



# Black Drain

Drainage Board

**Trinity Academy  
Church Balk  
Fieldside  
Thorne  
Doncaster DN8 5BY**

## **Meeting Papers**

**15 June 2017**

**Meeting 6.00pm**



# Shire

Group of IDBs

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## Meeting Papers

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**Clerk to the Board**

## Purpose

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# 1. Governance

## 1.1 Apologies

## 1.2 Declaration of Interest

## 1.3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 January 2017

### Present

	23.1 .14	26.6 .14	13.11. 14	22.1 .15	18.6 .15	12.1 1.15	21.1 16	16.6 .16	10.1 1.16	26.1 .17
David Backhouse DB			x	X	X	Appointed	x	x	x	x
Michael Conroy MC	x	X	x	X	-	x	x	x	-	x
David Hinchliffe (Chair)			x	X	X	x	x	x	x	x
Richard Hinchliffe RH			x	X	X	x	x	A	x	A
Walter Ketteringham WK (ViceChair)	x	X	x	X	X	x	x	x	x	x
Sam Longthorp SL	x	X	x	X	X	A	x	A	A	A
Don Parkinson DP	x	X	x	X	X	x	A	x	x	A
Richard Ketteringham RK	x	X	x	X	X	A	x	x	x	x
Pat Hagan									x	x
Kim Parkinson			x	X	X	x	x	x	x	x
Arthur Allott AA	x	X	x	X	X	x	x	x	x	x
Richard Ward	A	X	x	A	A	x	A	x	x	x
Martin Oldknow MO		X	x	X	X	x	x	A	x	x
David Oldroyd DO	X	X	x	X	X	x	x	x	x	x
Mick Barron (MB)	Not Mbr	x	A	A	-	-	-	x	A	A
Peter Jackson						A	x	x	x	x
Kevin Abell	Not Mbr	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	A	-
George Derx GD	-	x	x	-	-	-	-	x	A	-
Dave Ridge DR									A	x

In attendance on behalf of JBA Consulting, Clerk, Finance officer, Engineer and Environmental Adviser:

Craig Benson FO                    x  
Alison Briggs EO                    x  
Paul Jones Eng                        x

## Governance

### Apologies

- 2017.1 Clerk who had been representing Anglian Northern RFCC at a Conference in London, Sam Longthorp, Don Parkinson, Richard Hinchliffe, Mick Barron.

### Declaration of Interest

- 2017.2 RK and WK in item at Minute 2016.75 to be discussed under AOB

### Minutes of the Meeting 10 November 2016

- 2017.3 **Minute 2016.90** MO queried whether Contractors had been changed yet. Advised required full Danvm Board approval to agree work under PSCA. Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Minutes previously circulated to Members were moved by AA for approval. All present in agreement.

### Matters arising

- 2017.4 Minute 2016.95. To be discussed under AOB.

### Complaints and FOI requests

- 2017.5 EO advised there had been none.

### CEO Report

- 2017.6 Noted majority report for information only.
- 2017.7 Humber Flood Risk Management Plan – EO advised of presentation she had delivered at that days ADA Northern branch meeting regarding the Humber FRMS. The Comprehensive Review would start this year and consider changes legislation, to Government Policy requirements in Partnership Funding for project delivery and the proposed boundary extension. Currently IDBs were represented on officers group by Ian Benn, involved since 2008 and Andy McLachlan, now Clerk to Ouse & Humber, previously of East Riding of Yorkshire Council. Changes meant 19 IDBs were affected by Strategy but were not part of decision making process. EA had approached ADA Central to provide its CEO or similar to represent local IDBs on the Joint Strategic Unit which contributed to decision making. The Board considered whether it felt ADA National was suitable and whether local representation was better. EO advised Shire Group Management represents 8 of the 19 Boards affected by the Strategy and has always reported to Boards within the Group. MO suggested Ian Benn an appropriate local representative. RW noted IB and AMcL had been involved for some considerable time; either would be agreeable. He had been recently appointed to the Joint Strategic Group, representing interest of DMBC as it was now affected by the Strategy, however advised suitability of Ian Benn providing continuity for this Board. DO suggested with 19 IDBs affected there should be more than 1 representative for IDB interests. EO advised only 1 seat had been allocated. DO agreed whilst unlikely to happen, it was appropriate for Boards comments to be noted. **Members agreed Board support for its representation and comment on lack of representation should be fed back to the Environment Agency.**

### Finance Report

- 2017.8 FO advised 2017 was an election year for elected members, more information would be available in the June papers.
- 2017.9 Rating Report – update, balance was now £-42.20 representing rates paid in advance.
- 2017.10 Audit Review meeting – Members noted Minutes of Review meeting. Chairman and MO attended meeting. MO advised meeting considers the process of



internal audit and the auditor is in attendance and can be questioned. Chairman confirmed minutes of the meeting were correct. MO confirmed a perennial issue for this Board is always appears DMBC lack of member attendance creating an issue for good governance. He advised Doncaster East IDB was considering reconstitution for that and other reasons which may be something this Board looks at in time. DO noted the importance of the quality of minutes to highlight these issues. **Members were requested to approved the risk register. DO proposed, AA seconded, all in agreement.**

**2017.11** Budget. Rates, Estimates and Special Levies – FO advised members on the approved estimate and estimated out-turn together with what was required for 2017/18. Proposed budget 11p rate. Chairman advised the slip repairs on Black Drain commented on and will be discussed under Engineers report. **AA proposed Board agree 11p rate, MO seconded, all in agreement.**

**2017.12** 5-year budget estimate – FO advised the agreed budget would ensure Board had reserves in accordance with Policy requirements. The budget set was in anticipation of no unplanned expenditure. Board requires to build up reserves for capital expenditure to reduce borrowing. DO advised excellent financial planning. Members noted by 2035, rate estimated to be in region of 25p. Members noted irony of being criticised not long ago for having too much reserves. Members noted agreement with 5-year budget estimates.

**2017.13** List of cheques – No queries were raised. FO advised payments showed large increase in pump station costs however this had been recredited to the account but not in sufficient time for an amendment to be made. Smart meters fitted and first invoice received evidenced meters had not been calibrated correctly. **MO proposed, AA seconded, all Members approved list of payments of £7717, of which £4992.62 had been issued by Clerk only.**

**2017.14** List of payments direct from bank account totalling £6469.05 since the last meeting. **MO proposed approval of list, agreed by all present.**

#### **Engineer's Report**

**2017.15** Eng. advised report for note with couple of updates.

**2017.16** Eng. reiterated requirement for Danvm DC to approve the PSCA Schedule 3 work for its MEICA staff to undertake work for this Board as agreed at the last meeting. Danvm DC was meeting next week.

**2017.17** Network Rail – Network Rail has undertaken maintenance work within its own land. Board had worked and was working with Highways England and Network Rail advising of their riparian responsibilities. Board could either serve notice or regularly work with them. DO queried whether formal agreement in place, noting good relationships can get work done. Eng. confirmed Network Rail is establishing its riparian responsibilities. The Chair advised Board Asset Manager had spoken extensively with Highways England and Network Rail and the Board will invite both public bodies to the annual inspection of Board's strategic watercourses to show importance of their assets. Eng. advised Highways England had invited Officers to its office at Lateral House, Leeds to provide advice to its larger national team about riparian responsibility.

**2017.18** Eng. advised of the slips on Black Drain. Field side slips will be monitored but road side slip requires remediation. Officers had obtaining cost for timber toe piling, and the slip repair. Trying to communicate with DMBC regarding the benefits to its highway. RW advised had received and read email today and replied to the Asset Manager; a site visit would be required with the Asset Manager in near future. Eng. advised the work was classed as improvement works and the appropriate notices



under EIA (Land Drainage Improvement Works) Regulations 1999 were required to be placed in the local paper.

**2017.19** Chairman advised outfall into River Don remained an issue and requires returning to good condition. EA lack of proper control of vegetation on its land, and particularly with regard to a willow has caused issues. The Agency should be responsible for work required to put outfall back into good condition.

#### **Environmental Adviser's Report**

**2017.20** The EO confirmed a box had been erected at Hall Farm by Danvm DC employees.

**2017.21** Eel Regulation – ADA R&D fund request – Members considered ADA's request for contribution to R&D fund into eel behaviour which would be used as match funding by the EA and Hull International Fisheries Institute. KP thought the request a well-argued piece, advising it would be good to highlight on the Board website to show the Board contributed to environmental R&D. MO not adverse to making a contribution. FO advised £1,000 unspent of BAP money. Discussion ensued on appropriate level of contribution. **KP proposed £100, MO seconded.** PJ suggested appropriate for an IDB to fund research. **Members all agreed £100** contribution.

#### **H&S Report**

**2017.22** Nothing to report.

#### **Representation**

**2017.23** Members noted fora at which Board had been represented.

#### **Any other business**

**2017.24** Reference to Minute 2016.75 security gate. WK gave brief outline on costings which were significantly less than previously advised at November meeting. He indicated gates would stop the fly tipping that had arisen recently at site. Fencing either side of the bridge was rotting and dangerous. When station built in 1970's Board had built two bridges, one of which swept away by the force of water being pulled to the station. He had provided plans to the Chairman. WK and RK left meeting.

Chair advised information had been received for the security gates at the start of this meeting. Chairman felt the fencing on top of the bridge may be the Board's responsibility. Members considered it pointless installing new gates if the wooden fencing to the bridge was rotten. RW supported the concern of a duty of care regarding bridge fencing. If the Board was responsible for the bridge, aware in disrepair and did nothing, it could be held liable. He considered one gate re-sited to stop access over bridge would be appropriate however electric gate would be to benefit of landowner only.

MC considered a security gate would provide the Board with additional security to its pump station. MO confirmed where Board responsibility should contribute but not public money to private landowner without direct and clear benefit to Board.

**Chair proposed Board contribute full cost of replacement of fencing on bridge but no contribution to gate.** Replacement fence would be at least to specification of existing. PH supported Chairman's suggestion however expressed concern how this was presented to the Board at last minute and where a figure of £5,000 was quoted in November it was now £2,000 and the Board had not been provided with the opportunity for a full investigation into responsibility. MO noted AOB was not on



the Agenda and the issue should not be discussed. PH advised he would agree to fencing and leave gate to landowner.

**MO seconded the Chairman's proposal, all in agreement.** WK and RK returned and informed of decision.

**Date of next meeting:**

**2017.25** 15 June 2017, 9 November 2017

**2017.26** Meeting closed.

## **1.4 Matters arising not discussed elsewhere**

**Minute 2017.24.** Investigation of maps and Minutes revealed two bridges in close proximity originally serving and owned by separate landowners. The bridges were present and remained so following construction of the Inlet pump station.

In 1976 an Emergency Committee of the Board proposed widening Black Drain because of potential increases in surface water when M18 construction was completed. It was suggested 2 bridges be replaced by 1 new bridge. Subsequent Minutes indicate advice sought on legality of rationalisation of two bridges Board did not own. Member recommendation was to build a bridge of 20' being sufficient to allow each landowner independent access however it was agreed the bridge to Hall Farm would not to be removed immediately. Minutes of 1982 indicate contractor costs being paid in connection with the Black Drain improvement works which presumably included the cost of the bridge.

Work at the bridge handrail and access to the track has now been completed.

## **1.5 Complaints and FOI requests**

None received.

## **1.6 Future meeting venue**

Consideration is requested for a meeting venue incorporating a day-time Board meeting.

## 2. Clerk's report

### 2.1 Recommendations

- To note the information contained in this report
- To agree election procedure (Item 2.3.1)

### 2.2 Policy

#### 2.2.1 National Audit Office Report – ADA Recommendations

ADA issued a notice to IDBs in February regarding websites. The National Audit Office has issued a draft report on IDB Governance to ADA which has prompted the review. **This is available to view on the Boards website.**

This Board together with others in the Shire Group of IDBs has taken this open and transparent approach to Board business for several years; officers consider the Shire Group to be at the forefront of evidencing good governance. ADA has suggested a list of policies and procedures; however, a Freedom of Information Policy is not required, compliance with the Freedom of Information Act is a question of legislative compliance.

ADA suggestions for Board websites:

- Board meeting dates, confirmed minutes (less aspects conducted under Confidential Business [e.g. tenders]) and appropriate papers
- Consortium agreement(s) – example WMA - <http://www.wlma.org.uk/governance/>
- Complaints procedure – example SDBC - <http://www.somersetdrainageboards.gov.uk/notice-board/complaints-procedure/>
- Financial statements, accounts and notice of conclusion of audit
- Election notices
- Notice of drainage rates and special levies
- Standing Orders
- Publication Scheme
- Employers code of conduct
- Division of responsibilities
- Bylaws
- Policies
  - Gifts and Hospitality policy
  - Anti-Bribery policy
  - Anti-Fraud and Corruption policy
  - Whistle blowing policy
  - Freedom of information policy
  - Data Protection policy

### 2.3 Legislation

#### 2.3.1 Land Drainage Act 1991

2017 is an election year for the Board and the procedure is set out below.

31 October 2017 will see the end of the current three-year term of office of the elected members of the Board, a new Board will come into place on 1 November 2017.

The Board is required to approve certain procedural arrangements in respect of appointment of a returning officer, date of poll if necessary as follows:

- To confirm the appointment of Craig Benson of JBA Consulting as returning officer

ii) A draft register of electors was prepared on 1 April 2017 and advertised on the Board's website as available for inspection. The Board is asked to consider any representations made by the public and approve the register. This approval must then be advertised on the website within 14 days of the Board meeting.

iii) It is proposed to receive nominations by post and the last date for return of the nomination papers in Friday 6 October 2017.

iv) If there are more candidates nominated than the fixed number of elected members, then a poll must be arranged and the date for that poll is to be Friday 27 October 2017.

### 2.3.2 General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

<https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/news-and-events/news-and-blogs/2017/03/new-data-protection-law-gives-people-greater-control-over-their-own-information/>

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), which come into force in May 2018, will give people stronger rights to be informed about how their personal information is used.

Under GDPR, UK citizens will benefit from new or stronger rights:

- to be informed about how their data is used;
- around data portability across service providers;
- to erase or delete their personal information;
- over access to the personal data an organisation holds about them;
- to correct inaccurate or incomplete information; and
- over automated decisions and profiling.

**Strengthened rules around consent** will give consumers genuine choice and ongoing control over how organisations use their data, as well as ensuring an organisation is transparent and accountable.

The GDPR will also introduce a duty on all organisations to report serious data breaches to the regulator, and in some cases to the individuals affected.

## 2.4 Environment Agency

### 2.4.1 Humber Flood Risk Management Plan

Slides from the Humber Liaison Forum which took place on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at the Deep Business Centre, Hull are available on the Boards website.

H. Todd led a presentation on the Humber Strategy Comprehensive Review (SCR). This involved a short section on the background events that have led to the Humber SCR. A review of the existing (2008) strategy began in 2011, however due to the events of 5th December 2013 MPs around the Humber submitted a business case to the treasury which was, in turn, presented to the Environment Agency for review. Given the changes in legislation, i.e. the introduction of the Flood and Water Management act (2010), and changes to the funding structure it was decided to undertake a full comprehensive review.

Following this H. Todd provided an explanation to what the Humber SCR will involve. The main aim of the Humber SCR is to redefine the strategic approach to Flood Risk Management, this has entailed extending the boundary of the strategy to include the tidally dominated reaches of the rivers Ouse, Aire, Don and Trent to allow for a more holistic overview of tidal flood risk. The scope for the Humber SCR was developed with the Humber Strategy Officer Group and addressed the detailed aspects of what the work should cover, as a result it is not just an Environment Agency strategy, but a Humber wide strategy.

## 2.4.2 Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments

The Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), its role, and requirements for the review of the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments is available to view on the Shiregroup website.

## 2.5 ADA

### 2.5.1 Floodex 2017 - Peterborough

The Clerk delivered Health & Safety seminars over the two-day event. The workshops were designed for two audiences; for an IDB workforce operating in the field and for Board Members for understanding Board responsibilities. Feedback from attendees has been very positive.

### 2.5.2 Technical & Environment Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June.

### 2.5.3 Policy & Finance Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

### 2.5.4 ADA Northern Branch Meeting – 69th Annual Conference

Takes place on Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> June at Cave Castle Hotel. A visit to Bransholme Surface Water Pumping Station and Reservoir has been arranged (courtesy of Yorkshire Water).

## 2.6 Construction Design Management Regulations (CDM) 2015

*Please see below the questioned posed, and the subsequent response from the HSE regarding the application of CDM 2015 to an IDBs general maintenance works (Flail mowing and the removal of emergent growth from drains and watercourses)*

*The application of CDM 2015. "I act as H&S adviser to several different Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs). These IDBs carry out bank and channel maintenance to watercourses and drains in areas of special drainage needs. This work primarily is undertaking the flail mowing of banks and removal of emergent growth from watercourses. Typically, these works do not involve the breaking of ground. I wish to clarify the applicability of CDM 2015 to these general works. It is fully accepted that any improvement works involving the excavation or the creation of new drainage systems would require CDM 2015 to be followed. However, several of my colleagues question whether CDM 2015 should be applied to what is effectively grounds maintenance activity. Can you please comment?"*

*Further information on IDBs can be found here: <https://www.shiregroup-idbs.gov.uk/> and here; <http://www.ada.org.uk/>*

*Thank you*

### HSE Response

*Mr Benn,*

*Thank you for your enquiry to the Health and Safety Executive in regard to if you work comes within the definition of construction.*

*It is for those involved to consider and decide whether the work involved (including maintenance) is in fact 'construction work' as defined in reg 2(1) of CDM 2015 depending on the circumstances of the activity. To assist in cases of uncertainty as to whether an activity is construction work or not, the attached Q&A briefing has been produced by HSE for its inspectors in relation to 'An approach to interpreting the term construction work' (note: this is not formal HSE guidance and has not been made available on HSE's website, but has been shared with industry and is widely available externally). It is a useful tool in deciding whether something is construction work or not by setting out the two-step process to be followed. In essence, for an activity to be classed as construction work and for CDM 2015 to apply, it must fall within one or more of the three*



*categories set out in the definition of 'building work', 'civil engineering', or 'engineering construction work'. If it does then the work will fall under the scope of CDM 2015. If it does not then CDM 2015 does not apply.*

*Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015. Guidance on Regulations*

*I hope this assists you.*

Therefore, based on this response, further review of the regulations and an informal legal opinion I would suggest IDBs fully apply the principals of CDM 2015 to all maintenance activity.

## 3. Financial Report

### 3.1 Recommendations

- To note the information contained in this report
- To Approve Section 1 Annual Return – Annual Governance Statement
- To Approve Accounts for the Year Ending 31 March 2017
- To Approve Section 2 Annual Return – Financial Statements

### 3.2 Rating Report

Details of the Rates and Special Levies issued and payments received up to and including 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017: -

	£	£
Balance Brought forward at 1 April 2016		NIL
<b>2016/2017 Drainage Rates and Special Levies</b>		
Drainage Rates		15,245.70
Special Levies		
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	55,677.00	
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	391.00	56,068.00
<b>Total Drainage Rates Due</b>		<b><u>71,313.70</u></b>
<b>Less Paid:-</b>		
Drainage Rates		15,287.00
<b>Special Levies:-</b>		
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	55,677.00	
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	391.00	56,068.00
<b>Total Drainage Rates Paid</b>		<b><u>71,355.00</u></b>
Admin Adjustment		<b><u>-0.90</u></b>
<b>Balance Outstanding as at 31 March 2017</b>		<b><u>-42.20</u></b>

### 3.3 Audit

#### 3.3.1 Section 1 Annual Return – Annual Governance Statement

The Board are requested to review and approve Section 1 of the Annual Return, a copy of which can be found at Appendix A

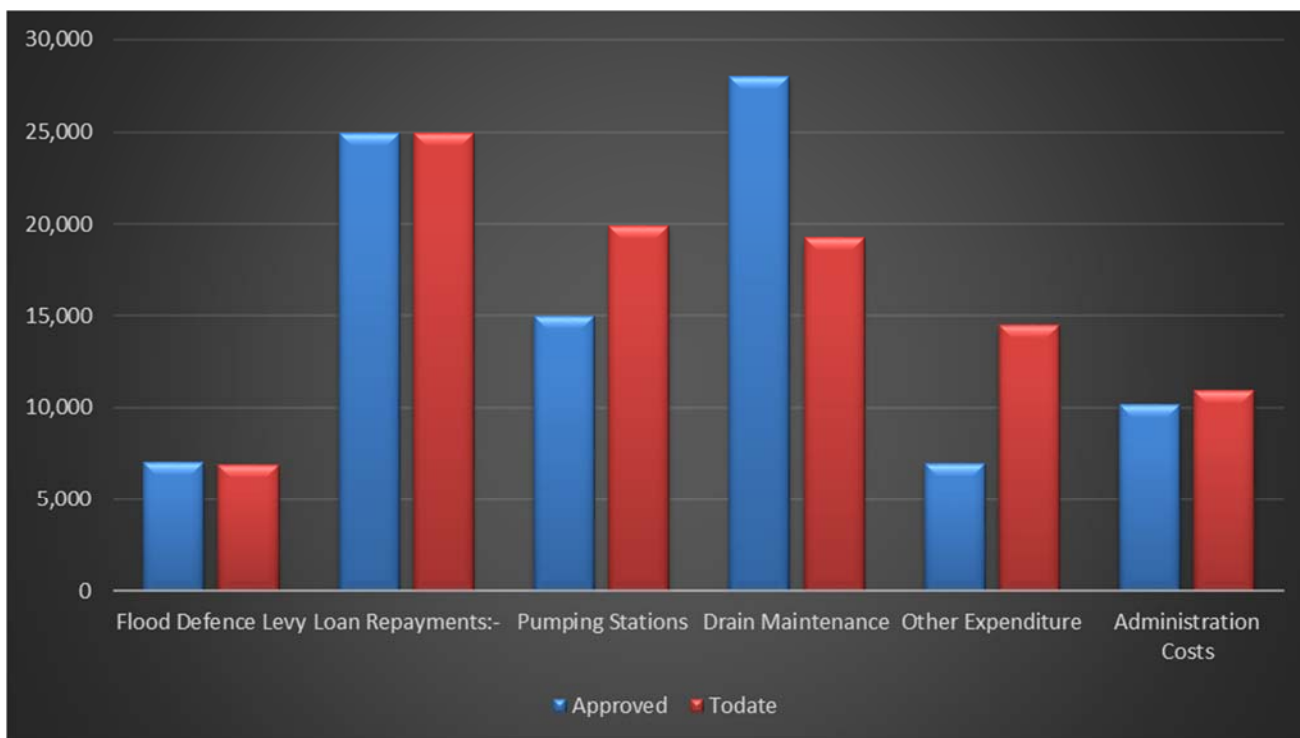
#### 3.3.2 Internal Audit

The internal audit of the Board's financial statements is underway.

### 3.4 Accounts for the Year Ending 31 March 2017

#### 3.4.1 Budget Comparison

The comparison of budget is shown below.



#### 3.4.2 Accounts for the Year Ending 31 March 2017

The accounts for the year ending 31 March 2017 are attached as a separate document.

#### 3.4.3 Section 2 Annual Return – Financial Statements

The Board are requested to review and approve Section 2 of the Annual Return, which can be found at Appendix A

#### 3.4.4 Five Year Budget Estimate

The five-year budget estimate is shown below.



Black Drain DB	0	0	0	1	2	3	4	5
Revenue Account	2016/17	2017/18	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
	Actual	App	Estimated					
	Out-turn	Budget	Out-turn					
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>								
Drainage Rates	15,245	16,742	16,742	18,264	19,026	19,787	20,167	20,548
Special Levies	56,068	61,675	61,675	67,282	70,086	72,889	74,291	75,692
Contributions	18,130	18,911	16,659	16,659	16,967	17,304	17,650	18,007
Bank Interest	70	300	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>89,513</b>	<b>97,629</b>	<b>95,177</b>	<b>102,306</b>	<b>106,178</b>	<b>110,079</b>	<b>112,208</b>	<b>114,346</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>								
Flood Defence Levy	6,859	7,065	6,859	7,271	7,489	7,713	7,945	8,183
Management Fees	12,376	12,747	12,742	13,130	13,524	13,929	14,347	14,778
Other Administration	10,935	9,420	9,420	9,467	9,514	9,562	9,610	9,658
Maintenance of Drains	12,075	15,200	15,200	15,656	16,126	16,609	17,108	17,621
PS contractor	7,186	11,124	11,124	11,458	11,801	12,155	12,520	12,896
Pumping Stations	19,926	16,450	16,450	16,944	17,452	17,975	18,515	19,070
Reservoir Registrations Act	700	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Biodiversity Action Plan	1,429	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Loan Repayments:-	24,925	24,925	24,925	24,925	24,925	24,925	24,925	24,925
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>96,411</b>	<b>98,931</b>	<b>98,720</b>	<b>100,850</b>	<b>102,831</b>	<b>104,870</b>	<b>106,969</b>	<b>109,130</b>
Surplus/(Deficit)	(6,898)	(1,302)	(3,543)	1,456	3,347	5,209	5,238	5,216
Balance Brought Forward	42,237	38,127	35,339	36,825	38,281	41,628	46,837	52,075
	35,339	36,825	31,796	38,281	41,628	46,837	52,075	57,292
Transfer to Capital Reserve Account	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance Carried Forward</b>	<b>35,339</b>	<b>36,825</b>	<b>31,796</b>	<b>38,281</b>	<b>41,628</b>	<b>46,837</b>	<b>52,075</b>	<b>57,292</b>
<b>Capital Reserve Account</b>	<b>75,684</b>	<b>63,796</b>	<b>59,968</b>	<b>63,946</b>	<b>64,096</b>	<b>64,246</b>	<b>64,396</b>	<b>64,546</b>
<b>Penny Rate in £</b>	10.00p	11.00p	11.00p	12.00p	12.50p	13.00p	13.25p	13.50p
<b>Penny Rate £7,129</b>	36.65%	37.22%	32.21%	37.96%	40.48%	44.66%	48.68%	52.50%

	2016/17	2017/18	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
	Actual	App	Estimated					
	Out-turn	Budget	Out-turn					
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Capital Reserve Account</b>								
<b>Income</b>								
Interest	143	500	100	150	150	150	150	150
Contributions	1,775	-	-					
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,918</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>								
Watercourse Slip Repairs	-		15,816					
PSCA Outfall Clearance Works	1,775							
Outlet PS Refurbishment Settlement	11,059							
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>12,834</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,816</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Surplus/(Deficit)	(10,916)	500	(15,716)	150	150	150	150	150
Balance Brought Forward	86,600	63,296	75,684	63,796	63,946	64,096	64,246	64,396
<b>Balance Carried Forward</b>	<b>75,684</b>	<b>63,796</b>	<b>59,968</b>	<b>63,946</b>	<b>64,096</b>	<b>64,246</b>	<b>64,396</b>	<b>64,546</b>





### 3.5 List of Cheques

Cheques paid since those reported in the previous meeting papers.

DATE		CHEQUE NO.	REF	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL CHEQUE	
<b>2017</b>							<b>£</b>
Jan	10th	001371	81	ADA	Annual Subscription	730.80	*
		001372	75	Doncaster East IDB	Supply & Installation of Barn Owl Box	123.50	*
		001373	72	Danvm Drainage Commissioners	Website Development	61.50	*
		001374	76,83	Ebsford Environmental Ltd	Maintenance	5,049.58	
		001375	73,80	JBA Consulting	Fee Accounts: -	2,613.94	
	18th	001376	84	J Self	Maintenance	588.77	*
	25th	001377	85	Trinity Academy	Meeting Expenses	48.75	*
Feb	9th	001378	88	J Self	Maintenance	684.45	*
	22nd	001379	93	Eon Energy	Supply to Nimbus Park Weedscreen	62.74	*
	27th	001380	91	Johnston Publishing	Advertising - Plum Tree Farm EIA	462.00	*
	22nd	001382	89-90	JBA Consulting	Fee Accounts: -	1,527.90	
	28th	001383	96	Doncaster East IDB	Website Procurement Fees, etc.	82.67	*
		001384	97	Controlstar Systems	Telemetry Maintenance Contract	1,044.00	*
		001385	95	J Self	Maintenance	481.10	*
Mar	22nd	001386	101-2	Danvm Drainage Commissioners	Handover & Asset Site Inspection, etc.	412.78	*
		001387	99-100	JBA Consulting	Fee Accounts: -	1,681.88	
Apr	28th	001388	108	Doncaster East IDB	Cardnet Fees, etc.	13.10	*
		001389	2-8	Towergate Insurance	Insurances	7,401.35	
		001390	9	JBA Consulting	Management Fees - March 2017	1,650.14	
		001391	106	Russells (Kirkbymoorside) Ltd	Tools & Equipment	196.95	*
		001392	10	Controlstar Systems	Telemetry Maintenance Contract	1,044.00	*
		001393	105,7	Danvm Drainage Commissioners	Site Visits - March 2017, etc.	922.84	*
May	30th	001394	17-18	Colwill Contracting	Maintenance	4,554.00	
		001395	1	Environment Agency	Flood Defence Levy	6,859.00	
		001396	12,14-5	JBA Consulting	Fee Accounts: -	2,631.44	
		001397	19	Danvm Drainage Commissioners	Site Visits - April 2017	764.53	*
		001398	13	Eon Energy	Supply to Nimbus Park Weedscreen	59.20	*
<b>Total Amount of all Cheques</b>						<b>41,752.91</b>	
<b>* Total Amount of Cheques sent out signed by the Clerk's Only</b>						<b>7,783.68</b>	



### 3.6 Other Payments

Payments made directly from the bank account since those reported in the previous meeting papers.

DATE	REF	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL PAYMENT	
<b>2017</b>				<b>£</b>	
Jan	9th	78	Three	Mobile Broadband	10.49
	20th	82	Woldmarsh	Telemetry Lines	38.40
		77	Information Commissioner	Data Protection Registration	35.00
	31st	-	NatWest	Bank Fees	7.34
Feb	9th	86	Three	Mobile Broadband	10.49
	23rd	87	Public Works Loan Board	Loan Repayment	12,462.52
	28th	-	NatWest	Bank Fees	8.17
Mar	17th	94	Three	Mobile Broadband	10.49
	20th	98	Woldmarsh	Supply to Rawcliffe PS	204.02
				Supply to Outlet PS	773.23
				Telemetry Lines	38.40
	31st	-	NatWest	Bank Fees	7.47
Apr	10th	103	Three	Mobile Broadband	10.49
	20th	104	Woldmarsh	Supply to Rawcliffe PS	521.63
				Supply to Outlet PS	1,163.36
				Supply to Inlet PS	1,252.30
				Inlet PS - Meter Operator Service	168.00
				Outlet PS - Meter Operator Service	168.00
				Rawcliffe PS - Meter Operator Service	168.00
				Telemetry Lines	41.50
	28th	-	NatWest	Bank Fees	8.43
May	10th	11	Three	Mobile Broadband	10.49
	22nd	16	Woldmarsh	Supply to Rawcliffe PS	492.79
				Supply to Outlet PS	1,073.32
				Supply to Inlet PS	666.36
				Telemetry Lines	38.25
				Membership Fees	49.48
			<b>Total</b>		<b>19,438.42</b>

## 4. Engineer's Report

### Recommendation(s):

- **Members note the information contained in this report**

### 4.1 Asset Management

#### 4.1.1 Pumping Stations

##### **DDC MEICA Team**

The MEICA (Mechanical, Electrical, Instrumentation, Control & Automation) Team employed by Danvm Drainage Commissioners has been providing services to the Board via Public Sector Cooperation Agreement since 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Danvm DC have also been providing the Board with services relating to pump compound clearance.

A demonstration of the Telemetry Night-time tariff option was undertaken on the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at the Outlet Pump station and concluded with agreement to undertake a trial at each of the Boards Stations. Outlet & Inlet were switched on the 7<sup>th</sup> April and Rawcliffe Bridge on the 5<sup>th</sup> May following a review of operational levels. Since the switchover 95% of all the pumping at these stations has been during Nighttime tariff and totals 36hours, based on the various kW/hr ratings for the pumps at the station, this equates to a saving of £121.50, during the period.

#### 4.1.2 Ordinary Watercourses

##### **Maintained Ordinary Watercourses**

Contracts with MJ Richardson (Flailing) and Ebsford Environmental Ltd. (deweeding) are entering into their 4<sup>th</sup> season with Contract expiry on July 2019.

A significant 20m slip, which risked impacting buried services and the adjacent highway on Black Drain immediately adjacent to the entrance of Plumtree Farm has been remediated using timber toe piling.

##### **Highways England**

A meeting has been arranged on 26<sup>th</sup> May to discuss maintenance moving forwards with Highways England and their Contractor A-one+

Highways England Employees are trying to secure funding for an annual walkover inspection, with targeted basic maintenance as required, say flailing of the vegetation at alternative years.

Any further maintenance works identified at the meeting or thereafter will need to be costed, bid for and programmed for action ASAP. All safety related works and situations affecting third parties would need to be bid for separately but would be actioned to an appropriate time scale.

##### ***Riparian Responsibilities***

Your Clerk and Engineer attended the Highways England Leeds office on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017 to raise further awareness of riparian responsibilities within the HE Team including their Partnerships representative from Manchester.

## Relevance to Highways England?

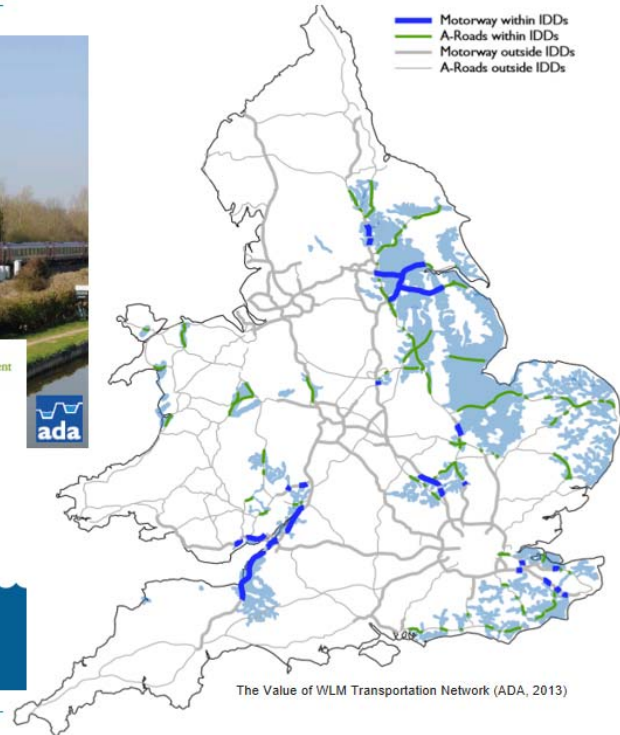
**129 miles** of motorway in England and Wales **lies within IDB Districts**, almost **6%** of the 39,000km of motorway and trunk road



**Infrastructure benefits** from IDB activity



**Riparian Owners**



### Network Rail

All riparian maintenance has been completed by Network Rail with future routine/regular maintenance to be confirmed by NR.

Network Rail are now fully aware of their riparian responsibilities through the IDB interaction and NR intend to have a budget specifically for Statutory Responsibilities which includes riparian responsibilities.

### 4.1.3 Main River

A meeting with the EA has been requested to discuss future maintenance of the discharge channel and foreshore area associated with the Outlet Pump Station and the Old Course of the R. Don associated with the outfall of Boating Dyke at Waterside.



## 4.2 Planning, pre-application advice and consents

### 4.2.1 Planning Applications

Planning applications have been reviewed on a weekly basis and 6no. applications have required comment on behalf of the board between 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 and 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017.

Planning Ref	Proposal	Address	Applicant	Work in, on, under or within 9m of an Ordinary Watercourse?	Alteration to surface water discharge or discharge structure?	Consent Form and Information provided?
17/01073/FULM	Erection of 13 two storey dwellings on approximately 0.18ha of land.	Land To The Rear Of 98 North Eastern Road Thorne Doncaster 18 Low Hill Selby Road Thorne	DLP Planning Ltd.	no	yes	yes
17/00928/FUL 17/00689/COU	Erection of a detached garage		Mr Jake Fitzpatrick	no	yes	yes
17/00573/FUL	Change of use of land for vehicle parking in connection with existing adjacent business of Fishlake Commercial Motors	Fishlake Commercial Motors Jubilee Bridge Works Selby Road Thorne	Mr Peter Furr	no	no	yes
17/00468/FUL	Erection of two-storey rear extension	35 Marshland Road, Moorends, Doncaster	Mr Andrew Morris	no	yes	yes
17/00139/FUL	Proposed installation of 1.2m high metal bobble top fencing around 2 flat blocks and 2 properties	2-4, 21-55 & 5-19 Eastgate, Moorends, Doncaster	Miss Lisa Wallace	no	yes	yes
	Erection of detached building for fitting of vehicle tyres and ancillary works	Discount Tyre Services, King Edward Road, Thorne	Mr M Waite	no	yes	yes

### 4.2.2 Land Drainage Act 1991 Section 23 and 66 (Byelaws) Consents

No consents have been issued on behalf of the Board between 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 and 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017.



## 5. Environmental Officer Report

### Recommendations:

- **Members note the information contained in this report**
- **Consider contributing toward Eel R&D from BAP budget (Item 5.1.1)**

### 5.1 Legislation

### 5.2 Policy

#### 5.2.1 Biodiversity Action Plan 2015-2020

Surveys have been undertaken at Capitol Park Thorne, Waterside and Bunting Drain, Moorends. Reports are available at Appendix B.



## 6. Health and Safety Report

**Recommendation: Note the information contained in this report**

### 6.1 Board Contractor

#### 6.1.1 Accidents and Incidents

There have been no accidents or incidents to report since the last meeting.

#### 6.1.2 Lone Worker Arrangements

The current system is working effectively; however, we continue to look for replacements for the Sonim phones which are now nearing the end of their useful life. We are working with SoloProtect to either provide Identicom devices or an 'App' (application) loaded on an Android phone.

### 6.2 Floodex 2017

The Clerk held workshops for Health & Safety issues relating to Internal Drainage Board function over the two days of Floodex held in Peterborough. The presentations can be downloaded from the Boards website.

#### **Day 1 – Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> May – Directors/Board Members/CEOs/Clerks**

0900 – 0930 – General registration for FLOODEX, refreshments, etc

0930 – 1030

- *Presentation 1 –*

- Policy
- Planning
  - training
- Organisational structure
- Moral, legal and financial reasons
  - Nobody should be injured at work
  - Legal duties
  - Loss of public face

- *Presentation 2 –*

- Risk Profiling
- Corporate Manslaughter
- Competent advice
- Construction Design Management
- Worker involvement and consultation
- Delivery

- *Discussion*

1030 – 1045 - Comfort Break / Refreshments

1045 – 1200

- *Presentation 3*

- Measuring performance
- Accidents, incidents and near misses

- *Presentation 4*

- Performance measurement
- Understanding Workplace behaviour
- Disseminating lessons learned

- *Discussion*

- *Summary messages*

**Day 2 – Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> May – IDB Operational Staff**

0900 – 0930 – General registration for FLOODEx, refreshments, etc

0930 – 1030

- *Presentation 1*
  - Hazard identification
    - Working near water
    - Overhead power lines
    - Buried services
    - Noise at work
    - Hand arm vibration
    - Confined spaces
    - Chainsaws
    - Vehicle overturns
    - Work areas around 360 machinery
    - Work at height
- *Presentation 2*
  - Risk assessment
  - Employee duties
  - Removal of safety features
- *Discussion*

1030 – 1045 - Comfort Break / Refreshments

1045 – 1200

- *Presentation 3*
  - Welfare
  - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- *Presentation 4*
  - Accident, incident and near miss reporting
  - competence
  - Right to refuse to work
- *Discussion*
- *Summary messages*

**6.3 Working Outdoors - Sun Awareness**

Elected members may find this particularly useful. Please download the IOSH information pack from the news section on the Boards website.

**7. Representation**

The Board has been represented at:

<b>Environmental</b>	<b>Flood Risk Management</b>	<b>Other</b>
Humberhead Levels Steering Group	Humber Flood Risk Management Steering Group	ADA Technical & Environment Committee
Humberhead Levels Partnership Group	EA_CIRIA Partnership Funding Opportunities	ADA Policy & Finance Committee
EA/ADA Eel Liaison Group		FloodEX
Defra/ADA EIA (Land Drainage Improvement Works) Regulations		

**8. Date of Next Meeting**



## **9. APPENDIX A: Section of the Annual Return**

The two sections of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2017, mentioned in Sections 3.3 and 3.4 are shown over the following pages.

# Section 1 – Annual governance statement 2016/17

We acknowledge as the members of:

Enter name of  
smaller authority here:

BLACK DRAIN DRAINAGE BOARD

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2017, that:

	Agreed			'Yes' means that this smaller authority:
	Yes	No*		
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓			prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓			made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and proper practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this smaller authority to conduct its business or on its finances.	✓			has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with proper practices in doing so.
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	✓			during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this smaller authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓			considered the financial and other risks it faces and has dealt with them properly.
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓			arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓			responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this smaller authority and, where appropriate have included them in the accounting statements.	✓			disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	NA	has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.

This annual governance statement is approved by this smaller authority on:

DD MM YYYY

and recorded as minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

Signed by Chair at meeting where approval is given:

SIGNATURE

Clerk:

SIGNATURE

\*Note: Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response. Describe how this smaller authority will address the weaknesses identified.

## Section 2 – Accounting statements 2016/17 for

Enter name of smaller authority here:

BLACK DRAIN DRAINAGE BOARD

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2016 £	31 March 2017 £	
			Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.
1. Balances brought forward	282441	249815	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	64164	71313	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs, rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	18620	20317	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	0	0	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and employment expenses.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	24925	24925	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the smaller authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	90485	86911	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	249815	229609	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6)
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	250525	238907	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	752000	1,200,000	This cell shows the value of all the property the authority owns. It is made up of its fixed assets and long-term investments.
10. Total borrowings	255669	242687	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	Yes	No	The Council acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets. N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2017 the accounting statements in this annual return present fairly the financial position of this smaller authority and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer:



Date

23/05/2017

I confirm that these accounting statements were approved by this smaller authority on:

DD/MM/YYYY

and recorded as minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

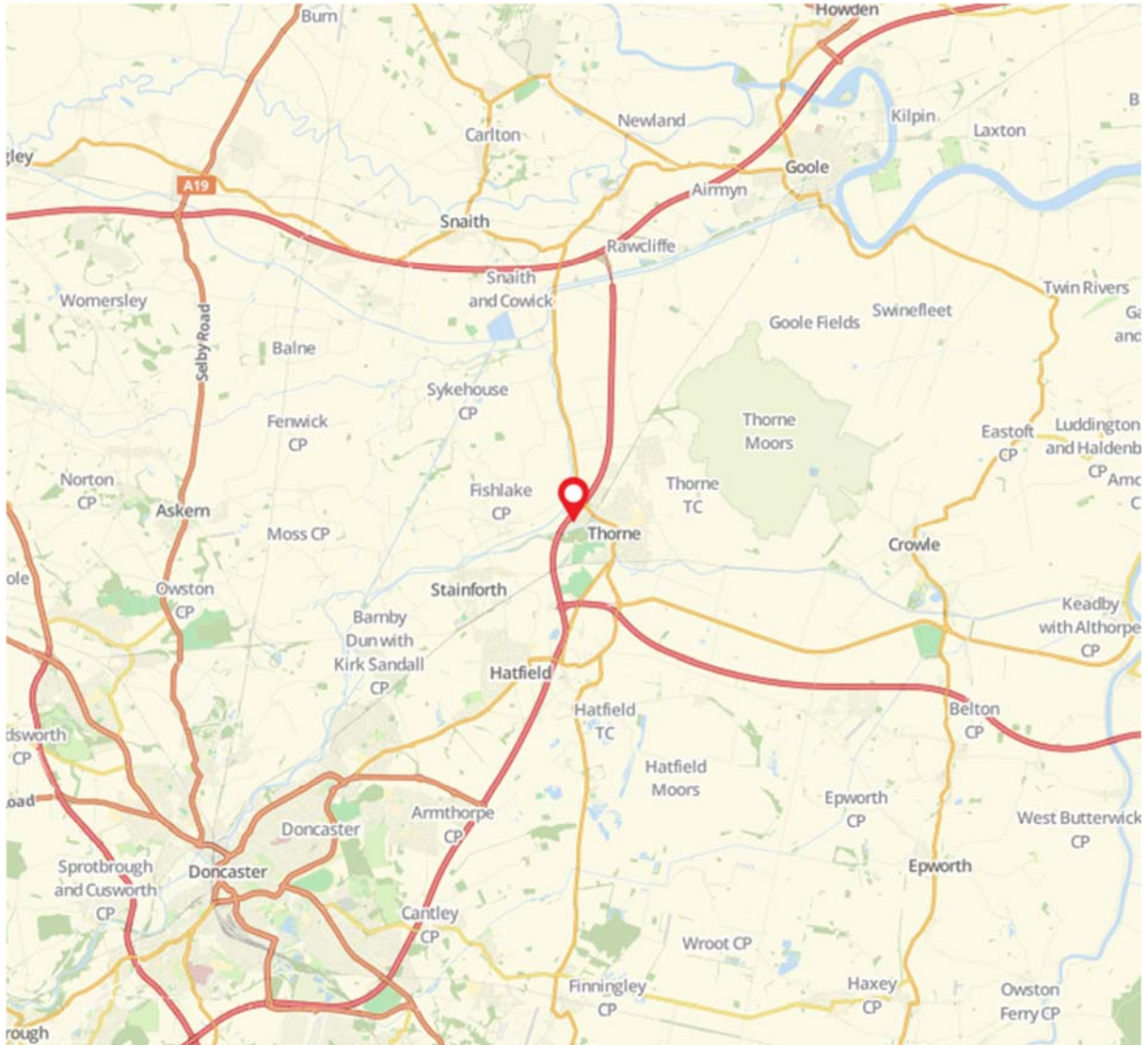
Signed by Chair at meeting where approval is given:

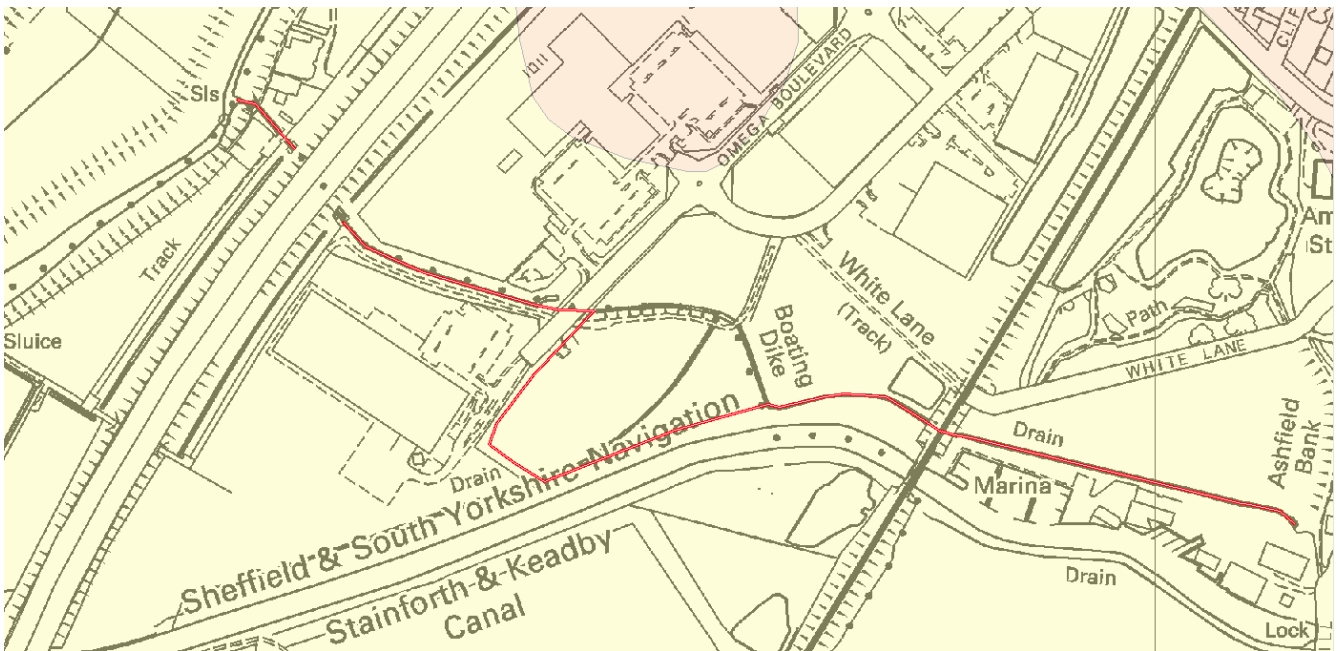
SIGNATURE





## 10. APPENDIX B: BAP Species Surveys





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Yellow colour indicates superficial deposits of clay, silt, sand, and gravel.

**General Details**

**Drain Name**

Boating Dike, Capitol Park, Thorne 2000km.

**Location**

Location source: NGR  
Start: 468116, 415272  
Finish: 467233, 413627  
Local system: OSGB36

**Survey Date**

27/03/2017 10:19

**Site conditions**

Cloudy, cool, light breeze.

### General Photographs



The survey started at Capitol Park weedscreen where a pair of Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) were resting. The watercourse has a covering of duck weed (*Lemna minor*) together with general detritus including plastic, emergent vegetation included Bullrush (*Typha latifolia*). The banks contain small stands of Cuckoo flower (*Cardamine pratensis*), an early nectar source for many butterflies, Marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*), Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*) and Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*).



Cuckoo flower or Lady's Smock





Meadowsweet



Marsh marigold

The drain is bordered both sides by a public footpath, frequently used by dog walkers. Within 150 metres of the railway line the drain passes under a footbridge, the upstream side of the watercourse contains a quantity of cut branches although this does not appear to be obstructing flow. It was

surprising to see a keen velocity to the water in this section, obvious from the laminated flow around the logs and branches. No evidence of water vole was noted in this section of Boating Dike.



Branches upstream of footbridge



Culvert under railway.





Pond adjacent railway

To access the north side of the Boating Dike requires crossing to White Lane and under the railway, adjacent to which is a large pond, obscured in summer by trees, the surface of which is obscured by duck weed.

Sections of Boating Dyke adjacent to Thorne Marina off Lock Lane contain large stands of water starwort, seen below.





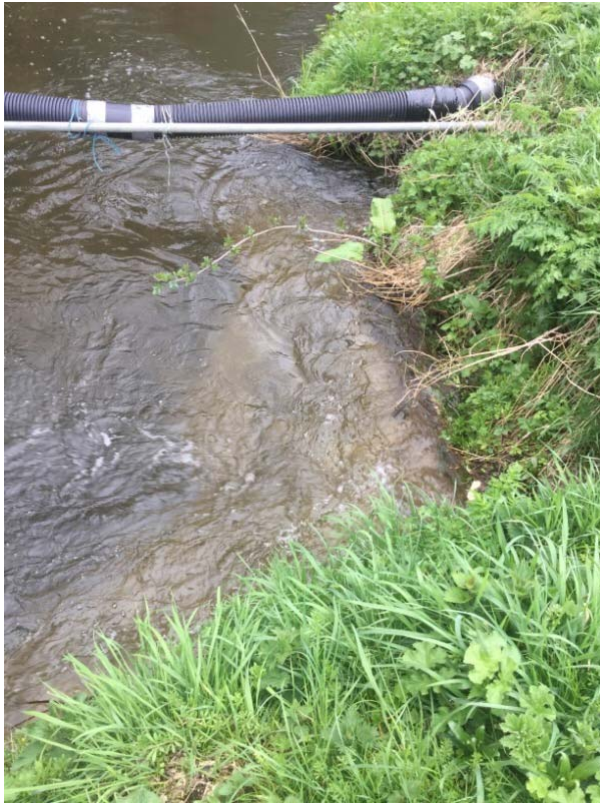
watercourse

Trees across the dyke, but not obstructing



The water velocity is driven by an 18" diameter plastic ridged pipe discharging water from Marina dry docks to the extent it has eroded the opposite bank. The Board consented this discharge several years ago.





Eroded bank



There is a second discharge 40 metres upstream where the same erosive force is occurring



Access to Boating Dike finishes at a culvert underneath Lock Lane and upstream visibility at the surface is unavailable.

Boating Dike has good water vole habitat. There is also a population of great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) in the adjacent area that has received planning permission for 79 houses, mitigation works were due to start on the day of the survey.

The newt also make use of the large pond west of the railway. Mitigation works include relocating any Great Crested Newt within the area of the fishing ponds and The Railway Delves. Care must be taken during maintenance.



The second section of this survey recommenced at Omega Boulevard downstream to the old course of the River Don. On the north side of the drain is a high-level overflow into a Yorkshire Water Authority pump station. The storm pipes take water down the drain, underneath the M18 culvert, under the old course of the river Don, across the wash land and into the Don. Although well vegetated, there was no evidence of water vole.



Storm pipes in bed of drain from Omega Boulevard.



On the east side of the Motorway the drain passes through a culvert with a penstock into the old course of the river Don, now with the appearance of a series of linear borrow pits. The area is designated as a Local Wildlife Site by Doncaster MBC.

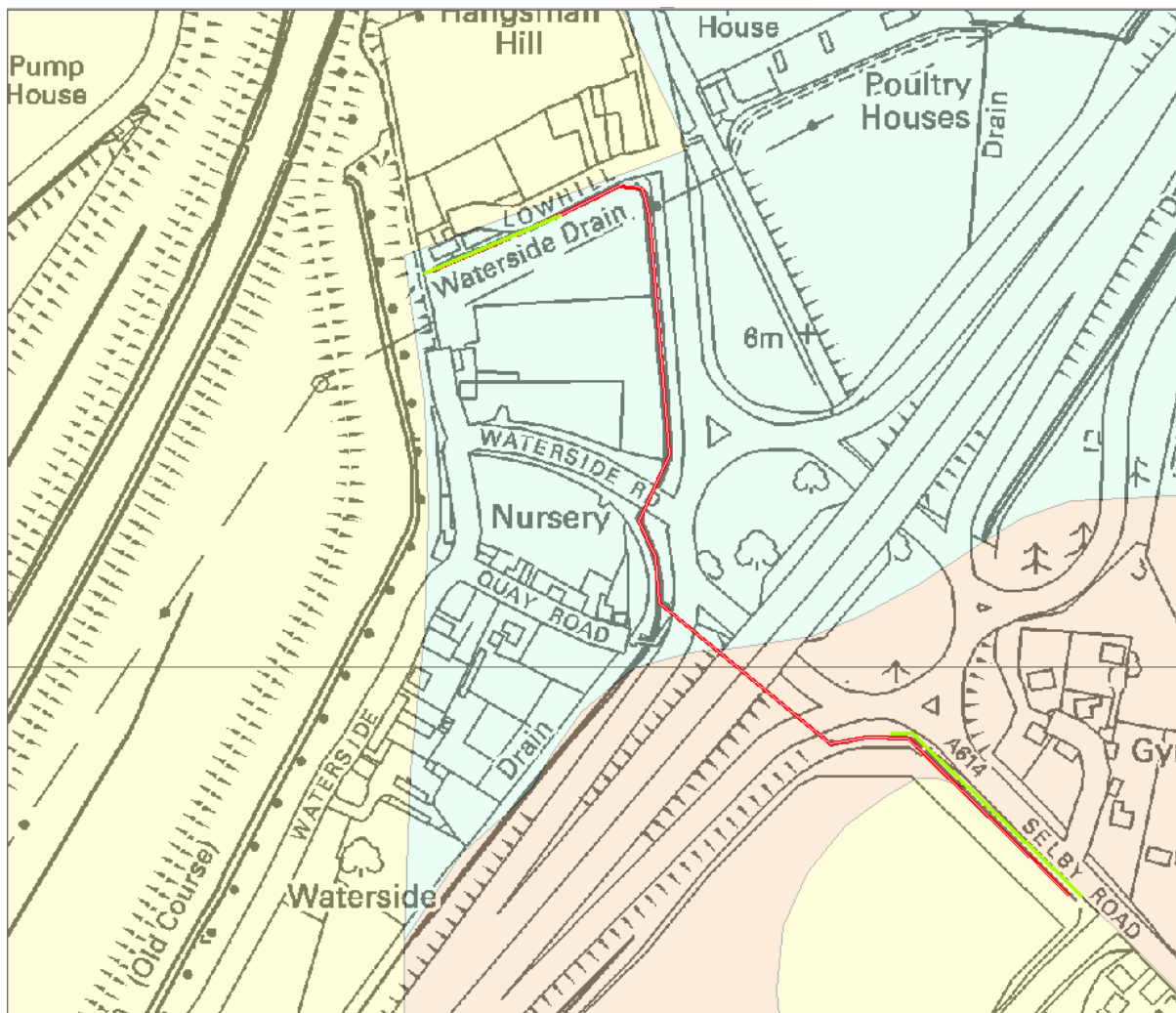


Old Course of Don.

The old course of the Don discharges into the River Don by gravity, north of Waterside, Thorne.  
No evidence of water vole was identified.



### Waterside Drain



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Blue colour indicates superficial geology of clays and silts. Pink indicates deposits of sand and gravel.

### General Details

#### Drain Name

Waterside Drain, Thorne, 750m length

#### Location NGR:

Start: 467882, 413856

Finish: 467478, 414245

Local system: OSGB36

#### Survey Date

27/03/2017 12:31

#### Site conditions

Cool, cloudy, light wind



The watercourse is inaccessible, particularly in association with the M18 roundabout area where parts appear not to have been maintained for several years. The landward side of the drain has impeded access by all trees, dominated by Leylandii conifers, presumably planted to buffer noise from the Motorway and slip road.

Drain maintenance accessed from the road would require liaison with Doncaster MBC and road closures.

Where Waterside Drain passes to the outfall, access is via a footpath, much of which has been diverted to around fencing for ducks, geese and pigs with a property at Lowhill (see Picture 3). No evidence of water vole or any notable species was seen during this drain survey.

### General Photographs



1. Downstream of culvert under

Waterside, holding some water.





2. Upstream side of watercourse dry.



River Don.

3. Waterside Drain outfall into the old course of the





4. Upstream of Waterside Drain as viewed from Quay

Road culvert, general thrown rubbish in drain.



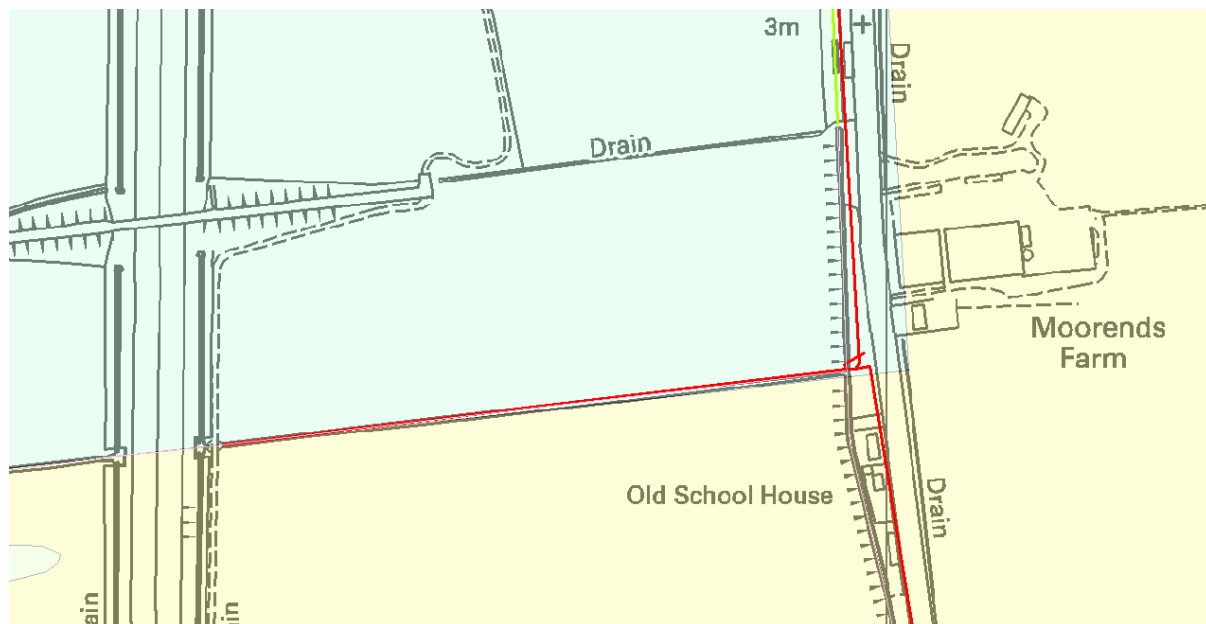
5. Downstream Waterside Drain as viewed from Quay

Road culvert, dry bed

No evidence of water vole or any SAP within the Board BAP was identified during this drain survey.



## Bunting Drain survey



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Blue colour indicates superficial geology of clays and silts. Yellow indicates deposits of clay, silt, sand, and gravel.

## General Details

### Drain Name

Bunting Drain, Moorends, 438 metres in length

### Location

Location source: NGR:

Start: 468972, 417611

Finish: 468536, 417555

Local system: OSGB36

### Survey Date

27/03/2017 13:58

### Site conditions

Cool, cloudy, slight breeze.





### General Photographs



Bunting Drain at its junction with Black Drain. This watercourse has been stabilised in the past by long sections of timber toe piling. The majority of the piling has been covered by bankside and emergent vegetation over time, many of the boards have loosened and there is considerable evidence of bankside burrows behind the wooden boards. Toe piling but old, burrows underneath and behind, some evidence of grazing.



Vegetation within the drain is generally foals water cress (*Apium nodiflorum*), water starwort (*Callitriche sp.*), bulrush (*Typha latifolia*) and on the bank sides, jointed rush (*Juncus articulates*). Bankside vegetation also included Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) and knapweed (*Centaurea*)



Whilst several burrows were noted, no evidence of latrine was seen however the burrowing is extensive to the rear of the piling boards, latrines may occur there as there is no obvious area available in front of the toe piling. One recently killed water vole (*Arvicola amphibious*) was noted, the method of execution, bitten at the back of the neck, suggesting a weasel or stoat



possibly mink. Water vole populations are threatened particularly by introduced American Mink (*Neovison vison*) with which they have not evolved to live. Water vole is also threatened by habitat loss and are thought to be affected by water quality. This can be through either direct contamination and contact with pollutants or indirectly through eutrophication where nitrogen levels increase in a watercourse sufficiently to cause algal blooms and loss of food plants.



Bunting Drain is culverted under the M18 but is nevertheless subject of motorway run off through Highways England drains. The water quality by the motorway was inferior to that at the outfall with Black Drain. It is considered the plant growth within the drain, particularly bulrush and jointed rush will remove some contamination as the water passes through and silts will be dropped from suspension around the roots.

This drain represents good water vole habitat and should be managed accordingly by not removing all in drain vegetation and by cutting bank sides alternate years.





# Shire

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