to meet the land owner and/or complainant and undertake a site visit to substantiate the Board's regulatory position. This process may also involve the Board consulting with other organisations including other local authorities, Highway Authorities,

Environment Agency, Natural England as appropriate and/or require or commission appropriate site surveys and inspections.

- 8.16. In deciding whether or not to carry out further investigation the Board will consider whether it is in the public interest to do so. Having regard to the actual and potential impacts of the contravention, the costs of carrying out the works and the likelihood of obtaining sufficient evidence to support enforcement action.
- 8.17. Where it is considered that further action needs to be taken by the relevant landowner, person and/or Risk Management Authority responsible for the contravention, this will be explained within a letter from the Board that sets out the Boards investigation. This will include the following:
- An explanation of the contravention, its impact and the remedy required in accordance with the Land Drainage Act 1991 and the Boards Byelaws.
 - The timeframe for the work to be undertaken (usually 21 days from the date of the letter).
- 8.18. In certain circumstances practicalities may not allow for works to be achievable within the usual timeframe specified in the letter. The Board will assess the circumstances of each enforcement case individually and determine whether any works need to be deferred or amended to take into account the impacts of any works on wildlife or habitat. Examples where this may occur include:
- Seasonal farming practices and Environmental Schemes can restrict access or time schedules to carry out works;
 - The nesting season for some birds occurs between the 1 March and 1 August and works might cause disruption if nests are present;
 - Presence of protected species will influence when it is most appropriate to carry out work.
- 8.19. Where further action is pursued by the Board, officers will seek to resolve the situation by means of negotiation with the person responsible and obtain compliance with a request to satisfactorily undertake the work required.
- 8.20. If a positive response to the IDB letter has not been received within the timescale specified and on inspection no work has been satisfactorily undertaken as required, a notice under the relevant section of the Land Drainage Act 1991 or the Boards byelaws will be served. The notice will include the nature of the work to be carried out, the period within which it is to be carried out and any relevant right of appeal to a magistrates' court within 21 days of service of the notice (where applicable). A Notice under the Land Drainage Act 1991 or the Boards byelaws is a legal document formally requiring specific work to be carried out within a set timescale.
- 8.21. A letter will accompany the notice and inform the responsible person that in the event of their failure to satisfactorily undertake the work, the IDB may carry out the work itself and recover from the person responsible the expenses reasonably incurred in doing so which will include recovering the costs of pursuing the case.
- 8.22. Following service of the notice, one of four things will happen:-
- The responsible person will carry out the work to the satisfaction of the Board.
 - The responsible person may appeal the notice.

- The responsible person will fail to carry out the work to the satisfaction of Board and the Board will seek to recover their expenses; and /or
 - The Board will, where appropriate, decide whether to take a prosecution against the responsible person, in addition to carrying out the work and seeking to recover the costs of that work.
- 8.23. If the responsible person complies with the notice and completes the work to the satisfaction of the Board, the Board's officers will write to the responsible person confirming the closure of the case and the end of the action.

Fly Tipping and rubbish

- 8.24. The Board do not have enforcement powers with regard to fly tipping as these rest with the relevant Local Authority and the Environment Agency. Despite this the Board believe it is important to clarify the role of the IDB in this area as historically there has been some confusion amongst residents and other public authorities.
- 8.25. Rubbish in Board's watercourses can result from general litter blowing into the watercourse or floating along the drain from upstream or from fly tipping (the illegal dumping of waste). Of the two types, fly tipping generally leads to the most serious problem, especially when large quantities of waste are tipped in one incident and/or location. Rubbish can have the following detrimental effects on watercourses;
- Reduce flow in the watercourse
 - Pollution
 - Unsightly
 - Environmentally damaging

Policy 7 – Fly Tipping and rubbish in Board's watercourses and on Board's property

When dealing with the clearance of rubbish from Board's watercourses and property:-

- In the case of a serious fly tipping incident, the Board will report it to the appropriate enforcement body, rather than attempting to deal with it itself, in case evidence is inadvertently lost, which could have been used to prosecute offenders.
- In less serious fly tipping incidents, or after receiving the approval of the appropriate enforcing authority, the rubbish will be removed by either:
 - a) Requesting that the relevant Council's waste team clear the waste whilst on their rounds.
 - b) Alternatively, if the rubbish is causing a blockage to flow, or environmental damage, it should be removed from the watercourse as soon as possible. In the case of a vehicle, the Police should first be informed as it may have been used for criminal purposes, and may well have a registered owner.
 - c) Rubbish may be cleared by Board's operatives, but the Board will be mindful of all Health and Safety risks before proceeding with the work. Hazardous waste, (for example asbestos), will only be moved and disposed of by a specialist contractor.

- The Board have a waste transfer license to allow them to move waste. Rubbish can be temporarily stored in the relevant Board's yard, where a waste exemption license is in place, before disposing of in an appropriate manner.
- With regard to general rubbish in a watercourse, this will not normally be cleared by the Board unless it was in sufficient quantity to be causing a problem as outlined above. In general, litter picking of watercourses will not be undertaken by the Board.
- If the rubbish is causing a pollution incident then the Environment Agency will be informed at the earliest opportunity and the pollution contained.

Adoption and abandonment of watercourses and drainage assets

- 8.26. Under common law, the responsibility for maintenance of watercourses rests with the riparian owner or land owner. Different owners have different priorities, needs and expectations as to the standard of drainage required for their land use. As such it is not unusual for drainage issues to occur when the level of maintenance varies between reaches or opposite banks of the same watercourse. The result of such circumstances can be that landowners upstream are impacted by landowners further downstream failing to adequately maintain their respective reach of watercourse.
- 8.27. One of the primary benefits of the management of watercourses by statutory bodies such as Internal Drainage Boards is that critical watercourses are maintained adequately as a connected and related arterial network. To incorporate watercourses into this network it is essential that the Board has and uses its permissive powers to "adopt" watercourses. Another benefit of adoption is that these watercourses are protected to a greater extent by the Board's byelaws.
- 8.28. From time to time drains are adopted and abandoned by the Board due to changes in circumstance. The criteria listed below have been drawn up to reinforce and assist the decision making process as to which drains should be adopted and which abandoned. It is not intended that the criteria should be used to make radical changes to the existing network of Board maintained watercourses but instead to provide guidance to the decision making process when in future a riparian owner asks the Board to consider adopting or abandoning a watercourse. It should also be noted that every case will have to be judged on its own merits, as the complexities and peculiarities of individual cases cannot be encompassed within a standard set of criteria.

Policy 8 – Adoption of watercourses

Watercourses which fulfil the following criteria should be considered for adoption:

A watercourse with more than one riparian owner/occupier, or that caters for more than one owner/occupier within its catchment, which causes persistent drainage problems, or would do if a perceived change in circumstances was to take place, where effective maintenance would prevent these problems from occurring. ("One-off" problems can normally be resolved by issuing the relevant riparian owner a notice under the Land

Drainage Act to carry out the required work). If an improvement scheme is required to be undertaken to make it an effective drainage route, then the benefit of this must outweigh the cost. A condition of the adoption would be that the riparian owners, or in the case of development, the developer, finances the improvement to the specification of the Board before the drain is adopted.

Consideration should also be given, when deciding whether or not to adopt a watercourse, to the implications of retrospectively applying the Board's Byelaws to the adjacent owners/occupiers, particularly Byelaw 10 affecting development within 9 metres of the drain, and availability of access to the watercourse to carry out maintenance works.

Policy 9 – Abandonment of watercourses

Watercourses which fulfil the following criteria should be considered for abandonment:

A watercourse, or upstream section of watercourse, which either has only one riparian owner/occupier and one owner within its catchment, or where there are multiple riparian owner/occupiers or multiple owners within the catchment and all of these owners or occupiers are in full agreement to the abandonment, or a watercourse which is redundant for its original purpose, for example it has been by-passed, and would not cause a drainage problem if it were abandoned by the Board.

Upon abandonment, the maintenance responsibility for those Board's drains which are not owned by the Board will pass to the riparian owner. It is more difficult to abandon a drain owned by the Board as the Board will still have the responsibility, as owner, to maintain the drain following abandonment, unless the riparian owners are willing to purchase the drain from the Board and take on the maintenance responsibility.

Policy 10 - Sustainable Drainage Systems ("SuDS") Adoption Policy

[a] Adoption of SuDS within the Board's Drainage District

The Board will consider the adoption of SuDS within its Drainage District where the SuDS cater for more than one property owner. The decision whether to adopt will be:-

- Made on a site-specific basis
- Dependent on the Board having had input to the design from an early stage so that;
 - Adequate access and working space is allowed around the SuDS feature(s) for future maintenance with machinery, including in all landscaping designs; and
 - space is allowed within the site design for deposition of arisings from the SuDS proposed for adoption - where the arisings are vegetation or silts etc - so that these do not have to be removed from site. The area required for this may be additional to the access and working space. It will normally be expected that this deposition space is provided immediately adjacent to the SuDS feature(s).

Generally, the Board will only consider adopting a SuDS feature which:-

- Is an extension of, or is adjacent to, and existing Board-maintained watercourse or SuDS feature;
- Is above-ground and can be maintained with equipment commonly used by the Board - such as flails and roding baskets - for example attenuation ponds or linear flood storage areas; and
- Has a maintenance regime similar to a Board-maintained open watercourse, especially in regard to cutting frequency (SuDS infrastructure that needs maintaining more frequently, for example swales in front of properties or SuDS which are also public open space, may be better-suited to adoption by another authority).

[b] Adoption of SuDS within the Board's watershed catchment

The Board may also consider adopting SuDS outside its Drainage District, but within the watershed catchment, if doing so will be of benefit to, and/or help to protect drainage and flood risk in, the Drainage District, provided that the other requirements in this policy are also met.

[c] Charges for the Board to adopt SuDS

A one-off, upfront adoption charge will be payable by the developer to the Board as part of the adoption procedure. This charge will be based on the present value of the total maintenance cost associated with the SuDS being adopted over the design life of the development (usually 100 years, unless it can be demonstrated to be less), unless otherwise agreed by the Board. The maintenance costs used to calculate this charge will be set by the Board based on a works programme agreed as part of the consenting and adoption process.

Transfer of land and wayleave agreements

- 8.29. Where the Board is involved in the commenting on, and approving, works associated with new development adjacent to Board-maintained watercourses the Board will seek to ensure that there are 9 metre wide easement strips kept clear of any development. The Board will usually seek to have the above-mentioned easement strips conveyed to it wherever possible, regardless of whether or not the adjacent drain is owned by the Board. The Board will also normally stipulate that the strips have to be suitably-fenced and gated to all sides, except alongside an open watercourse, and that the transfer is free from encumbrances and completed at no cost to the Board (including the developer paying the Board's legal costs).

Environmental measures and sustainability

- 8.30. As set out in [Section 5](#) of this document Internal Drainage Boards ("IDBs") have duties under the Land Drainage Acts of 1991 and 1994, the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003, [the Eels \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2009](#), the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 and as a competent authority under the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 2017.

8.31. Much of the WMA member Board's watercourse maintenance work constitutes vegetation control and de-silting and is a vital routine requirement. Whilst inevitably some short term impact will arise, this management is essential to maintain the aquatic habitat in the internal drainage districts. For some Board's this aquatic environment can be very diverse and environmentally sensitive. As such, each Board has access to environmental expertise from an Environmental Officer. They also all have both a Biodiversity Action Plan (developed according to ADA and Natural England guidelines), and a Standard Maintenance Operations Policy document. These documents aim to highlight how the Board's operational activities will be carried out in manner appropriate to the environment in line within its statutory duties and set out the opportunities for the environment to be enhanced.

8.32. The links to each Board's Standard Maintenance Operations Policy are set out below;

Board	Link to Standard Maintenance Operations Policy
Broads (2006) IDB	https://www.wlma.org.uk/uploads/BIDB_SMO.pdf
East Suffolk IDB	https://www.wlma.org.uk/uploads/ESIDB_SMO.pdf
King's Lynn IDB	https://www.wlma.org.uk/uploads/KLIDB_SMO.pdf
Norfolk Rivers IDB	https://www.wlma.org.uk/uploads/NRIDB_SMO.pdf
South Holland IDB	https://www.wlma.org.uk/uploads/SHIDB_SMO.pdf

8.33. The links to each Board's Biodiversity Action Plan are set out below;

Board	Link to Biodiversity Action Plan
Broads (2006) IDB	https://www.wlma.org.uk/uploads/BIDB_BAP_April_2018.pdf
East Suffolk IDB	https://www.wlma.org.uk/uploads/ESIDB_BAP_April_2018.pdf
King's Lynn IDB	https://www.wlma.org.uk/uploads/KLIDB_BAP_April_2018.pdf
Norfolk Rivers IDB	https://www.wlma.org.uk/uploads/NRIDB_BAP_April_2018.pdf
South Holland IDB	https://www.wlma.org.uk/uploads/SHIDB_BAP.pdf

8.34. It should be noted that the Board only maintain a small proportion of the total watercourse length in each Board's district, (the significant majority being the responsibility of landowners/riparian owners). As such it is important for the Board to ensure through the regulation of third party activities that consented works are undertaken by others in an environmentally sensitive and responsible way. For example, (as set out earlier in 5.13) this means, that before permitting the carrying out of operations likely to damage any of the flora, fauna or geological or physiographical features by reason of which a site of special scientific interest is of special interest, the IDB must consult with Natural England. The results of reviewing an applicant's assessment of the potential environmental impacts of proposed works may be to seek environmental mitigation for the proposed works which may be conditioned, to seek material amendments to the proposals or to require the refusal of the application.

Policy 11 – Environmental Policy

When exercising its permissive works powers, the Board will comply with environmental obligations and duties as set out in relevant statute and in line with each Board's Standard Maintenance Operations Policy and Biodiversity Action Plan.

When carrying out work, be it maintenance or improvement, and consistent with the need to maintain satisfactory flood protection standards, the Board will aim to:-

- Avoid any unnecessary or long term damage to agricultural interests and natural habitats and species;
- Carry out the monitoring of any gains and losses of biodiversity and report annually to the Environment Agency; and
- Take appropriate opportunities to enhance and achieve multiple environmental outcomes and work with natural processes, wherever possible, including the enhancement of habitats and water bodies within each IDB district.

The Board will play its full role in sustaining the Water Level Management Plan prepared for SSSIs, to maintain, or bring sites into, favourable condition, in partnership with Natural England and other interested parties and will review the plans in accordance with guidance.

The Board will remain vigilant to help stop the spread of invasive non-native species. It will integrate basic biosecurity procedures in its operations to prevent this spread in line with its biosecurity policy.

When an application for Land Drainage Consent is submitted to the Board and the works could have an impact on a watercourse within, adjacent to, or draining land forming part of, a SSSI or European-designated wildlife site, the Board will only determine the application following consultation with Natural England. Where there is the potential that protected habitats or species could be impacted by any proposed work the Board will require environmental surveys and assessments to be carried out by the applicant in support of their proposals. When assessing enforcement cases in line with the Board enforcement policy, breaches of environmental legislation will be referred to the appropriate authorities.

8.35. Invasive non-native species are wide spread nationally and if left uncontrolled present a threat to the Boards and riparian owners aquatic systems. It is imperative that the Boards field operations to manage flood risk and water levels do not exacerbate the risks to the environment and economy that are posed by these species. Failure to minimise the spread of non-native species, where these are known to be present, can risk prosecution under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Much to do with biosecurity involves awareness, common sense and agreed procedures.

8.36. The links to each Board's Biosecurity Policy are set out below;

Board	Link to Biosecurity Policy
Broads (2006) IDB	https://www.wlma.org.uk/uploads/BIDB_Biosecurity_Policy.pdf
East Suffolk IDB	https://www.wlma.org.uk/uploads/ESIDB_Biosecurity_Policy.pdf
King's Lynn IDB	https://www.wlma.org.uk/uploads/KLIDB_Biosecurity_Policy.pdf
Norfolk Rivers IDB	https://www.wlma.org.uk/uploads/NRIDB_Biosecurity_Policy.pdf
South Holland IDB	https://www.wlma.org.uk/uploads/SHIDB_Biosecurity_Policy.pdf

Ragwort control

- 8.37. Common Ragwort is a specified weed under the Ragwort Control Act 2003. The associated “Code of Practice on How to Prevent the Spread of Ragwort” recommends it should be controlled, if practical, wherever it presents a medium to high risk to animal welfare. The definition of these risk bandings is set out below;

High Risk	Within 50 m of land used for grazing horses or other animals or forage production.
Medium Risk	Within 100 m of land used for grazing horses or other animals or forage production.
Low Risk	Greater than 100 m from land used for grazing horses or other animals or forage production.

- 8.38. Section 9 of the Code of Practice states *“when seeking to prevent the spread of ragwort it is expected that all landowners, occupiers and managers will co-operate and, where necessary, take collective responsibility for ensuring that effective control of the spread of ragwort is achieved”*. As such the Board has drafted the policy set out below;

Policy 12 – Ragwort control

The Board will only undertake Ragwort control in exceptional circumstances where there is sufficient resource to undertake the work and all other parties in the area have agreed to collectively carry out control.

- 8.39. Common Ragwort is normally biennial. In the first year it forms a set of basal leaves and overwinters; in the second year it sends up a single leafy stem with flower heads at the top. It flowers June – October and then dies. However, if damaged, such as pulling, it will act as a perennial flowering every year.
- 8.40. The main methods of control are shown below. The risk assessment carried out before control may dictate the method of control used.

Cutting	It is used to reduce seed production and dispersal. Cutting may stimulate growth the following year.
Pulling	If root fragments are not removed, weak re-growth follows. Best done when ground is damp. A special fork is marketed.
Spraying	Can only use chemicals approved for use near or in water, they are 2,4-D and Glyphosate (Roundup). The Environment Agency must be notified.
Biological	Cinnabar moth eggs and caterpillars are marketed.

- 8.41. Ragwort contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PAs) which are toxic to humans and animals. Anecdotal evidence indicates that PAs can be absorbed through the skin and therefore protective gloves and trousers shall be worn when pulling or handling ragwort. Ragwort remains toxic when dead and becomes more palatable to livestock. Dead plants can still set seeds. Plants in flower should be placed in plastic bags and disposed of by landfill at an approved facility.

Drought

- 8.42. Droughts are natural events which occur when a period of low rainfall creates a shortage of water that reduces water supplies to different users. Droughts can affect rivers, watercourses or aquifers, depending on when the lack of rainfall occurs.
- 8.43. The Water Management Alliance (“WMA”) member Internal Drainage Boards (“IDBs”) will need to manage water levels within their areas of responsibility during periods of drought; ensuring landowners, nature conservation groups and other interested parties have access to as much non-potable water as possible during these times. We aim to help manage each hydraulic catchment as a whole so that water will be readily available throughout the year for people and the environment.
- 8.44. The policy set out below outlines the role of education and communication (nationally and locally) as well as the key responsibilities of the WMA Member Boards and describes how drought issues will be managed along with our short and long term goals
- 8.45. The WMA member Boards will seek to work in partnership with their partners and key stakeholders, to help manage water resources in times of drought. However it is important to note that the Board cannot be held liable for water quality, particularly in a drought period when the quality of the water is often worse. Water users must therefore always satisfy themselves that the water is of sufficient quality before abstracting/irrigating etc.

Policy 13 – Drought

Short Term Goals

In close liaison with Natural England and other environmental management organisations (RSPB, Wildlife Trusts, etc.), the WMA member Boards will;

- Wherever possible, through the use of infrastructure and specific pump operation, maintain higher water levels during the summer months, especially through a drought period.
- Aim to prioritise water to be pumped to SSSIs, SACs, and SPAs to safeguard protected flora and fauna.
- Aim to increase water levels by not pumping during times of drought in agricultural areas before hands-off-flow is instigated. This is to ensure farmers can irrigate their land during these times.

Long Term Goals

In close liaison with Natural England and other Risk Management Authorities, the WMA member Boards will;

- Aim to remain at the forefront of pump technology and river maintenance techniques, to enable us to manage water in the most efficient way.
- Manage our watercourses in such a way that, as much as possible, we safeguard against drought in the most vulnerable locations, through the use of structures, maintenance operation selection and other methods of surface water retention.

- Work with partners and landowners to deliver projects which benefit water flow.

Education and Communication - Nationally

A number of organisations and groups have important roles in managing drought and the WMA member Boards plan to work together with these groups to combat issues of drought.

By working with Natural England, the Environment Agency, Defra, the National Drought Group (NDG), the Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA) and others, we will seek to influence government policies for farming, agriculture and water management to ensure drought as an issue is managed and taken in to account.

The WMA Member Boards will do this by:

- Attending meetings about water management involving drought.
- Liaising with risk management authorities and NGOs about drought.
- Promoting good working methods for water management across our Member Boards.
- Sharing ideas about good water management and how it can be achieved at national forums.
- Trialling new projects and collecting and sharing the results, in order to better inform the industry knowledge on drought.
- Raising funds with other organisations and working in partnerships to carry out projects.

Education and Communication - Locally

The WMA member Boards will work locally to offer advice and ensure there is an appreciation of the challenges that drought can pose, as well as the local measures which individuals can take to minimise its effects.

WMA member Boards will do this by:

- Participating in joint events with key organisations.
- Being open to meet with local communities, farmers and interested parties.
- Including drought in any educational events at local schools and colleges.
- Advertising successful projects in the media.

- 8.46. This policy will be reviewed in line with this strategy as set out in Section 10 or after any drought event. The review process will include discussions with other Risk Management Authorities and Representative Bodies regarding lessons learnt across the sector.

Sustainability

- 8.47. The Water Management Alliance (“WMA”) has a vision to deliver appropriate water level management in an efficient, cost effective manner to the communities served within its catchments, in a way to minimise impact on the environment and protect and enhance ecological diversity for future generations.
- 8.48. Section 27 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires Internal Drainage Boards (“IDBs”) to aim to make a contribution towards the achievement of sustainable development

when exercising their flood and coastal erosion risk management functions. It also requires the Secretary of State to issue guidance on how those authorities are to discharge this duty and explain the meaning of sustainable development in this context. This policy has given due regard to the guidance and sets out how the WMA member Boards will discharge this duty.

- 8.49. The WMA is a non-profit making consortium of 5 Internal Drainage Boards committed to being a responsible business; conducting ourselves according to thorough ethical, professional and legal standards. The WMA members Boards will comply with these principles by delivering against the policy set out below.

Policy 14 – Sustainability Policy

People

Stakeholders - We strive to work in partnership with ratepayers and other organisations to deliver watercourse maintenance and projects efficiently, safely and with due regard to the environment. We endeavour to provide low carbon options where we can and choose sustainable design, material and construction methods where possible to do so.

Community - We aim to carry out our maintenance, construction and refurbishment practices in a manner designed to minimise disruption to our neighbours and lessen any impact upon the local environment, end users and the wider community.

Supply Chain - We treat our supply chain partners fairly and responsibly and work with our contractors and suppliers to ensure they operate in a safe and environmentally responsible way.

Employees - We create a safe and inspiring environment for our employees, enabling them to develop skills and contribute to the success of the business. The commitments to our staff and workforce are as follows:

- Health and Safety - Health and Safety is our top priority. We are committed to continually improving the Health and Safety of our employees, contractors and those affected by our activities, including members of the public.
- Learning and Development – We promote training and learning opportunities for our staff to ensure they are equipped with the right knowledge and skill-set. This helps the business to run smoothly and allows the individual the scope for personal development.
- Equality and Diversity – We provide an inclusive working environment where everyone feels valued and respected. We are committed to equal opportunities and do not discriminate against anyone on the grounds of gender, race, colour, marital status, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability or age.

The Planet

Energy - We strive to improve our energy efficiency, reduce our carbon dioxide emissions and work with our stakeholders to provide low carbon solutions to capital projects and maintenance activities.

Resources - We will promote measures to recycle and minimise waste and reduce the consumption of natural resources during our business activities.

Environment - We will take all reasonable steps to ensure that our operations are conducted in a manner that minimises our impact on the local environment. We promote good environmental practice and seek opportunities to promote and enhance biodiversity during our day to day activities.

Economic Viability

Balanced sustainable solutions - We aim to work with ratepayers our partners and stakeholders to provide sustainable solutions, as part of our daily operations and special projects that balance environmental, economic and social interests. We aim to ensure the effective use of resources and achieve value for money whilst undertaking our activities.

Transparency - As a public authority we are open and upfront about our income and expenditure. Such Information is published regularly and is accessible to the public on our website or can be sought at source via a Freedom of Information Act request.

Quality Management - We are committed to the use the accredited ISO 9001 and 14001 Quality Management Systems to continually monitor and identify areas for improvement within the social, economic and environmental aspects of the business model.

9. IDB Standing Advice

- 9.1. The Board has approved the following standing advice to assist local planning authorities in screening planning applications against WMA member Board's regulatory requirements. In so doing the aim is to reduce the potential for conflict between the two public authorities' regulatory regimes. As such the Board's officers are happy to engage with applicants and/or agents to advise them directly of their site's interaction with the Board's functions.

Standing Advice 1: General savings for Internal Drainage Board regulatory powers

This standing advice applies where the proposed development site is near to, or within, the Internal Drainage District ("IDD") of a Member Internal Drainage Board ("IDB") of the Water Management Alliance. Please see our website (www.wlma.org.uk) for detailed mapping of each Board's District, including which drains are designated as an adopted watercourse in each District. In order to avoid conflict between the planning process and the relevant Board's regulatory regime and consenting process please be aware of the following:

- If the site is within a Member IDBs district, that Board's byelaws apply. The Byelaws for each Board are available on the development pages of our website (www.wlma.org.uk).
- Regardless of whether the site is within a Member Board's IDD, if the proposals include works to alter a watercourse (including culverting for access) consent is required under Section 23 of the Land Drainage Act 1991. If the site is within an IDD the relevant IDB is the consenting authority for these works. If outside an IDD, the County Council (Lead Local Flood Authority) is the consenting authority.
- If a surface water (or treated foul water) discharge is proposed to a watercourse within an IDD (either directly or indirectly), then the proposed development will require a land drainage consent in line with that Internal Drainage Board's byelaws (specifically Byelaw 3). Any consent for surface water discharges granted will likely be conditional, pending the payment a surface water development contribution fee, calculated in line with the Board's charging policy.
- If the proposals include works within 9 metres of a Board adopted watercourse, consent is required under Byelaw 10.
- If the applicant has proposed to manage surface water by infiltration, this should be supported by infiltration testing in line with BRE 365 and an understanding of the expected groundwater levels.
- For the maintenance of SuDS infrastructure each Board may consider adopting certain assets within their IDD. If the applicant wishes to explore this option they should contact planning@wlma.org.uk

Whilst the consenting process as set out under the Land Drainage Act 1991 and the Board's Byelaws are separate from planning, the ability to implement a planning permission may be dependent on the granting of these consents. As such we strongly recommend that any required consents are sought prior to determination of the planning application.

10. Monitoring and Review

- 10.1. This document requires monitoring and review to ensure that its information, objectives and policies reflect current legislative requirements as well as the most up-to-date evidence base available.

Frequency of review

- 10.2. This document will be reviewed (and if necessary updated) within a period not extending beyond five years from the date of the document's final approval and adoption by the Water Management Alliance member Boards. The only exception to this would be where revisions to Government legislation or guidance require modifications of the document in order for the Board's to be legally compliant.

Requirement for monitoring

- 10.3. Monitoring is required to measure the effects of implementing the policies of this document. This monitoring should be targeted and proportionate, to allow determination of the relative influence of individual policies over the achievement of each Board's objectives without unnecessarily diverting resources away from the primary focus of water management.
- 10.4. The final adopted strategy document will set out the monitoring regime to be implemented. It will describe the indicators that will be reviewed and when this information will be collected. This monitoring process will compare the current year conditions against previous data collected by financial year from and including the statistical baseline.

Appendix A: Local Planning Authorities whose area has coverage by a Water Management Alliance member Internal Drainage Board

No.	Local Planning Authority	County	Area of IDD within LPA area (ha)	IDB's within LPA area
1	Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk	Norfolk	33,101 1,102	King's Lynn IDB Norfolk Rivers IDB
2	Breckland District Council	Norfolk	2,651	Norfolk Rivers IDB
3	Broadland District Council	Norfolk	5,565 4,154	Broads (2006) IDB Norfolk Rivers IDB
4	Broads Authority	Norfolk	TBD	Broads (2006) IDB Norfolk Rivers IDB
5	Great Yarmouth Borough Council	Norfolk and Suffolk	5,221	Broads (2006) IDB
6	Norfolk County Council	Norfolk	67,129	Broads (2006) IDB, King's Lynn IDB, Norfolk Rivers IDB
7	North Norfolk District Council	Norfolk	7,670 4,394	Broads (2006) IDB Norfolk Rivers IDB
8	Norwich City Council	Norfolk	222	Norfolk Rivers IDB
9	South Norfolk District Council	Norfolk	597 2,452	Broads (2006) IDB Norfolk Rivers IDB
14	Babergh District Council	Suffolk	177	East Suffolk IDB
13	Ipswich Borough Council	Suffolk	59	East Suffolk IDB
11	Mid Suffolk District Council	Suffolk	1,393	East Suffolk IDB
10	Suffolk Coastal Council	Suffolk	10,962	East Suffolk IDB
15	Suffolk County Council	Suffolk	TBD	East Suffolk IDB
12	Waveney District Council	Suffolk	TBD	East Suffolk IDB
17	Boston Borough Council	Lincolnshire	69	South Holland IDB
16	South Holland District Council	Lincolnshire	38,182 2,426	South Holland IDB King's Lynn IDB
18	Lincolnshire County Council	Lincolnshire	40,677	South Holland IDB
19	Fenland District Council	Cambridgeshire	267	King's Lynn IDB
20	Cambridgeshire County Council	Cambridgeshire	267	King's Lynn IDB

Appendix B: WMA documentation replaced by this strategy

Water Management Alliance-wide policies

1. WMA - Group Vision, Mission and Values – Vision and mission statement included on page 12
2. WMA - Drought Policy, Version 1 – see Policy 13, Page 46
3. WMA - Operations - Sustainability Policy – see Policy 14, Policy 48
4. WMA - Planning and Byelaw Policy, April 2012 – Document replaced by this strategy

Board-specific policies

5. Broads (2006) IDB - Fly Tipping Policy – see Policy 7, Page 39
6. Broads (2006) IDB - Ragwort Control Policy – see Policy 12, Page 45
7. Broads (2006) IDB - Supplementary Guidance for Adoption and Abandonment of Watercourses, 2009 – see Policies 8/9, Page 40
8. East Suffolk IDB - Fly Tipping Policy – see Policy 7, Page 39
9. East Suffolk IDB - Ragwort Control Policy – see Policy 12, Page 45
10. East Suffolk IDB - Supplementary Guidance for Adoption and Abandonment of Watercourses, 2009 – see Policies 8/9, Page 40
11. King's Lynn IDB - Supplementary Guidance for Adoption and Abandonment of Watercourses, 2009 – see Policies 8/9, Page 40
12. King's Lynn IDB - Fly Tipping Policy – see Policy 7, Page 39
13. King's Lynn IDB - Ragwort Control Policy – see Policy 12, Page 45
14. King's Lynn IDB - SuDS Adoption Policy – Policy – see Policy 10, Page 41
15. Norfolk Rivers IDB - Fly Tipping Policy – see Policy 7, Page 39
16. Norfolk Rivers IDB - Ragwort Control Policy – see Policy 12, Page 45
17. Norfolk Rivers IDB - Supplementary Guidance for Adoption and Abandonment of Watercourses, 2009 – see Policies 8/9, Page 40
18. South Holland IDB - Fly Tipping Policy – see Policy 7, Page 39
19. South Holland IDB - Ragwort Control Policy – see Policy 12, Page 45
20. South Holland IDB - SuDS Adoption Policy – see Policy 10, Page 41
21. South Holland IDB - Supplementary Guidance for Adoption and Abandonment of Watercourses, 2009 – see Policies 8/9, Page 40
22. WMA (Eastern) - SuDS Adoption Policy – see Policy 10, Page 41

Appendix C: Previous legislation covering the IDBs of the Water Management Alliance

(Please note elements of this Appendix are currently incomplete and subject to updates)

Broads (2006) Internal Drainage Board [2006-Present] 11 years

The Broads (2006) IDB was formed under The Broads (2006) Internal Drainage Board Order 2006 (SI 2006 No.773) from an amalgamation of 3 Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs). These Boards were;

1 Broads IDB [2005-2006] 1 year

Formed in 2005 under The Broads and Norfolk Rivers Internal Drainage Boards Order 2005 (Statutory Instrument 2005 No. 429) from an amalgamation of 6 Internal Drainage Boards. These Boards were;

1.1 Repps, Martham and Thurne IDB [1942-2005] 63 years

Formed in 1942 under the East Norfolk Rivers (including the River Waveney) Catchment Board (Repps, Martham and Thurne Internal Drainage District) Order 1942.

1.2 Happisburgh to Winterton IDB [1935-2005] 70 years

Formed in 1935 under the East Norfolk Rivers (including the River Waveney) Catchment Board (Happisburgh to Winterton Internal Drainage District) Order 1935 from an amalgamation of 2 drainage authorities. These were;

1.2.1 Hempstead, Happisburgh, Eccles, Palling-next-the-Sea, Lessingham and Ingham Drainage Board [1812-1935] 123 years

Formed under the Hempstead, Happisburgh, Eccles, Palling-next-the-Sea, Lessingham and Ingham Inclosure and Drainage Act 1812 (52 George III, cap. XVII.)

1.2.2 Winterton and East and West Somerton Drainage Commission [1805-1935] 130 years

Formed under the Winterton and East and West Somerton Inclosure and Drainage Act 1801 (45 George III, cap. VIII.)

1.3 Lower Bure, Halvergate Fleet and Acle Marshes IDB [1945-2005] 60 years

Formed in 1945 under the East Norfolk Rivers (including the River Waveney) Catchment Board (Lower Bure, Halvergate Fleet and Acle Marshes) Internal Drainage District Order 1945.

1.4 Muckfleet and South Flegg IDB [1936-2005] 69 years

Formed in 1936 under the East Norfolk Rivers (including the River Waveney) Catchment Board (Muckfleet and South Flegg Internal Drainage District) Order 1936.

1.5 Middle Bure IDB (Pumped Catchments) [1935-2005] 70 years

Formed in 1935 under the East Norfolk Rivers (including the River Waveney) Catchment Board (Middle Bure Internal Drainage District) Order 1935.

1.6 Smallburgh IDB (Pumped Catchments) [1936-2005] 69 years

Formed in 1936 under the East Norfolk Rivers (including the River Waveney) Catchment Board (Smallburgh Internal Drainage District) Order 1936 from an amalgamation of the three drainage authorities listed below. The boundaries of the Smallburgh IDB were altered by a Scheme confirmed by the East Suffolk and Norfolk

River Authority, the Alteration of Boundaries of the Smallburgh Internal Drainage District Order 1972.

1.6.1 Potter Heigham Drainage Board [1801-1936] 135 years

Formed in 1801 under the Potter Heigham Inclosure and Drainage Act 1801 (41 George III, cap. LXXVI.)

1.6.2 Ludham Drainage Commissioners [1801-1936] 135 years

Formed in 1801 under the Ludham Inclosure and Drainage Act 1800 (39 and 40 George III, cap. XXI.)

1.6.3 Hickling Drainage Commissioners [1801-1936] 135 years

Formed in 1801 under the Hickling Inclosure and Drainage Act 1801 (41 George III, cap. XXI.)

2 Lower Yare First Internal Drainage Board [1941-2006] 65 years

Formed in 1941 under the East Norfolk Rivers (including the River Waveney) Catchment Board (Lower Yare First Internal Drainage District) Order 1941 (SR& O 1941 No. 1096).

3 Lower Yare Fourth Internal Drainage Board [1941-2006] 65 years

Formed in 1941 under the East Norfolk Rivers (including the River Waveney) Catchment Board (Lower Yare Fourth Internal Drainage District) Order 1941 (SR&O 1941 No. 1099).

East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board [2008-Present] 9 years

The East Suffolk IDB was formed in 2008 under The East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board Order 2008 (SI 2008 No. 750). This order constituted East Suffolk IDB from an amalgamation of 8 Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs). These Boards were;

- 1 Alderton, Hollesley and Bawdsey Drainage Board [1922-2008] 86 years**
Formed in 1922 under the Alderton, Hollesley and Bawdsey Drainage Order 1922 (SR&O 1922 No. 501). The constitution of this IDB was changed in 2013 by The East Suffolk Rivers (excluding the River Waveney) Catchment Board Transfer Order of 1932 (SR&O 1932 No. 861).
- 2 River Blyth IDB [1934-2008] 74 years**
Formed in 1934 under a scheme confirmed by the East Suffolk Rivers (excluding the River Waveney) Catchment Board (River Blyth Internal Drainage District) Order 1934 (SR&O 1934 No. 721).
- 3 River Deben IDB [2005-2008] 3 years**
Formed in 2005 under the River Deben Internal Drainage Board Order 2005 (SI 2005 No. 2515) from an amalgamation of 2 Internal Drainage Boards. These Boards were;
 - 3.1 River Deben (Upper) IDB [1933-2005] 72 years**
Formed in 1933 under a Scheme confirmed by the East Suffolk Rivers (excluding the River Waveney) Catchment Board (River Deben (Upper) Internal Drainage District) Order 1933 (SR&O 1933 No.1142). Its constitution was amended by the East Suffolk Rivers (excluding the River Waveney) Catchment Board (River Deben (Upper) Internal Drainage Board) Order 1934 (SR&O 1934 No. 1345).
 - 3.2 River Deben (Lower) IDB [1933-2005] 72 years**
Formed in 1933 under a Scheme confirmed by the East Suffolk Rivers (excluding the River Waveney) Catchment Board (River Deben (Lower) Internal Drainage District) Order 1933 (SR&O 1933 No. 1136). Its constitution was amended by the East Suffolk Rivers (excluding the River Waveney) Catchment Board (River Deben (Lower) Internal Drainage Board) Order 1934 (SR&O 1934 No. 1344).
- 4 Fromus, Alde and Thorpeness IDB [1936-2008] 72 years**
Formed in 1936 under a scheme confirmed by the East Suffolk Rivers (excluding the River Waveney) Catchment Board (Fromus, Alde and Thorpeness Internal Drainage District) Order 1936 (SR&O 1936 No. 208).
- 5 River Gipping IDB [1933-2008] 75 years**
Formed in 1933 under a scheme confirmed by the East Suffolk Rivers (excluding the River Waveney) Catchment Board (River Gipping Drainage District) Order 1933 (SR&O 1933 No. 648). The boundaries of this IDB were altered by a scheme confirmed by the East Suffolk Rivers (excluding the River Waveney) Catchment Board (Alteration of Boundaries of the River Gipping Drainage District) Order 1936 (SR&O 1936 No. 207) and further altered by a scheme confirmed by the East Suffolk Rivers (excluding the River Waveney) Catchment Board (Alteration of Boundaries of the River Gipping Drainage District) Order 1945 (SR&O 1945 No. 366).

- 6 Lower Alde IDB [2000-2008] 8 years**
Formed in 2000 under The Amalgamation of the Lower Alde and Middle Alde Internal Drainage Districts Order 2000 (SI 2000 No. 1463) from a merger of 2 Internal Drainage Boards. These Boards were;
- 6.1 Lower Alde IDB [1941-2000] 59 years**
Formed in 1941 under a Scheme confirmed by the East Suffolk Rivers (excluding the River Waveney) Catchment Board (Lower Alde Internal Drainage District) Order 1941 (SR&O 1941 No. 619).
- 6.2 Middle Alde IDB [1941-2000] 59 years**
Formed in 1941 under a Scheme confirmed by the East Suffolk Rivers (excluding the River Waveney) Catchment Board (Middle Alde Internal Drainage District) Order 1941 (SR&O 1941 No. 620).
- 7 Minsmere IDB [1937-2008] 71 years**
Formed in 1937 under a scheme confirmed by the East Suffolk Rivers (excluding the River Waveney) Catchment Board (Minsmere Internal Drainage District) Order 1937 (SR&O 1937 No. 41).
- 8 Upper Alde IDB [1936-2008] 72 years**
Formed in 1936 under a scheme confirmed by the East Suffolk Rivers (excluding the River Waveney) Catchment Board (Upper Alde Internal Drainage District) Order 1936 (SR&O 1936 No. 209).

King's Lynn Internal Drainage Board [2004-Present] 13 years

The King's Lynn IDB was formed in 2004 under The Amalgamation of the West of Ouse, Gaywood, Magdalen, Marshland Smeeth and Fen, and Wingland Internal Drainage Districts Order 2004 (SI 2004 No. 1657) from an amalgamation of 5 Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs). These Boards were;

1 West of Ouse IDB [1944-2004] 60 years

Formed in 1944 under the River Great Ouse Catchment Board (West of Ouse Internal Drainage District) Order 1944 (SR&O 1944 No. 638). The boundaries of this IDB were altered by a Scheme confirmed by the Anglian Water Authority (Alteration of Boundaries of the West of Ouse Internal Drainage District) Order 1982 (SI 1982 No. 501).

2 Magdalen IDB [1937-2004] 67 years

Formed in 1937 under the River Great Ouse Catchment Board (Magdalen Internal Drainage District) Order 1937 (SR&O 1937 No. 852). The boundaries of this IDB were altered by a Scheme confirmed by the Great Ouse River Board (Alteration of Boundaries of the Magdalen Internal Drainage District) Order 1962 (SI 1962 No. 454).

3 Wingland IDB [1938-2004] 66 years

Formed in 1938 under the River Nene Catchment Board (Wingland Internal Drainage District) Order 1938 (SR&O 1938 No. 314). The boundaries of this IDB were altered by a number of Schemes under the following statutory instruments; the Nene River Board (Alteration of Boundaries of the Wingland Internal Drainage District) Order 1953 (SI 1953 No. 374), the Nene River Board (Alteration of Boundaries of the Wingland Internal Drainage District) Order 1956 (SI 1956 No. 455), and the Welland and Nene River Authority (Alteration of Boundaries of the Hundred of Wisbech and the Wingland Internal Drainage Districts) Order 1971 (SI 1971 No. 935).

4 Gaywood IDB [1985-2004] 19 years

Formed in 1985 under the Anglian Water Authority (Gaywood Internal Drainage District) Order 1985 (SI 1985 No. 505). This Order amalgamated 2 Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs). These Boards were;

4.1 Gaywood IDB [1944-1985] 41 years

Formed in 1944 under the River Great Ouse Catchment Board (Gaywood Internal Drainage District) Order 1944 (SR&O 1944 No. 636). The boundaries of this IDB were altered by a number of schemes under the following statutory instruments; the River Great Ouse Catchment Board (Alteration of the Boundaries of the Gaywood Internal Drainage District) order 1948 (SI 1948 No. 2123) and the Anglian Water Authority (Alteration of Boundaries of the Gaywood Internal Drainage District) Order 1977 (SI 1977 No. 1449).

4.2 Snettisham IDB [1932-1985] 53 years

Formed in 1932 under the North Norfolk Rivers Catchment Board (Snettisham Internal Drainage District) Order 1932 (SR&O 1932 No. 876). Amended firstly by a scheme confirmed by the North Norfolk Rivers Catchment Board (Snettisham Internal Drainage Board) (Supplementary) Order 1933 (SR&O 1934 No. 30) and secondly by the Scheme confirmed by the Great Ouse River Authority (Snettisham Internal Drainage District) Order 1968 (SI 1968 No. 553). The Snettisham Internal Drainage District was constituted as a drainage area by the Snettisham Drainage Order 1922 (SR&O 1922 No. 1197) and has its boundaries altered firstly by the above Order of 1932 and secondly by the Scheme confirmed by the Great Ouse River Authority

(Alteration of Boundaries of the Snettisham Internal Drainage District) Order 1967 (SI 1967 No.531) was continued in being as an Internal Drainage District by Section 6(4) of the Land Drainage Act 1976.

5 Marshland Smeeth and Fen IDB [1937-2004] 67 years

Formed in 1937 under The River Great Ouse Catchment Board (Marshland Smeeth and Fen Internal Drainage District) Order 1937 (SR&O 1937 No. 853).

The constitution of the King's Lynn IDB was changed in 2013 by The Reconstitution of King's Lynn Internal Drainage Board Order 2013 (SI 2013 No. 3317). This Order made changes to the Board's constitution regarding the number of elected members, reducing it from 15 to 10.

Norfolk Rivers Internal Drainage Board [2005-Present] 12 years

The Norfolk River IDB was formed under The Broads and Norfolk Rivers Internal Drainage Boards Order 2005 (Statutory Instrument 2005 No. 429) which amalgamated of 7 Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs). These Boards were;

- 1 River Wensum IDB [1933-2005] 72 years**
Formed in 1933 under the East Norfolk Rivers (including the River Waveney) Catchment Board (River Wensum Internal Drainage District) Order 1933.
- 2 Upper Bure IDB [1951-2005] 54 years**
Formed in 1951 under the East Norfolk Rivers (including the River Waveney) Catchment Board (Upper Bure Internal Drainage District) Order 1951. The boundaries of this IDB were altered by a Scheme confirmed by the East Suffolk and Norfolk River Authority, the Alteration of Boundaries of the Upper Bure Internal Drainage District Order 1964.
- 3 Upper Yare and Tas IDB [1934-2005] 71 years**
Formed in 1934 under the East Norfolk Rivers (including the River Waveney) Catchment Board (Upper Yare and Tas Internal Drainage District) Order 1934. The boundaries of this IDB were altered by a Scheme confirmed by the East Norfolk Rivers (including the River Waveney) Catchment Board (Alteration of Boundaries of the Upper Yare and Tas Internal Drainage District) Order 1939 and by a Scheme confirmed by the East Suffolk and Norfolk River Board (Alteration of the Upper Yare and Tas Internal Drainage District) Order 1960.
- 4 Upper Nar IDB [1944-2005] 61 years**
Formed in 1944 under the River Great Ouse Catchment Board (Upper Nar Internal Drainage District) Order 1944.
- 5 North Norfolk IDB [1995-2005] 10 years**
Formed in 1995 under The Amalgamation of the Holme Common, River Burn and Stiffkey River Internal Drainage Boards Order 1995 (SI 1995 No. 1325) that consolidated 3 Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) into 1 Board and 1 Internal Drainage District. These Boards were;
 - 5.1 River Burn IDB [1921-1995] 74 years**
Formed under an Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries dated the 29 December 1921. The boundaries of this IDB were altered by a Scheme confirmed by the North Norfolk Rivers Catchment Board (River Burn Drainage District) Order 1934. The constitution of this IDB was changed by a Scheme confirmed by the North Norfolk Rivers Catchment Board (Reconstitution of the River Burn Internal Drainage Board) Order 1952.
 - 5.2 Stiffkey River IDB [1922-1995] 73 years**
Formed under an Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries dated the 28 July 1922. The constitution of this IDB was changed by a Scheme confirmed by the North Norfolk Rivers Catchment Board (Reconstitution of the Stiffkey River Internal Drainage Board) Order 1925. The boundaries of this IDB were altered by a Scheme confirmed by the North Norfolk Rivers Catchment Board (Stiffkey River Drainage District) Order 1933.
 - 5.3 Holme Common IDB [1962-1995] 33 years**
Formed in 1962 under the East Suffolk and Norfolk River Board (Holme Common Internal Drainage District) Order 1962.

- 6 Middle Bure IDB (Gravity Catchments) [1935-2005]** 70 years
Formed in 1935 under the East Norfolk Rivers (including the River Waveney) Catchment Board (Middle Bure Internal Drainage District) Order 1935.
- 7 Smallburgh IDB (Gravity Catchments) [1936-2005]** 69 years
Formed in 1936 under the East Norfolk Rivers (including the River Waveney) Catchment Board (Smallburgh Internal Drainage District) Order 1936 from an amalgamation of the three drainage authorities listed below. The boundaries of the Smallburgh IDB were altered by a Scheme confirmed by the East Suffolk and Norfolk River Authority, the Alteration of Boundaries of the Smallburgh Internal Drainage District Order 1972.
- 7.1 Potter Heigham Drainage Board [1801-1936]** 135 years
Formed in 1801 under the Potter Heigham Inclosure and Drainage Act 1801 (41 George III, cap. LXXVI.)
- 7.2 Ludham Drainage Commissioners [1801-1936]** 135 years
Formed in 1801 under the Ludham Inclosure and Drainage Act 1800 (39 and 40 George III, cap. XXI.)
- 7.3 Hickling Drainage Commissioners [1801-1936]** 135 years
Formed in 1801 under the Hickling Inclosure and Drainage Act 1801 (41 George III, cap. XXI.)

South Holland Internal Drainage Board [1974-Present] 43 years

The South Holland Internal Drainage Board was formed under The Anglian Water Authority (South Holland Internal Drainage District) Order 1974 (SI 1974 No. 1209). This Order constituted the Board in 1974 from an amalgamation of 5 Internal Drainage Boards. These Boards were;

- 1 Holland Elloe IDB [1940-1974] 34 years**
Formed in 1940 under The River Nene Catchment Board (Holland Elloe Internal Drainage District) Order 1940 (SR&O 1940 No. 1692). The boundaries of this IDB were altered by The Nene River Board (Alteration of Boundaries of the Holland Elloe Internal Drainage District) Order 1955 (SI 1955 No. 1975).
- 2 South Holland IDB [1970-1974] 4 years**
Formed in 1970 under The Welland and Nene River Authority (South Holland Internal Drainage District) Order 1970 (SI 1970 No. 450).
- 3 South Holland Embankment Drainage Board [1940-1974] 34 years**
Formed in 1940 under The South Holland Embankment Drainage District Order 1940 (SR&O 1940 No. 470). The boundaries of this Board were altered by the South Holland Embankment Drainage District (Alteration of Boundaries) Order 1950 (SI 1951 No. 246 & 247).
- 4 South Welland IDB [1938-1974] 36 years**
Formed in 1938 under The River Welland Catchment Board (South Welland Internal Drainage District) Order 1938 (SR&O 1938 No. 320).
- 5 Sutton Bridge IDB [1936-1974] 38 years**
Formed in 1936 under The River Nene Catchment Board (Sutton Bridge Internal Drainage Board) Order 1936 (SR&O 1936 No. 1090). This IDB was amended by The River Nene Catchment Board (Sutton Bridge Internal Drainage Board) Order 1938 (SR&O 1938 No. 674).

The constitution of the South Holland IDB was changed in 1978 by The Anglian Water Authority (South Holland Internal Drainage District) (Amendment) Order 1978 (SI 1978 No. 1589). This Order altered the Electoral Divisions within the Drainage District and reduced the number of Board members to 23. A further Order was made in 1993 which abolished Electoral Divisions and reduced the number of elected Board members to 10. This Order was The Reconstitution of the South Holland Internal Drainage Board Order 1993 (SI 1993 No. 453). The boundaries of this IDB were altered in 1993 by The National Rivers Authority (Alteration of Boundaries of the South Holland Internal Drainage District) Order 1993 (SI 1994 No. 723). This Order extended the Boards area to include new land including an area known as Mossop's enclosure. In 2009 another amendment was made the Boards Internal Drainage District when the area containing the North Level Main Drain was transferred from South Holland IDB to North Level District IDB. This alteration was under The North Level District Internal Drainage District and the South Holland Internal Drainage District (Alteration of Boundaries) Order 2009 (SI 2009 No. 1170). A further order in 2009, The North Level District Internal Drainage District and the South Holland Internal Drainage District (Alteration of Boundaries) Order 2009 (SI 2009 No. 1170 Correction) made typographical corrections to the spelling of Tydd St Mary in the original Order.