

Environmental Position Statement

The work of an Internal Drainage Board as a Flood Risk Authority is primarily undertaken to manage water levels within the District. As far as reasonably practicable, the Board will work with natural processes, maximise opportunities to conserve, enhance and restore biodiversity through Board Policies, Strategies and plans, Board consents, projects and schemes.

IDB function comes with a statutory environmental responsibility under a variety of acts; the Board will seek to identify opportunities to undertake actions that deliver greater environmental benefits to all ratepayers. This may be through maximising opportunities to achieve biodiversity gains through using Board owned land to incorporate the requirements of Higher Level Stewardship schemes.

Where possible the Board will create Priority Habitat to help deliver the outcomes in the England Biodiversity Strategy – Biodiversity 2020.

By promoting the use of berms the Board is making space for water, both flood and for abstraction requirements and through promotion of wide buffer access strips within the Board District, the Board is proactive in increasing biodiversity.

The Board will consider day-lighting of culverts where evidence suggested it prudent to do so. The Board has adopted a non-culverting policy in line with the Environment Agency and Lead Local Flood Authority. Non culverting and day-lighting by the Board can be seen as sustainable use of green infrastructure, and sustainability indicators for determining the “common good”.

As a Public Body the Board considers ways of reducing its CO₂ emissions. This may be achieved through the installation of photovoltaic cells at pump station sites, such actions would contribute to offsetting some emissions. In addition, by ensuring each station pump is the correct size for its job of work and not too large, will help achieve a reduction in emissions.

The Board will lead by example through use of its own land to maximise opportunities to achieve biodiversity benefits; such as creation of priority habitat to help deliver the outcomes in the England Biodiversity Strategy – Biodiversity 2020.

The Board will build on the first five year of its Biodiversity Action Plan and ensure that dovetails with the BAPs implemented by the Local Authorities within its district.

The Board will work with landowners to reduce potential adverse impacts of flood risk management works on biodiversity.

The Board will take steps to remove barriers to eel passage and to avoid creating new ones to comply with the Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 and construct eel passes around obstructions where identified necessary.

The Board will work with partnership groups such as the Lower Don WFD Strategy, REVIVAL and others to improve the water quality, watercourse and adjacent habitats within the District for the benefit of wildlife and public wellbeing.