Selby Area Internal Drainage Board Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030

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Contract

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This report describes work commissioned by Nigel Everard, on behalf of Selby Area Internal Drainage Board (IDB), by an instruction dated 1st of May 2025. Catherine Porter of JBA Consulting carried out this work.

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Contents

List of Figures

List of Tables

Abbreviations

AONB	Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
GCN	Great Crested Newt
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
IDB	Internal Drainage Board
INNS	Invasive Non-Native Species
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LMDW	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LNRS	Local Nature Recovery Strategy
NE	Natural England
NERC	Natural Environment and Rural Communities
NL	National Landscapes
NVC	National Vegetation Classification System
NYC	North Yorkshire Council
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SAIDB	Selby Area Internal Drainage Board
SBAP	Selby Biodiversity Acton Plan
SINC	Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest

1 Internal Drainage Board Biodiversity

1.1 Internal Drainage Board Biodiversity Action Plans

This Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) has been prepared on behalf of Selby Area Internal Drainage Board (SAIDB) in accordance with the commitment in the Implementation Plan of the Defra Internal Drainage Board Review of 2007 for Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) to produce their own Biodiversity Action Plans. It demonstrates the Board's commitment to fulfilling its duty as a public body to conserve and enhance biodiversity under various legislation and policy including, but not limited to, the Environment Act 2021, the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, the 25 Year Environment Plan and the Water Framework Directive.

Importantly, it reflects the Board's aspiration to maximise the support it provides to biodiversity, particularly priority UK species and habitats, and the wider environment in general through its day-to-day activities, by setting clear objectives, actions and targets.

The structure of this BAP follows the Guidance Document issued by the Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA) (ADA, 2020) (as referenced in the Environmental Good Governance Guide for Internal Drainage Bords in England (ADA, 2022)).

The Board has adopted this Biodiversity Action Plan as one of its policies and is committed to its implementation. It will review the plan periodically and update it as appropriate. It covers the entire drainage district of the IDB, as shown in Figure 1-1.

1.1.1 Selby Area BAP

A SAIDB BAP was first produced in 2010 with the latest BAP covering the years 2015-2020. This Biodiversity Action Plan follows on from the previous 2015-2020 BAP, reviewing and building on the targets and actions set within that BAP. The duration of this BAP will run between 2025-2030.

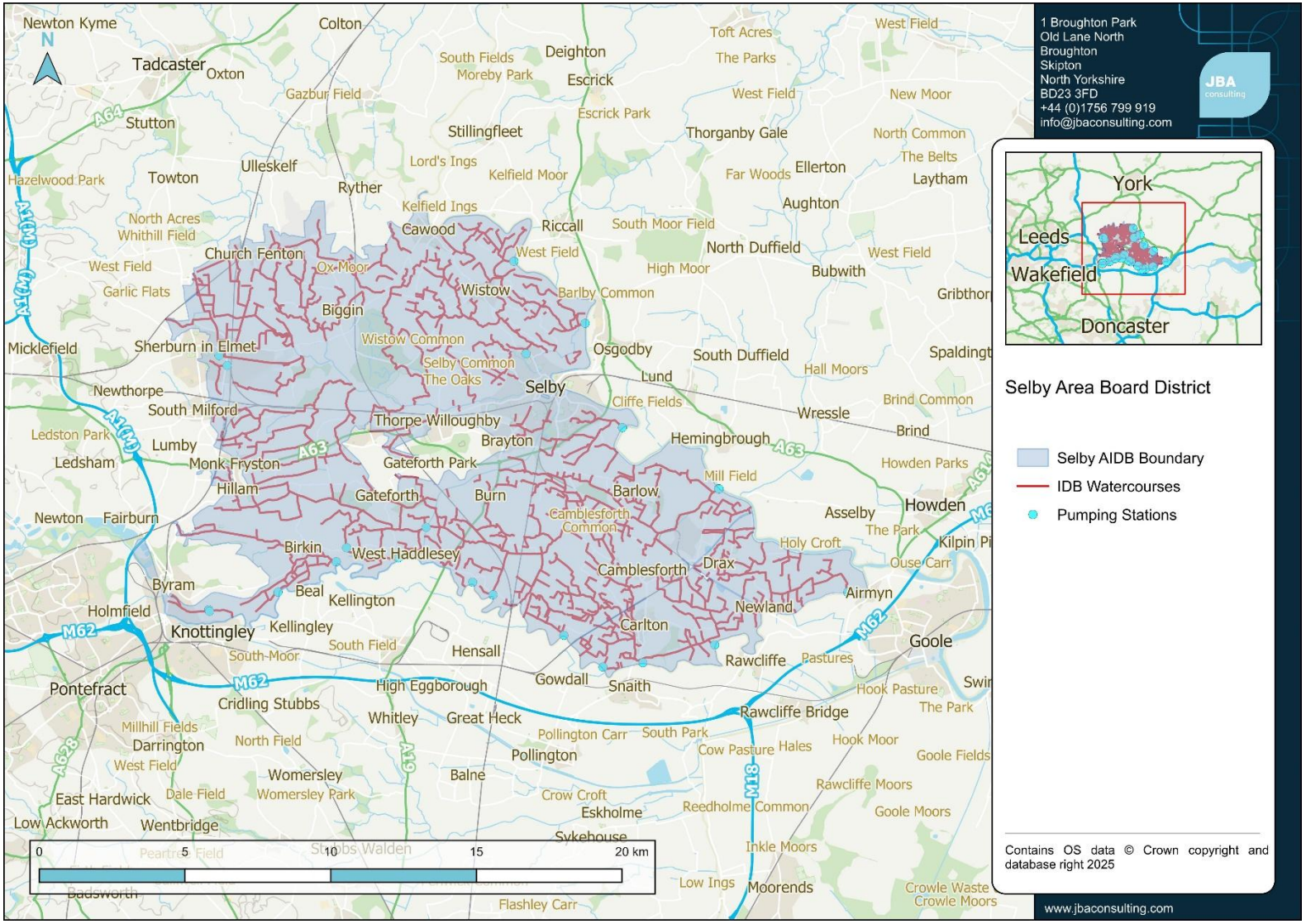

Figure 1-1: SAIDB Site Location Map

1.2 What is Biodiversity and why is it important?

Biodiversity can be defined simply as “the variety of life” and encompasses the whole spectrum of living organisms, including plants, birds, mammals and insects. It includes both common and rare species, as well as the genetic diversity within species. Biodiversity also refers to the habitats and ecosystems that support these species.

Biodiversity is part of our natural capital, a vital resource providing:

- Supply of ecosystem services including water, nutrients, climate change mitigation, flood mitigation, carbon storage and pollination;
- Life resources including food, medicine, energy and raw materials;
- Improved health and well-being;
- Landscape and cultural distinctiveness;
- Direct economic benefits from biodiversity resources and ‘added value’ through local economic activity and tourism;
- Educational, recreational and amenity resources.

This BAP is part of a much larger biodiversity framework that encompasses international, national and local levels of legislation and policy and which also include ecosystem services and climate change.

1.3 Legislative Background

When carrying out its functions, an IDB must pay particular regard to the effect on the environment. Some environmental legislation relates specifically to maintaining or restoring the condition of protected sites or protecting certain species, but there are also statutory duties for IDBs to conserve and enhance biodiversity in and alongside the watercourses they manage and the wider landscape.

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 places a duty on IDBs, as a public body, to conserve biodiversity. The Environment Act 2021 extends this duty on IDBs to also enhance biodiversity and report periodically on its actions. Therefore, as a public authority, every IDB must consider what action it can take, consistently with the proper exercise of its functions, to further the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in England.

Below is a list of key environmental legislation (by no means exhaustive) relevant to the work of IDBs:

- The Environment Act 2021
- Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)
- Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009
- Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (Section 40)
- Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended)

- Land Drainage Act 1994
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
- The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
- The Protection of Badgers Act 1992
- Flood and Water Management Act 2010
- Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975

1.4 Policy & Strategic Background

The 25 Year Environment Plan, designated as an Environmental Improvement Plan under the Environment Act 2021, defines four priority areas of environmental conservation: air quality, waste and resource efficiency, water, and biodiversity. The main focus of the Environment Act 2021 ("the Act") is to make the Government's commitment to delivering the targets set against these four priorities legally binding. There are a number of elements of the Act which require IDB action and compliance, as set out below.

Section 102 of the Act strengthens Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 and relates to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity through the exercise of functions in relation to England. Section 102 requires public authorities to actively carry out Strategic Assessments, detailing how they can enhance and conserve biodiversity, and then take that action. To demonstrate this, the IDB will produce 5-yearly BAPs and will regularly engage with relevant stakeholders to keep up to date with new local strategies or priorities and incorporate these into the BAPs.

Part 6 of the Act requires the development of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS). LNRS are expected to be led mainly, but not always, by local authorities, but will be developed and delivered in partnership with a wide range of local stakeholders. The main outputs of the LNRS are to provide a list of priority opportunities for habitat improvement and restoration in the strategy area, and produce a local habitat map containing existing nature sites and habitats, and locations of the priorities for future habitat improvement and restoration. IDBs will have to give regard to any relevant LNRS when considering the actions they can take 'when complying with their biodiversity duty to further' the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, and so will be expected to align the IDB BAP, environmental policy and best practice manual with those priorities set out in the LNRS.

The Act mandates that Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) should be delivered at a minimum of 10% through the planning system. BNG became mandatory from the 12 February 2024 under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2023). This means a development will result in more or better-quality natural habitat than was there before development. Most IDB works would be permitted development, which are exempt from BNG under the Environment Act. If IDBs are planning non-exempt development, they will be subject to BNG, including the management of the site to deliver the required outcomes for at least 30 years following project completion. The need for off-site biodiversity net gain sites to offset local development may present opportunities to IDBs. Biodiversity net gain requirements could

create a strategic opportunity for IDBs to offer reliable long-term maintenance contracts for registered net gain sites linked to IDB channels and networks, including strategic sustainable drainage systems within the district. There could be opportunities for IDBs who own or lease land to make it available for off-site biodiversity net gain projects.

Section 109 and 110 of the Act provides for the development of species conservation and protected sites strategies, which may be prepared by Natural England with the purpose of improving the conservation status of any species of flora, fauna or a protected site. If and when they are developed through regulation, IDBs will be expected to co-operate with Natural England in the development and implementation of such strategies if they relate to areas under IDB management. The IDB will also have a duty to have regard to (which includes planning and taking auditable action) any relevant strategies whilst carrying out its functions, including when consenting the work of others.

Biodiversity Action Plans will help the Board to maximise the biodiversity benefits from its activities and demonstrate its contribution to the Environment Act 2021 targets.

1.5 Vision

The IDB's vision is:

A drainage district where thriving wildlife is an integral part of delivering efficient and effective water-level management.

1.6 Aims of Selby Area IDB Biodiversity Action Plan

The aims of this BAP are:

- To ensure habitat and species action targets from relevant national and local policies/strategies are translated into effective action within the district.
- To ensure Board maintenance does not adversely impact on any protected terrestrial or aquatic species, or protected sites.
- Identify targets for other habitats and species of local importance within the District.
- Raise awareness within the Board and locally on the need for biodiversity conservation as part of water level management, including contractor training.
- Ensure that opportunities for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity are considered throughout all Board operations.
- Monitor and report on progress in biodiversity conservation.

2 IDB BAP Process

In the production of this BAP a five-stage process has been followed:

1. Conducting a Biodiversity Audit,
2. Evaluating and prioritising habitats and species,
3. Defining Objectives and Actions - Habitat and Species Action Plans,
4. Implementation,
5. Monitoring and Reporting.

2.1 Biodiversity Audit

To produce the SAIDB BAP, information on the habitats and species present in the district were first obtained. This involved the collation of existing data held by the IDB and other freely available data sources.

Priority habitats and species in England, as identified in section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 as Habitats and Species of Principal Importance, that can be found in the Selby drainage district were identified, as well as additional non-priority habitats and species deemed to be important within the district.

Sources of data used were:

- Natural England GIS data (www.gis.naturalengland.org.uk/pubs/gis/GIS_register.asp)
- Natural England Designated Sites View (https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteSearch.aspx)
- JNCC UK Biodiversity Action Plan (https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/uk-bap/)
- Habitats and Species of Principal Importance (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/habitats-and-species-of-principal-importance-in-england)
- Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAP) i.e. From North Yorkshire Council: The Selby Biodiversity Action Plan (https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-07/Selby%20Biodiversity%20Action%20Plan%20Aug%202004.pdf)
- Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory (https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/Defra::priority-habitats-inventory-england/about)
- Selby Area Internal Drainage Board: BAP 2015 - 2020 (JBA Consulting, 2019)

2.2 Prioritising Habitats and Species

There are 56 habitats, and 943 species listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act as Habitats and Species of Principal Importance in England, therefore key species and habitats have been prioritised in the production of this IDB BAP. Those habitats and species which the IDB has the opportunity to enhance and conserve through their own

work, such as those associated with aquatic and riparian environments have been targeted. Additionally, LNRS and other local strategies, when these become available, will be considered when shortlisting biodiversity priorities.

2.3 Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Following on from previous work, the SAIDB (the Board) has agreed Habitat and Species Action Plans over which it has control and conservation objectives expressing the Board's aims for benefitting that particular habitat or species. The targets focus Board programmes of action and identify outcomes that can be measured and monitored.

2.4 Implementation

Once targets have been set for habitats and species, it is important that the actions to deliver the BAP are described. The Plan sets out how the Board intends to implement the actions in the plan, which may be implemented in several ways including, integrating into existing systems, maintenance and management regimes, through capital works programmes, specific surveys, training and activities, collaboration with partners and developer or consented works.

2.5 Monitoring and Reporting

Monitoring is the on-going process of regularly collecting and analysing relevant information to make sure the actions within the Plan are positively contributing towards the targets and to capture any additional benefit achieved. The Plan sets out how and when this monitoring will take place for example, to regularly review the progress of actions against the plan at Board meetings throughout the life of the plan.

The frequency and type of information reported is also defined by the Plan and includes the publication of progress reports in the public domain via the IDB's website and in accordance with the duty set out in the Environment Act 2021.

The overall plan will be updated at least every 5 years but as this is a dynamic document it may change more frequently. For example, in the light of routine monitoring, changes may be necessary to ensure an objective can be met.

3 Biodiversity Audit

3.1 Selby Area Drainage District

The drainage district covers an area of 197.47km² and the IDB maintain 450 km of managed watercourses across the North Yorkshire Council (NYC) area. The Board is responsible for 20 pumping station sites (although note, a couple of the 'pumping station sites' have two pump stations (Lendall and Brotherton). There are no water level control structures that the Board manage e.g. tilting weirs, radial gates etc. There is however one radial gate on a main river (Bishop Dyke) maintained by the Environment Agency (SAIDB, 2018).

3.2 Landscape Designations

There are no National Parks or National Landscapes (NL) (formally AONBs), within the Selby Area drainage district, nor within 5km of the district boundary.

3.3 Statutory Nature Conservation Sites

3.3.1 Internationally, Nationally and Locally Statutory Designated Sites

There are no Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) or Ramsar sites within the District.

Within the Drainage District there are two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI); Burr Closes SSSI and Eskamhorn Meadows SSSI, both designated for their species-rich meadows and one Local Nature Reserve (LNR); Barlow Common LNR which comprises a mosaic of woodland, wetland, reedbeds and ponds.

Table 3-1 below details what these sites are designated for.

Table 3-1: Statutory nature conservation sites within 2km of the Board's district.

Designated Site	Reason for Designation
Burr Closes SSSI	"Burr Closes, Selby, is a small area of damp alluvial meadowland, agriculturally unimproved and rich in flowering plant species, of a type which is now scarce in the Vale of York. …The site is a noted locality for the Forester moth *Procris statices*."

Designated Site	Reason for Designation
Eskamhorn Meadows SSSI	"Eskamhorn Meadows SSSI is a nationally important site for species-rich neutral grassland. The relevant National Vegetation Classification (NVC) types are predominantly MG4 meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis* – great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis* grassland, and a community transitional between this type and the MG5 crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* – common knapweed *Centaurea nigra* grassland. The site also supports small areas of MG5 and MG13 creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera* – marsh foxtail *Alopecurus geniculatus* grassland." (Natural England, 2010).
Barlow Common LNR	"This site was previously used for tipping ballast and has since been reclaimed. The site has a mosaic of woodland, wetland, reedbeds and four large ponds…Two ponds attract wild fowl and migrating waders including Shelduck [*Tadorna tadorna*], Greenshank [*Tringa nebularia*] and Sandpiper. 140 species of birds have been recorded on site. The woodland has small birds such as Dunnock [*Prunella modularis*], Tits and Willow Warblers [*Phylloscopus trochilus*]. The colonised tip supports over 200 species of plants such as Primrose [*Primula vulgaris*], Ox-eye Daisy [*Leucanthemum vulgare*], Teasel [*Dipsacus* sp.], Vipers Bugloss [*Echium vulgare*], Red [*Silene dioica*] and White Campion [*Silene latifolia*] and Birds Foot Trefoil [*Lotus* sp.]. This rich flora supports diverse invertebrates including 21 species of butterflies including Meadow Brown [*Maniola jurtina*] and Common Blue [*Polyommatus icarus*]. Small mammals include Water Voles [*Arvicola amphibius*], Wood Mice [*Apodemus sylvaticus*], Weasels [*Mustela nivalis*] and Stoats [*Mustela erminea*]. Occasional Roe Deer [*Capreolus capreolus*] from neighbouring woodland visit the reserve."

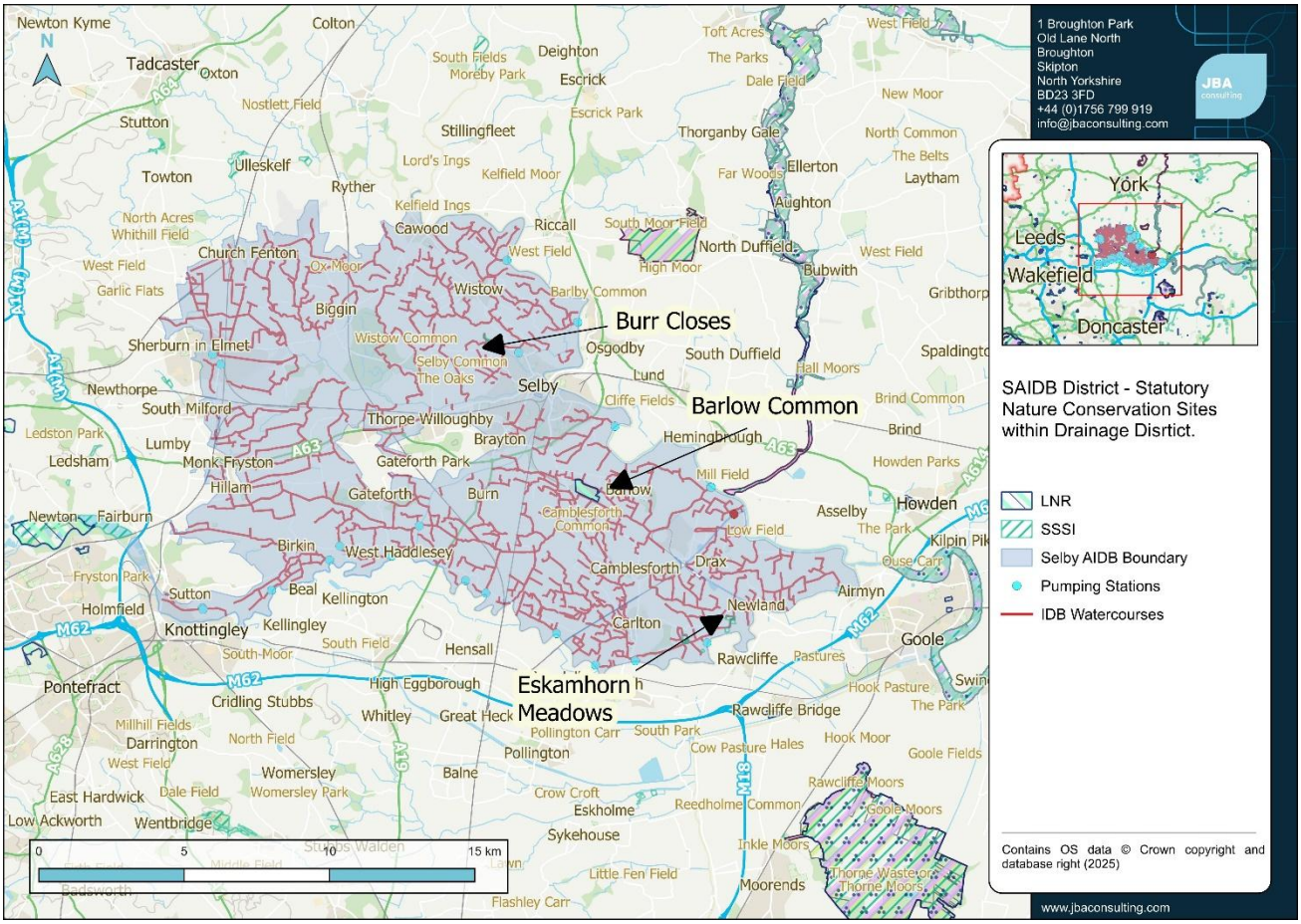

Figure 3-1: Statutory Sites within SAIDB District

3.4 Non-Statutory Nature Conservation Sites

Within the Drainage District there are approximately 50 sites identified by the local authority as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). These consist of a variety of habitats including woodland, ponds, meadows, scrub and reedbeds.

3.5 Habitat Audit Summary

This habitat audit summary lists the UK priority habitats (Habitats of Principal Importance) that occur within the Drainage District and are identified as likely to be influenced by the Board's activities. A map of these habitats is provided in Figure 3-2 below. Also listed are habitats deemed to be of local importance and/or featured in local nature strategies that occur in the Drainage District. Finally, brief notes are included on the potential for the IDB to maintain, restore or expand these important habitats. Local habitat data information is available in the Selby Biodiversity Action Plan (SBAP) (NYCC et. al., 2004).

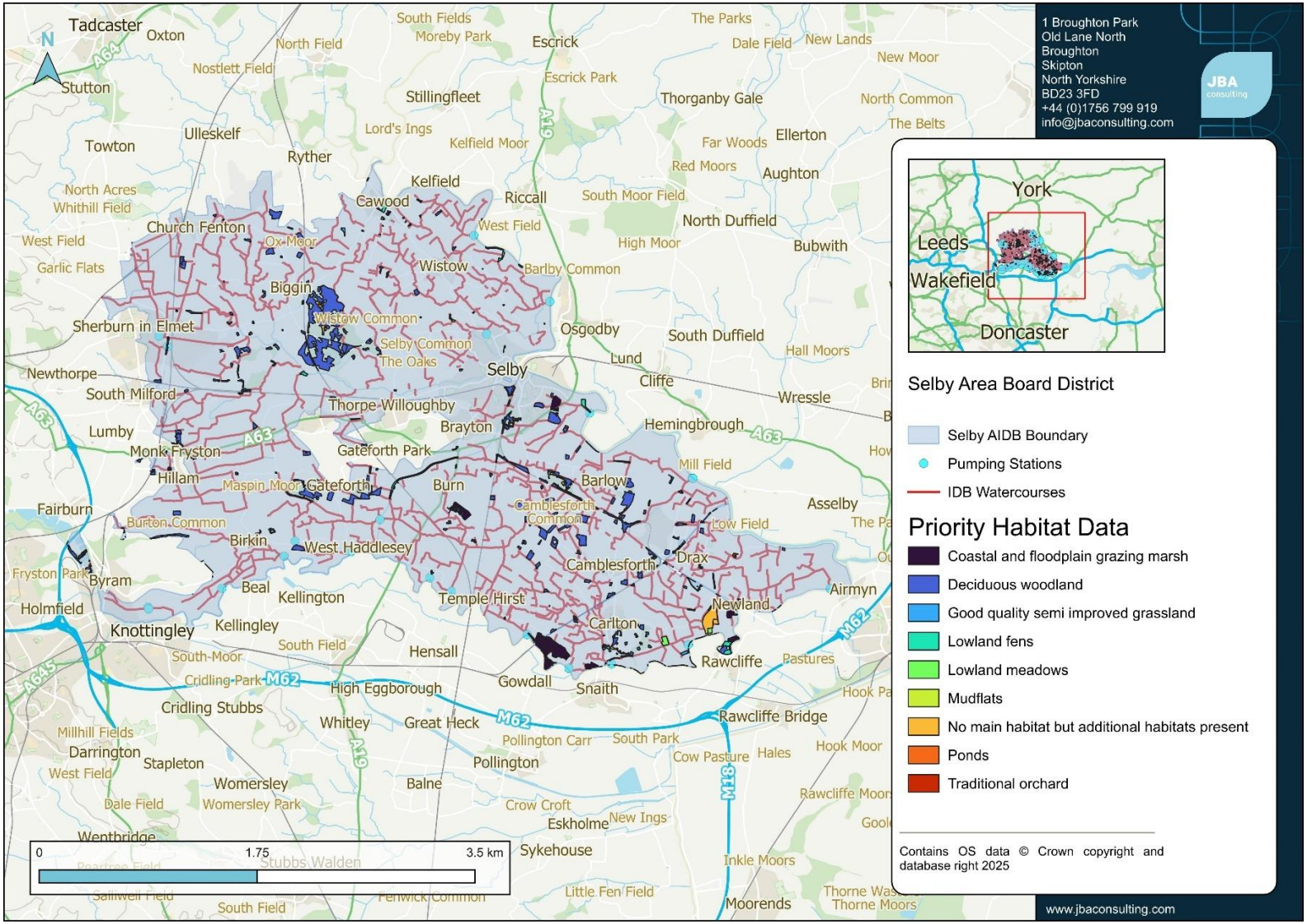

Figure 3-2: Priority Habitat Map for Selby AIDB

Table 3-2: Habitat Audit

UK Broad Priority Habitat	National Status & Extent	Local Priority Habitat	Local Status and Extent	Habitat of Importance for IDB	IDB Potential for Maintaining, Restoring or Expanding Habitat (high/medium/low)
Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland	250,000ha of Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (LMDW) in the UK. It has declined in area by clearance, overgrazing and replanting with non-native species, by about 30–40% over the last 50 years Estimated 24,600ha traditional orchard area. Trend unknown.	LMDW / Traditional orchard	Small, sparsely scattered sites of traditional orchard across District. LMDW evenly scattered across District with greatest coverage around Bishop Wood.	Deciduous woodland Traditional orchards	Low Low

UK Broad Priority Habitat	National Status & Extent	Local Priority Habitat	Local Status and Extent	Habitat of Importance for IDB	IDB Potential for Maintaining, Restoring or Expanding Habitat (high/medium/low)
Improved grassland	Trend not known, estimated 230,000ha in the UK	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	Sparsely scattered across District with greatest coverage towards the South-East of the District e.g. along River Aire / Small isolated parcels.	Grazing marsh	Low
Neutral Grassland	Significant decline. Approx. <15,000ha of species-rich neutral grassland is thought to remain in the UK (JNCC, 2008).	Lowland Meadows	Two discrete parcels to the south of the District adjacent and in addition to SSSI meadows.	Lowland Meadows	Low
Fen, Marsh and Swamp	Increasing, estimated 5,200ha in England	Lowland Fen	Lowland Fen sparsely scattered across District.	Lowland Fen	Medium
Standing open waters and canals	Declining, estimated 400,000 ponds in the	Eutrophic standing water / Ponds	Within the district primarily as drainage ditches /	Eutrophic standing water / Ponds	Medium

UK Broad Priority Habitat	National Status & Extent	Local Priority Habitat	Local Status and Extent	Habitat of Importance for IDB	IDB Potential for Maintaining, Restoring or Expanding Habitat (high/medium/low)
	UK		Isolated occurrences		
Littoral sediment	Estimated 270,000ha of intertidal flats in the UK. Trend unknown.	Intertidal mudflats	Mudflats associated with the River Aire to the south of the District.	Mudflats	Low
Arable and Horticulture	Trend is increasing, estimated over 105,200ha in the UK	Arable farmland (field margins)	Widespread throughout the District.	Arable field margins	Medium
Boundary and Linear Features	Stable	Hedgerows	Widespread.	Hedgerows	Medium

3.6 Species Audit Summary

This species audit summary includes priority species (Species of Principal Importance) that occur in association with the UKBAP habitats identified in Section 3.5, within the Drainage District. These species have been identified as likely to be influenced by the Board's activities. Also listed are species deemed to be of local importance and/or identified by local nature strategies. Finally, the potential for the IDB to improve the status of the species in the Drainage District is considered. Local species data information is available in the Selby Biodiversity Action Plan (SBAP) (NYCC et. al., 2004).

Table 3-3: Species Audit

Common & Scientific Name	National Status	Local Status	Supporting habitats for Species of Importance within drainage district	IDB Potential for Maintaining or Increasing Species Population or Range (High/medium/low)
Birds				
Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*	Conservation Status: Amber Increasing 203% increase 1996/97–2021/22 (wintering). (BTO, 2025).	'Small numbers of whooper swans winter regularly on wetlands such as Beal Carrs' (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Ponds	Low
Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*	Conservation status: Amber Increasing 63% increase 1996/97-2021/22 (wintering) (BTO, 2025).	Scarce and localised, estimated 10 to 20 pairs (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Ponds	Low

Common & Scientific Name	National Status	Local Status	Supporting habitats for Species of Importance within drainage district	IDB Potential for Maintaining or Increasing Species Population or Range (High/medium/low)
Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*	Conservation status: Red Declining 92% decline1967–2022 (BTO, 2025).	Estimated ten pairs present locally but declining dramatically (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Arable field margins and hedgerows.	Medium
Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*	Conservation status: Red Declining 99% decline 1967–2022 (BTO, 2025).	Estimated ten pairs present locally but declining dramatically (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Arable farmland and hedgerows.	Medium

Common & Scientific Name	National Status	Local Status	Supporting habitats for Species of Importance within drainage district	IDB Potential for Maintaining or Increasing Species Population or Range (High/medium/low)
Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*	Conservation status: Red Declining 62% decline 1967-2022 (BTO, 2025).	Steep decline in recent years. Estimated ten breeding pairs (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Spring crops and permanent grassland with low chemical input. Short, tussocky sward. Arable land, cropped fields. Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh. Intertidal mudflats.	Medium
Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*	Conservation status: Amber Stable UK breeding population: Stable 1995–2022 (BTO, 2025).	Estimated 10 – 20 pairs; concentrated in the Lower Derwent Valley and Fairburn Ings. Assumed stable (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh.	Low

Common & Scientific Name	National Status	Local Status	Supporting habitats for Species of Importance within drainage district	IDB Potential for Maintaining or Increasing Species Population or Range (High/medium/low)
Redshank *Tringa totanus*	Conservation status: Amber Declining UK breeding population: 49% decrease 1995–2022 UK wintering population: 19% decrease 1996/97–2021/22 (BTO, 2025).	Concentrated within the Lower Derwent Valley and at Fairburn Ings. Declining (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh.	Low
Barn Owl *Tyto alba*	Conservation status: Green Increasing UK breeding population: 208% increase 1995–2022 (BTO, 2025).	Stable, estimated 20-30 pairs (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh. Arable land, field margins and hedgerows.	High

Common & Scientific Name	National Status	Local Status	Supporting habitats for Species of Importance within drainage district	IDB Potential for Maintaining or Increasing Species Population or Range (High/medium/low)
Skylark *Alauda arvensis*	Conservation status: Red Declining 11% decline 1995-2022 (BTO, 2025)	Declining locally as well as nationally (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Set-aside. Arable land/ field margins.	Medium
Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*	Conservation status: Red Declining UK breeding population: 54% decline 1995–2022 (BTO, 2025)	Status unknown (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Arable farmland and hedgerows.	Low
Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*	Conservation status: Amber Declining UK breeding population:48% decline 1967–2022 (BTO, 2025).	Status unknown (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Traditional orchards and lowland mixed deciduous woodland.	Low

Common & Scientific Name	National Status	Local Status	Supporting habitats for Species of Importance within drainage district	IDB Potential for Maintaining or Increasing Species Population or Range (High/medium/low)
Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*	Conservation status: Red Decline 93% decrease (Breeding) 1967–2022 (BTO, 2025)	Declining. Estimated between two and five pairs (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Traditional orchards and lowland mixed deciduous woodland.	Low
Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*	Conservation status: Red Increasing UK breeding population: 62% increase 1995–2022 (BTO, 2025).	Four small colonies present locally. In decline (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Arable land and hedgerows.	Medium
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*	Conservation status: Red Stable 1995-2022 (BTO, 2025).	Declining. Breeding population locally unknow (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Arabel farmland.	Low

Common & Scientific Name	National Status	Local Status	Supporting habitats for Species of Importance within drainage district	IDB Potential for Maintaining or Increasing Species Population or Range (High/medium/low)
Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*	Conservation status: Red Declining UK breeding population: 74% decline 1967–2022 (BTO, 2025).	Estimated ten pairs within the District. Dramatic decline (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh.	Low
Common Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*	Conservation status: Amber Increasing UK breeding population: 49% decrease 1967–2022 (BTO, 2025).	Estimated 50 pairs bullfinch within Selby District (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Traditional orchards and lowland mixed deciduous woodland.	Low

Common & Scientific Name	National Status	Local Status	Supporting habitats for Species of Importance within drainage district	IDB Potential for Maintaining or Increasing Species Population or Range (High/medium/low)
Twite *Linaria flavirostris*	Conservation status: Red Declining The UK wide population decline between 1999 and 2013 was not statistically significant (BTO, 2025)	In decline. On passage or wintering at Beal Carrs (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Arable farmland	Low
Linnet *Linaria cannabina*	Conservation status: Red Declining UK breeding population: 23% decline 1995–2022 (BTO, 2025).	Status unknown (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Arable farmland and hedgerows.	Medium

Common & Scientific Name	National Status	Local Status	Supporting habitats for Species of Importance within drainage district	IDB Potential for Maintaining or Increasing Species Population or Range (High/medium/low)
Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*	Conservation status: Red Stable. UK breeding population: 83% decline 1967–2022 (BTO, 2025).	In decline. Estimated 25 pairs (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Arable farmland.	Low
Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*	Conservation status: Red Declining UK breeding population: 64% decline 1967–2022 (BTO, 2025).	Locally declining but population status unknown (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Arable field margins and hedgerows.	Medium
Mammals				
Harvest Mouse *Micromys minutus*	Conservation status: UK Red List. Declining.	Status unknown (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh. Hedgerows.	Low

Common & Scientific Name	National Status	Local Status	Supporting habitats for Species of Importance within drainage district	IDB Potential for Maintaining or Increasing Species Population or Range (High/medium/low)
Brown Hare *Lepus europaeus*	Conservation status: UK Red List Declining.	Widespread and population assumed stable (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Arable farmland and hedgerows.	Low
Water Vole *Arvicola amphibius*	Conservation status: Endangered Approx. population of 132,000	Records exist for the Ouse sub-catchment. Current status is unclear (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Waterbodies.	Medium
Otter *Lutra lutra*	Conservation status: Least concern	'There is some evidence of activity on the Aire…with otters possibly resident in the Lower Aire. The Ouse and the Selby canal act as the main corridors linking the other river systems.' (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Likely to occupy larger river systems but could use the smaller watercourses for foraging and commuting opportunities.	Low

Common & Scientific Name	National Status	Local Status	Supporting habitats for Species of Importance within drainage district	IDB Potential for Maintaining or Increasing Species Population or Range (High/medium/low)
West European Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*	Conservation status: Least concern	Status unknown.	Hedgerows and lowland mixed deciduous woodland.	Low
Daubenton's Bat *Myotis daubentonii*	Conservation status: Least concern	Locally widespread; mainly confined to freshwater habitats.	Eutrophic standing water / Ponds	Medium
Natterer's Bat *Myotis nattereri*	Conservation status: Least concern	Rare; few roosts known.	Deciduous woodland / Traditional orchards	Low
Whiskered Bat *Myotis mystacinus*	Conservation status: Data deficient	Local; few roosts known.	Deciduous woodland / Hedgerows	Low
Brandt's Bat *Myotis brandtii*.	Conservation status: Data deficient	Rare; few roosts known.	Deciduous woodland / Traditional orchards Eutrophic standing water / Ponds	Low
Noctule Bat *Nyctalus noctula*.	Conservation status: Least concern	Widely but thinly distributed. Few roosts known.	Deciduous woodland / Traditional orchards /	Low

Common & Scientific Name	National Status	Local Status	Supporting habitats for Species of Importance within drainage district	IDB Potential for Maintaining or Increasing Species Population or Range (High/medium/low)
Common Pipistrelle Bat *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*.	Conservation status: Least concern	Widespread and fairly common.	Deciduous woodland / Traditional orchards / Hedgerows / Grazing marsh / lowland meadows Arable field margins	Medium
Soprano Pipistrelle Bat *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*.	Conservation status: Least concern	More local than common pipistrelle. Few roosts known.	Deciduous woodland / Traditional orchards / Hedgerows / Eutrophic standing water / Ponds	Low
Brown long-eared Bat *Plecotus auritus*.	Conservation status: Least concern	Widespread, but local. Restricted by availability of suitable roost sites.	Deciduous woodland / Traditional orchards /	Medium

Common & Scientific Name	National Status	Local Status	Supporting habitats for Species of Importance within drainage district	IDB Potential for Maintaining or Increasing Species Population or Range (High/medium/low)
Invertebrates				
Aquatic beetle *Helophorus strigifrons*	Nationally scarce (neither red list nor near threatened) (Foster, 2010).	Camblesforth. Scarce/threatened. Associated with shallow fen pools (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Lowland Fen	Medium
Aquatic beetle - *Acilius canaliculatus*	Nationally scarce (neither red list nor near threatened) (Foster, 2010).	Scarce or threatened (e.g. present in neighbouring SSSI, Skipwith Common) (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Lowland Fen	Medium
Aquatic beetle - *Agabus labiatus*	Near threatened (Foster, 2010).	Seriously declining. Scarce or threatened (e.g. present in neighbouring SSSI, Skipwith Common) (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Lowland Fen	Medium

Common & Scientific Name	National Status	Local Status	Supporting habitats for Species of Importance within drainage district	IDB Potential for Maintaining or Increasing Species Population or Range (High/medium/low)
Aquatic beetle - *Dryops auriculatus*	Near threatened (Foster, 2010).	Scarce or threatened (e.g. present in neighbouring SSSI, Skipwith Common) (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Lowland Fen	Medium
Plants				
Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*	Moderate decline (BSBI, 2020).	Relatively widespread within ancient woodlands within the District (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Low
Green hellebore *Helleborus viridis*	Moderate Decline (BSBI, 2020).	Present on single site on Magnesian Limestone. Healthy population recorded in 2002 (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Lowland Meadows	Low

Common & Scientific Name	National Status	Local Status	Supporting habitats for Species of Importance within drainage district	IDB Potential for Maintaining or Increasing Species Population or Range (High/medium/low)
Primrose *Primula vulgaris*	Moderate decline, beginning to stabilise (BSBI, 2020).	Status unknown (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland and hedgerows	Medium
Fish				
Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*	Rare and endangered in the UK (C&RT, 2020).	Present within the River Ouse (migratory route) (NYCC et. al., 2004).	River	Low
Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*	Rare and endangered in the UK (C&RT, 2025).	Present within the River Ouse (migratory route) (NYCC et. al., 2004).	River	Low
River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*	Rare and endangered in the UK (C&RT, 2025a).	Present within the River Ouse (migratory route) (NYCC et. al., 2004).	River	Low
Atlantic Salmon *Salmo salar*	Endangered in the UK (H&IoWWT, 2025).	Present within the River Ouse (migratory route)	River	Low

Common & Scientific Name	National Status	Local Status	Supporting habitats for Species of Importance within drainage district	IDB Potential for Maintaining or Increasing Species Population or Range (High/medium/low)
		(NYCC et. al., 2004).		
European Eel *Anguilla anguilla*	Conservation status: Critically endangered.	Local status is unknown.	Watercourses - unknown population	Medium
Herptiles				
Great Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus*	Conservation status: Least concern	'Some records exist for the District, however, there have not been any systematic surveys so the current status is unclear. Possibly widespread in the District' (NYCC et. al., 2004).	Ponds	Medium
Common Toad *Bufo bufo*	Conservation status: Least concern	Status unknown	Water bodies	Medium

Common & Scientific Name	National Status	Local Status	Supporting habitats for Species of Importance within drainage district	IDB Potential for Maintaining or Increasing Species Population or Range (High/medium/low)
Grass Snake *Natrix helvetica*	Conservation status: Least concern	Status unknown	Water bodies	Medium

4 Habitat Action Plan

As detailed in the Habitat Audit summary (Table 3-2), the Habitats of Principal Importance present within the SAIDB boundary are:

- Deciduous woodland
- Traditional orchards
- Grazing marsh
- Lowland meadows
- Ponds
- Mudflats
- Lowland Fen

As well as the above habitats identified using the Habitats of Principal Importance inventory, the following important habitats are also deemed to be present within the Board's boundary:

- Eutrophic standing water
- Arable field margins
- Hedgerows

The above habitats will be addressed within the following sections, apart from deciduous woodland, traditional orchards and littoral habitats for which the IDB has little remit to influence or cover a very small area of the Board's boundary.

4.1 UK Broad Habitat - Standing Open Waters and Canals

4.1.1 Ponds

High-quality ponds are very localised and in areas these ponds form particularly significant elements of the landscape. Priority Habitat ponds are determined based on several criteria, as detailed in the UK BAP Priority Habitat Descriptions Ponds (JNCC, 2008a). Standing open water bodies can be either of human or natural origin. Ponds are small bodies of water between 1m² and 2ha in area, which hold water for more than four months in a year. They are of great importance for wildlife, supporting a large number of invertebrates as well as other species.

There are six records of ponds being present within the Board's boundary; these are mainly located towards the South-East of the District. Several of these ponds have historically supported Great Crested Newts *Triturus cristatus* (GCN) e.g. there are records dated 2019 within two ponds at Barlow Common that have positively identified GCN as being present.

4.1.1.1 Targets and Actions

4.1.1.2 The Board has agreed one target which will be achieved by a single action.

Target 1. Ensure any IDB works do not have a detrimental impact upon ponds within the district.

Action:

- Any works within or in close proximity (i.e. within 15m) to a pond will require an ecological assessment by a suitably qualified ecologist to ensure the works will not impact upon the habitat.

4.1.1.3 Indicators and Reporting

For Target 1 the indicators of delivery will be the number of surveys undertaken.

Reporting will be ongoing, as surveys are completed.

4.1.2 Eutrophic Standing Water

Physical and chemical status

Eutrophic standing waters are highly productive because plant nutrients are plentiful, either naturally or as a result of artificial enrichment. These water bodies are characterised by having dense, long-term populations of algae in mid-summer, often making the water green. Their beds are covered by dark anaerobic mud, rich in organic matter. Many lowland water bodies in the UK are now heavily polluted with high nutrient concentrations. Eutrophic waters are most typical of hard water areas of the lowlands of southern and eastern Britain.

Biological status

In their natural state, eutrophic waters have high biodiversity. Planktonic algae and zooplankton are abundant in the water column, submerged vegetation is diverse and numerous species of invertebrate and fish are present. Plant assemblages differ according to geographical area and nutrient concentration. Common floating-leaved plants include Yellow Water Lily *Nuphar lutea* and there is often a marginal fringe of reed swamp, which is an important component of the aquatic ecosystems.

Benthic invertebrates such as snails, dragonflies and water beetles are abundant, and calcareous sites may support large populations of the native freshwater White-clawed Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*. Coarse fish such as Roach *Rutilus rutilus*, Tench *Tinca tinca* and Pike *Esox lucius* are typical of eutrophic standing waters, but salmonids also occur naturally in some. Amphibians, including the protected Great Crested Newt, are often present and the abundance of food can support internationally important bird populations.

In water bodies which are heavily enriched as a result of human activity, biodiversity is depressed because planktonic and filamentous algae (blanketweed) increase rapidly at the expense of other aquatic organisms. Sensitive organisms, such as many of the pondweed Potamogeton and stonewort *Chara* species, then disappear and water bodies may reach a relatively stable but biologically impoverished state.

The Board identified this habitat in its 2020-2025 BAP and implemented actions; the below targets build on those actions.

4.1.2.1 Targets and Actions

The Board has agreed two targets for the Habitat Action Plan for Eutrophic Standing Waters.

Target 1. Maintain and enhance the existing habitat and species diversity of watercourses within the Drainage District

Action:

- Ensure the appropriate management of the Board maintained watercourses through an Integrated Biodiversity Action Plan and Maintenance Regime by following best practice guidance and providing Contractor training.
- Identify and assess potential environmental impacts of all new discharges into Board maintained watercourses.
- Ensure any Board consents cause minimum environmental damage to the aquatic habitat.

Target 2. Ensure no further spread of Invasive Non-native Species (INNS) along and within Board maintained watercourses and aim to control these species.

Action:

- Record and monitor non-native invasive plant and animal species.
- Report INNS findings to local record centres.
- Contractor training on non-native invasive species.

4.1.2.2 Indicators and Reporting

For IDB actions in connection with Target 1, the indicators of delivery will be:

- This Plan production.
- The number of operatives/contractor trained and/or the number of training sessions held.
- The number of new discharges assessed.
- The number of consents assessed.

Indicators of delivery for Target 2 will be:

- The number of records submitted to local record centres.
- Measures put in place to reduce spread.

Reporting on all actions will be annually.

4.2 UK Broad Habitat - Arable and Horticultural

4.2.1 Arable Field Margins

Arable field margins are herbaceous strips or blocks around arable fields that are managed specifically to provide wildlife benefits. Arable field margins are usually on the 2-12m outer margin of the arable field. The following margin types are included: cultivated, low-input margins; margins sown to provide seed for wild birds; margins sown with wildflowers or agricultural legumes and managed to allow flowering to provide pollen and nectar resources for invertebrates; and, margins providing permanent, grass strips with mixtures of tussocky and fine-leaved grasses. Arable margins provide important habitat for a number of birds, butterflies, and numerous other invertebrates as well as supporting threatened and important species of arable flora.

The known amount of arable field margins across the Board's district is unknown, but coverage is likely to be extensive.

4.2.1.1 Targets and Actions

The Board has agreed two targets which will be delivered by four actions.

Target 1. Maintain and improve the quality of current arable field margins within the Board's district.

Actions:

- Encourage appropriate management techniques for field margins adjacent to IDB watercourses.
- Reduce disturbance to ground nesting birds using arable field margins adjacent to IDB watercourses from IDB operations.

Target 2. Maintain and expand the current extent of arable field margins within the Board's district.

Actions:

- Encourage the creation of arable field margins adjacent to IDB watercourses.
- Encourage an increase in margins containing plant species which provide seed for wild birds and sources of nectar and pollen.

4.2.1.2 Indicators and Reporting

The indicators of delivery for Target 1 will be:

- The number of landowners advised regarding appropriate management techniques.
- The start date for annual maintenance to avoid disturbance to ground nesting birds.

For Target 2, the indicators of delivery will be the number of landowners advised.

Reporting on all actions will be annually.

4.3 UK Broad Habitat - Boundary and Linear Features

4.3.1 Hedgerows

A hedgerow is defined as any boundary line of trees or shrubs over 20m long and less than 5m wide, and where any gaps between the trees or shrub species are less than 20m wide (Bickmore, 2002). Any bank, wall, ditch or tree within 2m of the centre of the hedgerow is considered to be part of the hedgerow habitat, as is the herbaceous vegetation within 2m of the centre of the hedgerow. All hedgerows consisting predominantly (i.e. 80% or more cover) of at least one woody UK native species are covered by this priority habitat, where each UK country can define the list of woody species native to their respective country. Climbers such as Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum* and Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. are recognised as integral to many hedgerows, however, they require other woody plants to be present to form a distinct woody boundary feature; as such they are not included in the definition of woody species. The definition is limited to boundary lines of trees or shrubs and excludes banks or walls without woody shrubs on top of them.

There are likely to be several kilometres of hedgerow within proximity to Board maintained watercourses, many running parallel with the public highway.

4.3.1.1 Targets and Actions

The Board agreed two targets which will be delivered by four actions.

Target 1. Identify and determine status of hedgerows close to Board maintained watercourses.

Actions:

- Survey Board maintained hedgerows alongside and adjoining IDB watercourses.
- Identify ancient and species-rich hedgerows.

Target 2. Ensure no net loss of hedgerow though the operations of the Board.

Actions:

- Monitor all maintenance and new capital works to ensure any hedgerow removal is compensated by re-planting species-rich hedgerows.
- Ensure no damage to existing hedgerows caused by the operations of the Board.

4.3.1.2 Indicators and Reporting

The indicators for Target 1 will be:

- The length of hedgerow surveyed.

Indicators for Target 2 will be

- The number of capital schemes monitored.
- The length of protected/remaining hedgerow intact.

Reporting will be on an annual basis.

4.4 UK Broad Habitat - Improved Grassland

4.4.1 Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh

Grazing marsh is defined as periodically inundated pasture, or meadow, with ditches which maintain the water levels. Nearly all areas are grazed and some are cut for hay or silage. This habitat does not contain extensive tall fen species, such as reedbeds. This habitat is important habitat for a number of breeding waders and wintering wildfowl.

Floodplain Grazing Marsh priority habitat within the Board's district lies predominantly towards the South-East of the District (where this habitat is more extensive in coverage).

4.4.1.1 Targets and Actions

The Board agreed two targets which will be delivered by two actions.

Target 1. Maintain current extent and quality of grazing marshes adjacent to IDB watercourses within the Selby Area IDB district.

Action:

- Any proposed works will need to identify if floodplain grazing marsh is present within the works area. If the priority habitat is present, works will need to ensure that this habitat is not negatively impacted upon.

Target 2. Enhance the habitat within works areas.

Action:

- In areas where works are taking place within this priority habitat, improvements to the habitat should be sought. This could include improving marginal species richness along the watercourses either via reducing/altering the cutting regime or carrying out marginal planting.

4.4.1.2 Indicators and Reporting

The indicators for Target 1 will be:

- The number of works that identified floodplain grazing marsh and did not cause any adverse impacts.

Target 2 indicators will be:

- The amount of habitat improvements carried out annually.

Reporting will be on an annual basis.

4.5 UK Broad Habitat - Neutral Grassland

4.5.1 Lowland Meadows

Lowland meadows are defined as unimproved neutral grassland within the lowlands (i.e. low soil nutrient levels). They can be grazed or ungrazed and tend to comprise the following vegetation communities: *Cynosurus cristatus-Centaurea nigra* grassland, *Alopecurus pratensis-Sanguisorba officinalis* floodplain meadow and *Cynosurus cristatus-Caltha palustris* flood-pasture. Lowland Meadows are not restricted to an agricultural context; they can be found on road verges and recreational ground. They support farmland birds e.g. Skylark. The habitat is in decline and has become fragmented (largely due to the intensification of agriculture and loss of traditional farming techniques) (JNCC, 2008).

Within the District, the best examples of Lowland Meadows are Eskamhorn Meadows and Burr Closes SSSIs.

4.5.1.1 Targets and Actions

The Board has agreed to two targets which will be delivered by three actions.

Target 1. Maintain current extent and quality of lowland meadow adjacent to IDB watercourses within the district.

Actions:

- Assess and map the current extent of lowland meadows adjacent to IDB watercourses within the district.
- Encourage appropriate management techniques for lowland meadow areas.

Target 2. Protect Eskamhorn Meadows and Burr Closes SSSIs during IDB operations

Actions:

- Notify Natural England (NE) to obtain assent for any works within proximity to these SSSIs that may affect the interest features of the sites.

4.5.1.2 Indicators and Reporting

The indicators for Target 1 will be:

- The area assessed within the district and number of landowners advised.

The indicator for Target 2 will be:

- Where applicable, the number of projects which gained NE assent.

Reporting will be on an annual basis.

4.6 UK Broad Habitat - Fen, Marsh and Swamp

4.6.1 Lowland Fens

Fens are peatlands which receive water and nutrients from the soil, rock and groundwater as well as from rainfall. Fens can be described as 'poor-fens' or rich-fens'. Poor-fens are where the water is derived from base-poor rock (e.g. sandstones and granites) which occur mainly in the uplands or are associated with lowland heaths. They support short vegetation with a high proportion of bog mosses *Sphagnum* spp. and acid water (pH of 5 or less). Rich-fens are fed my mineral-enriched calcareous waters (pH 5 or more) and are primarily in lowlands. Fens support a diversity of plant and animal communities.

There are a few pockets of lowland fens within the Board's district with a large area within the bend of the River Aire near Rawcliffe.

4.6.1.1 Targets and Actions

The Board has agreed to one target which will be delivered by two actions.

Target 1. Maintain current extent and quality of lowland fen adjacent to IDB watercourses within the district.

Actions:

- Assess and map the current extent of lowland fen adjacent to IDB watercourses within the district.
- Encourage appropriate management techniques for lowland fen areas.

4.6.1.2 Indicators and Reporting

The indicators for Target 1 will be the area assessed within the district and number of landowners advised.

Reporting will be on an annual basis.

5 Species Action Plan

5.1 Species of Principal Importance

Species of Principal Importance under the NERC Act (2006) that are present within the SAIDB district, as detailed in Table 3-3, include:

- Birds
  - Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*
  - Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*
  - Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*
  - Skylark *Alauda arvensis*
  - Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*
  - Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*
  - House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
  - Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*
- Mammals
  - Harvest Mouse *Micromys minutus*
  - Brown Hare *Lepus europaeus*
  - Water Vole *Arvicola amphibius*
  - Otter *Lutra lutra*
  - West European Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*
  - Noctule Bat *Nyctalus noctula*
  - Soprano Pipistrelle Bat *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*
  - Brown long-eared Bat *Plecotus auritus*
- Herptiles
  - Great Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus*
  - Common Toad *Bufo bufo*
  - Grass Snake *Natrix helvetica*
- Fish
  - Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*
  - Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*
  - River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*
  - Atlantic Salmon *Salmo salar*
  - European Eel *Anguilla anguilla*

Not identified as Species of Principal Importance but are considered important species within the Board's district include:

- Birds
  - Barn Owl *Tyto alba*
  - Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*
  - Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*
  - Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

- Redshank *Tringa totanus*
- Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*
- Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*
- Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*
- Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*
- Twite *Linaria flavirostris*
- Linnet *Linaria cannabina*
- Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

- Mammals
  - Daubenton's Bat *Myotis daubentonii*
  - Natterer's Bat *Myotis nattereri*
  - Whiskered Bat *Myotis mystacinus*
  - Brandt's Bat *Myotis brandtii*
  - Common Pipistrelle Bat *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*
- Plants
  - Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*
  - Green hellebore *Helleborus viridis*
  - Primrose *Primula vulgaris*
- Invertebrates
  - Aquatic beetle *Helophorus strigifrons*
  - Aquatic beetle *Acilius canaliculatus*
  - Aquatic beetle *Agabus labiatus*
  - Aquatic beetle *Dryops auriculatus*

To ensure targets and actions are achievable within the 5-year period of this BAP, not all species listed above have been included in the Species Action Plans below. Instead, specific species have been identified where actions and targets are more achievable within the Board's district.

5.2 Birds

5.2.1 Lapwing

Lapwing are a section 41 Species of Principal Importance and are deemed likely to be present within the Board's district due to the habitats this species occupies. Lapwing are associated with farmland habitats and due to their significant population declines they are a Red List species. They are a ground nesting bird, forming simple scrapes in mud or sand.

5.2.1.1 Targets and Actions

The Board has agreed to one target which will be achieved by a single action.

Target 1. To understand the distribution of Lapwing within the Board's district.

Action:

- Record all sightings of Lapwing when undertaking site visits within the Board's district. Submit these records to the local records centre.

5.2.1.2 Indicators and Reporting

Indicators for the above target will be the number of records.

Reporting will be annually.

5.2.2 Barn Owl

Section 41 does not identify Barn Owl as a species of principal importance, however, much of the Board's district is situated within farmland which Barn Owl occupy and the Board's district includes open farmland and pockets of woodland, offering suitable foraging ground for Barn Owl. In addition, Barn Owl is listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Barn Owl are known to be present within the District and have been recorded within a pumping station compound.

The Board identified this species in its 2020-2025 BAP and implemented actions, the below targets build on those actions.

5.2.2.1 Targets and Actions

The Board has agreed to two targets which will be delivered by two actions.

Target 1. Enhance Barn Owl numbers within the Board's district.

Action:

- Erect at least three new Barn Owl boxes within the Board's district - pumping stations represent an ideal location to do so.

Target 2. Monitor the use of the Barn Owl boxes in IDB ownership.

Action:

- Monitor the Barn Owl boxes, including maintenance, and submit all Barn Owl records from the Board's district to local record centres.

5.2.2.2 Indictors and Reporting

Target 1 indicators will be represented by:

- The number of Barn Owl boxes erected.

Target 2 indicators will be represented by:

- The number of monitoring visits and records submitted.

Reporting on these actions will be annually.

5.3 Mammals

5.3.1 Water Vole

Water Vole is a protected species under Section 9, Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and a Section 41 Species of Principal Importance. They primarily occupy well vegetated, shallow, sloping banks alongside watercourses where burrowing is feasible into an earth bank. Water Vole numbers and their distribution has declined significantly, with several locations across Britain with no Water Vole populations.

Water Vole have been recorded historically within the District on the following Board maintained drains:

- Brown Cow Drain, Barlow
- Bishop Dyke, Barkston Ash
- Black Fen Drain, Wistow Lordship
- Lordship Lane Drain, Wistow Lordship.

The habitat here and within the district more widely is considered suitable to support Water Vole, although American Mink *Neovison vison* (which predate Water Vole) are believed to be established within the District.

The Board identified this species in its 2015-2025 BAP and the below targets and actions build upon these previous actions.

5.3.1.1 Targets and Actions

The Board has agreed to three targets which will be delivered by six actions.

Target 1. Maintain and enhance suitable habitat for Water Vole within Board maintained watercourses.

Actions:

- Ensure appropriate habitat management of Board maintained watercourses through environmental best practice guidance with known Water Vole populations.
- Review maintenance regimes and identify watercourses where mowing and weed cutting regime can be altered to enhance and increase Water Vole habitat in accordance with Board watercourse maintenance priority.
- Aim to implement American Mink control at suitable locations across the district.

Target 2. Ensure all Board works comply with relevant legislation protecting Water Vole and its habitat.

Actions:

- Provide training to Board Contractors on legislation pertaining to Water Vole, its habitat and best practice maintenance.

Target 3. Monitor populations of Water Vole within the drainage district.

Actions:

- Undertake monitoring of all key Water Vole populations within the drainage district. This should be completed by a suitably qualified ecologist.
- Submit all Water Vole records to local record centres.

5.3.1.2 Indicators and Reporting

Target 1 indicators will be represented by:

- Length (m) of watercourse assessed
- Length (m) of watercourse enhanced

Target 2 indicators will be represented by:

- The number of Contractor employees trained

Target 3 indicators will be represented by:

- The number of surveys undertaken
- Number of records submitted to Biological Records Centre

Reporting on these actions will be annually.

5.3.2 Bats

In Britain, all bat species and their roosts are legally protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Species of Principal Importance likely to be present within the Board's district are the Noctule Bat, Soprano Pipistrelle Bat and Brown long-eared Bat.

The target and action detailed below are for bats generally within the District.

5.3.2.1 Targets and Actions

The Board has agreed to one target which will be delivered by one action.

Target 1. Support bat populations within the Board's district.

Action:

- Aim to install at least five bat boxes within the Board's district, these could be erected to suitable trees, preferably on Board owned land (or with landowner permission where possible).

5.3.2.2 Indicators and Reporting

Target 1 indicators will be represented by:

- The successful installation of at least five bat boxes.

Reporting will be on an annual basis.

5.4 Herptiles

5.4.1 Great Crested Newts

A Species Action Plan for Great Crested Newts *Triturus cristatus* existed under the UK BAP and they are a Species of Principal Importance under section 41 of the NERC Act (2006). One of the main reasons for this species ongoing decline is that it is under continued threat from development, habitat fragmentation, fish introductions and lack of habitat management as well as pond loss. Many watercourses maintained by the Board are slow moving and contain floating plant species favoured by Newt for securing eggs.

There are six records of ponds being present within the Board's boundary; these are mainly located towards the South-East of the District. Several of these ponds have historically supported Great Crested Newts (GCN) e.g. there are records dated 2019 within two ponds at Barlow Common that have positively identified GCN as being present.

5.4.1.1 Targets and Actions

The Board identified three targets which will be delivered by five actions.

Target 1. Maintain suitable breeding habitat for Great Crested Newts within the district.

Actions:

- Identify standing waterbodies within the district that could support Great Crested Newts.
- Assess the feasibility of undertaking restoration work to these standing waterbodies to improve habitat for Great Crested Newts.

Target 2. Ensure all IDB works comply with relevant legislation protecting Great Crested Newts and their habitats.

Actions:

- Provide training to Board contractors on Great Crested Newts legislation and habitat.

Target 3. Gather data on the distribution of Great Crested Newts within the Board's district.

Action:

- Approach local nature conservation bodies, key contacts and local naturalist groups (and where necessary North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre (NEYEDC)), to establish the distribution of GCN within the District and if possible, an indication of population size.
- Complete eDNA surveys to ascertain likely presence/absence of critical ponds where GCN are suspected to be present.

5.4.1.2 Indicators and Reporting

Indicators for Target 1 will be:

- The number of suitable waterbodies surveyed.

Indicators for Target 2 will be:

- The number of Contractor employees trained.

Indicators for Target 3 will be:

- The number of contacts approached for data.
- The number of eDNA surveys completed.

Reporting will be on an annual basis.

5.4.2 Grass Snake

Grass snake *Natrix natrix* is a Species of Principal Importance in England identified under the NERC Act 2006 and a UK BAP Priority Species.

5.4.2.1 Targets and Actions

The Board has identified one target for Grass Snake which will be delivered by two actions:

Target 1. Maintain compost heaps at several of its pumping station sites.

Actions:

- Using piles of vegetation taken from the watercourse and left to dry. Compost heaps will be exposed to direct sunlight and left undisturbed from June-September.
- Where possible the heaps will remain over winter as hibernacula.

5.4.2.2 Indicators and Reporting

The indicator for the above target will be represented by the number of compost piles established.

Reporting will be on an annual basis.

5.5 Fish

5.5.1 Eel

Eel is protected under the Eel (England and Wales) Regulations 2010. European Eel is Critically Endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) red list of threatened species. IDB pump stations prohibit safe passage of Eel from a pumped catchment and form a barrier to passage into the catchment. Some upstream catchments have altered considerably from that which would have existed before pump stations were built.

5.5.1.1 Targets and Actions

The Board has identified two targets for Eel which will be delivered by two actions.

Target 1. Maintain and enhance suitable habitat for European Eel within the drainage district.

Actions:

- Review maintenance regimes and identify watercourses where the desilting and weed cutting regime can be altered to enhance and increase European Eel habitat.

Target 2: Identify where Eel friendly pumps are in place across the District.

Actions:

- Keep an 'Eel Regulations Compliance Register' and identify where gaps remain (hence where opportunity exists for further work).

5.5.1.2 Indicators and Reporting

Indicators for Target 1 will be:

- The length of watercourse surveyed

Indicators for Target 2 will be:

- The production of an Eel Regs Compliance Register

Reporting will be on an annual basis.

5.6 Invertebrates

Several species of invertebrates are section 41 Species of Principal Importance and are deemed likely to be present within the Board's district due to the presence of associated Habitats of Principal Importance. Many of these species are either nationally scarce or near threatened.

5.6.1.1 Targets and Actions

The Board has identified one target for invertebrates with two actions:

Target 1. Establish presence/absence of target priority invertebrates

Actions:

- Check species atlases in detail to gauge which species are present within the District.
- Engage local invertebrate charities to establish if monitoring has been undertaken within the District or could be undertaken before 2030, where appropriate.

5.6.1.2 Indicators and Reporting

The indicator for the above target will be the number of target priority species reviewed.

Reporting will be on an annual basis.

5.7 Plants

Approximately 150 species of plants receive legal protection through Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). There are various levels of protection according to the rarity of the species.

5.7.1.1 Targets and Actions

Target 1. Increase the diversity of plant species across the District.

Actions:

- Where re-seeding is required post works, use an appropriate diverse species mix, with a range of grasses and herbs and the inclusion of appropriate priority species.

5.7.1.2 Indicators and Reporting

Indicators for Target 1 will be:

- The area of land appropriately re-seeded.

Reporting will be on an annual basis.

5.8 Biodiversity

One of the targets identified in B2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife is to halt biodiversity loss. The Board has a general duty under Section 61 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 (as amended) and under NERC Act (2006) to conserve and enhance biodiversity as part of function.

5.8.1 Targets and Actions

The Board has identified five targets for general biodiversity which will be delivered by nine actions.

Target 1. Promote environmental best practice when undertaking all drainage works

Actions:

- Provide training to IDB contractors in environmental best practice.
- Publicise examples of environmental best practice.

Target 2. Control culverting of watercourses

Action:

- Review land drainage consents and advise appropriately, taking into account non-culverting policy.

Target 3. Improve understanding of species populations present within the Drainage District

Actions:

- Undertake surveys for species, specifically protected species/priority species, where appropriate.
- Submit all records to local biological records centre.

Target 4. Maintain biodiversity within the Drainage District

Action:

- Provision of environmental consideration advice for any Board works.
- Adhere to Check-Clean-Dry to avoid the spread of invasive non-native species, provide toolbox talks to all site contractors.

Target 5. Encourage biodiversity improvements across the District.

Actions:

- Install bird and bat boxes.
- Adjust maintenance regime to improve bankside vegetation.

5.8.2 Indicators and reporting

The Board Target action will be shown delivered by indicators of:

- Number of contractor employees trained
- Number of articles released.
- Number of consents reviewed.
- Number of surveys and records.
- Number of toolbox talks provided.
- Erection of bird and bat boxes.
- Number of watercourses where the maintenance regime was altered to improve bankside vegetation.

Reporting will be on an annual basis.

6 Implementation and Monitoring

The actions detailed in the habitat and species actions plans in the previous sections will be implemented predominantly through minor changes to IDB management and maintenance methods. As well as through additional ecological surveying and monitoring.

Monitoring of this BAP will be required to ensure that the actions detailed in the habitat and species action plans are being implemented. Monitoring of the indicators detailed in the action plans will be undertaken and recorded, generally on an annual basis.

Species and habitats vary naturally over time and monitoring will result in new information. Any new information will be incorporated into the IDB BAP as appropriate.

7 Reviewing and reporting

Progress towards each of the targets is likely to be assessed annually and it is anticipated that the SAIDB BAP will be fully reviewed after five years. However, the production and long-term development of the BAP is a flexible process.

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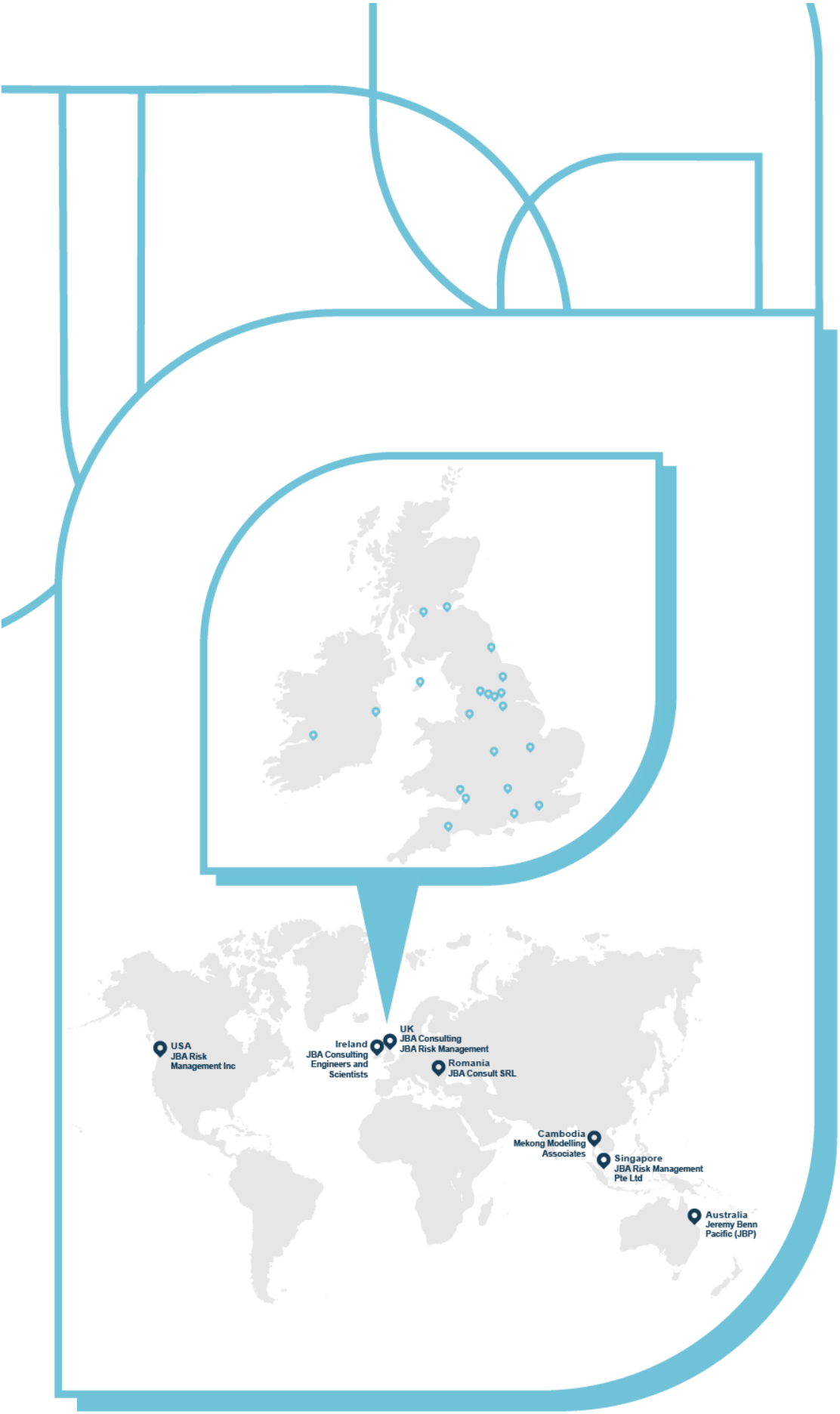

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