

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY PANEL

Minutes from the Meeting of the Environment and Community Panel held on Tuesday, 21st February, 2023 at 4.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ

PRESENT: Councillors C Sampson (Chair), C Bower, A Bubb, A Bullen, S Collop, M de Whalley and T Parish.

PRESENT UNDER STANDING ORDER 34: Councillors I Devereux (on Zoom) and A Kemp.

PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Councillor P Kunes – Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change.

OFFICERS:

Martin Chisholm – Assistant Director

BY INVITATION:

Andrew Newton – Ely Drainage Boards

Phil Hulme – Environment Agency

Anne-Marie Quibell – Environment Agency

EC62: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kirk and Wilkinson.

EC62: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Devereux, Kirk and Wilkinson.

EC63: MINUTES

RESOLVED: The Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

EC64: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

Councillors Devereux, Kunes and Sampson declared interests in item EC68: Update from Ely Drainage Boards as Internal Drainage Board Members.

Councillor Devereux declared an interest in EC69: Roadmap for the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England as a Member of the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.

EC65: **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was none.

EC66: **MEMBERS PRESENT PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 34**

Councillor Kemp.

EC67: **CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

The Chair informed the Panel that he had received correspondence from Friends of Horsey Seals who had produced some posters which could be distributed as appropriate.

EC68: **UPDATE FROM ELY DRAINAGE BOARDS**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

Andrew Newton from Ely Drainage Boards provided the Panel with an update. A copy of the presentation is attached.

The Chair thanked Andrew Newton for the update and invited questions and comments from the Panel, as summarised below.

In response to a question from the Chair, Andrew Newton explained that the equipment used to keep waterways clear was expensive, therefore it was important to have funds available for replacements and repairs. Costs of equipment were also increasing, an excavator could cost between £160,000 and £250,000, and the Pumping Station at Downham Market and Stow had cost £2 million.

Councillor de Whalley referred to wetland improvements and asked what the challenges were, whilst acknowledging the benefits such as carbon sequestration and biodiversity. Andrew Newton explained that it was a challenge in that rewetting had to take place over a large scale area and could not be done field by field. The balance of what was needed was also a challenge and decisions needed to be made on whether to store or release water.

In response to a question from Councillor de Whalley it was explained that pumping stations were designed for a certain capacity and there could be issues if the systems could not cope, especially the older stations.

In response to a question from Councillor Devereux, Andrew Newton confirmed that he did work with the Environment Agency.

Councillor Bullen asked if the Drainage Board had taken on any Apprentices and if they had any issues with recruitment. Andrew Newton explained that succession planning was being looked at and he was looking into an Apprentice, but the offices were in a remote location unserved by public transport. He explained that some new enthusiastic members of staff had been employed and were being trained up as required.

In response to a question from Councillor Bullen, it was confirmed that the Fens were shrinking and the challenge was that people who were unaffected by floods did not often appreciate the importance of the Internal Drainage Board networks to protect inland areas.

In response to a question from Councillor Bower regarding environmentally friendly sources of power, Andrew Newton explained that the electric used was on a green tariff, but unfortunately wind and solar power would not be enough to power the stations and often the sites were not big enough to house PV panels. Opportunities were being looked at for the future, such as Hydrogen.

Councillor Bower asked about contaminates in the water and Andrew Newton explained that this was not within the remit of the Internal Drainage Board, however it was an issue if water was being used for irrigation and the Internal Drainage Board worked with the Environment Agency as required. Councillor Parish asked if any monitoring was carried out and Andrew Newton explained that it wasn't but the Internal Drainage Board were reactive to any issues with contamination and could shut off pumps as required.

Councillor Bubb asked about the Reservoirs proposed for Ely and Andrew Newton confirmed that they were outside of Ely Drainage Boards remit.

RESOLVED: The Panel noted the update.

EC69: **ROADMAP FOR THE NATIONAL FLOOD AND COASTAL EROSION RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR ENGLAND**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

Representatives from Environment Agency provided the Panel with an update, as attached.

The Chair thanked officers for the update and invited questions and comments from the Panel, as summarised below.

The Chair was pleased to see that integration had been included in the Strategy as there were so many organisations involved in water management and it was important that there was co-ordination to avoid duplication.

Councillor Bullen referred to the 1953 floods and asked what would happen if these levels were reached today. It was explained that there were no warning systems in place back then. There was also better technology available for forecasting and monitoring and better evacuation plans in place. It was explained that the levels in 2013 had been higher than 1953, but better defences and systems were in place. Councillor Devereux explained that additional warning systems, such as live alerts to phones, were also being looked at.

Councillor Kemp addressed the Panel under Standing Order 34. She referred to flood risk areas in King's Lynn, particularly South Quay and Hardings Way. She asked officers from the Environment Agency for their view on development on flood zones and referred to the Local Plan examination. Phil Hulme from the Environment Agency explained that this would be a matter for her colleagues in the Planning Department at the Environment Agency to comment on and they could perhaps attend a future meeting of the Panel to provide information. In response to a further question from Councillor Kemp, it was explained that the Environment Agency supplied, on their website, a list of insurers who specialised in flood risk areas.

Councillor de Whalley commented that it would be good for the Local Plan Task Group to receive information from the Environment Agency Planning Department.

Councillor de Whalley referred to sea level rises and that the current status of SMP4 was to hold the line. He asked if managed retreat should now be looked at. Phil Hulme explained that all policy options would be looked at going forward.

Councillor Devereux referred to the Wash East Coast Management Strategy Stakeholder Forum which met to keep Stakeholders and Elected Members up to date on the Shoreline Management Plans and he explained that nationally, all Shoreline Management Plans had been reviewed and would be uploaded onto a central system which would be made available on the internet.

The Chair commented that it was important to get information on the Strategy out to Parishes and communities and suggested that a flyer could be included in the Annual Council Tax Bills.

RESOLVED: The Panel noted the update.

EC70: **WORK PROGRAMME AND CABINET FORWARD DECISION LIST**

Councillor Bubb informed the Panel that the Climate Change Informal Working Group had recently met and would like an item to be considered at the next Environment and Community Panel on the advantages and disadvantages of being part of the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership and what would be the consequences should the Council leave the Partnership. The Chair agreed that this could be added to the Agenda for the next meeting.

RESOLVED: The Panel's Work Programme and Cabinet Forward Decisions List was noted.

EC71: **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Environment and Community Panel was scheduled to take place on 4th April 2023 at 4.30pm in the Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn.

The meeting closed at 6.15 pm

Ely



Group of Internal Drainage Boards

Andrew Newton
Engineer to the Boards

IDBs in England

Internal Drainage Boards Map - Association of Drainage Authorities

https://www.ada.org.uk/idb-map/

ada Representing Drainage Water Level & Flood Risk Management Authorities

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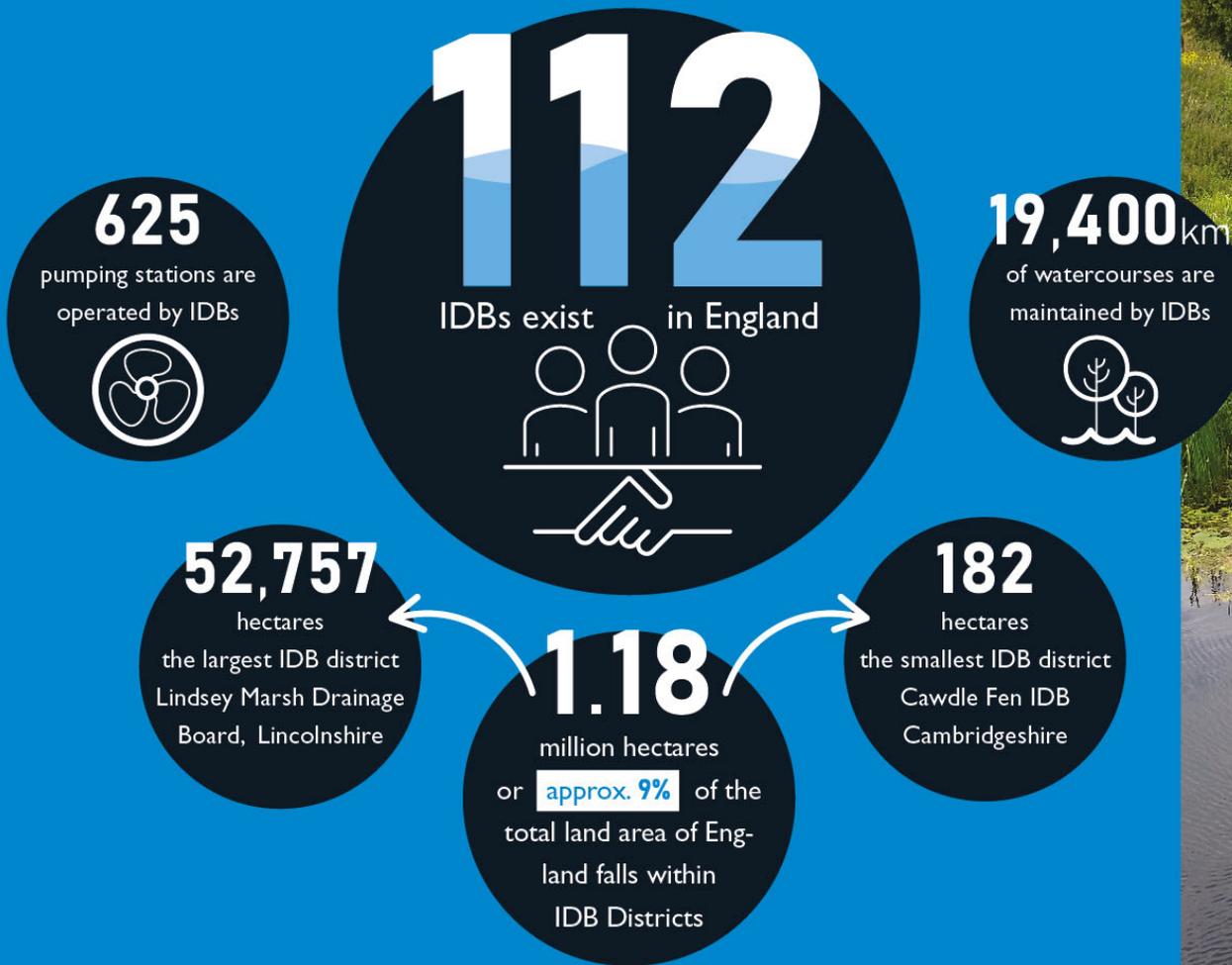
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INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS (IDBs)

Figures taken from annual data returns (IDB1 Forms) submitted by IDBs to Defra for the financial year 2017-18



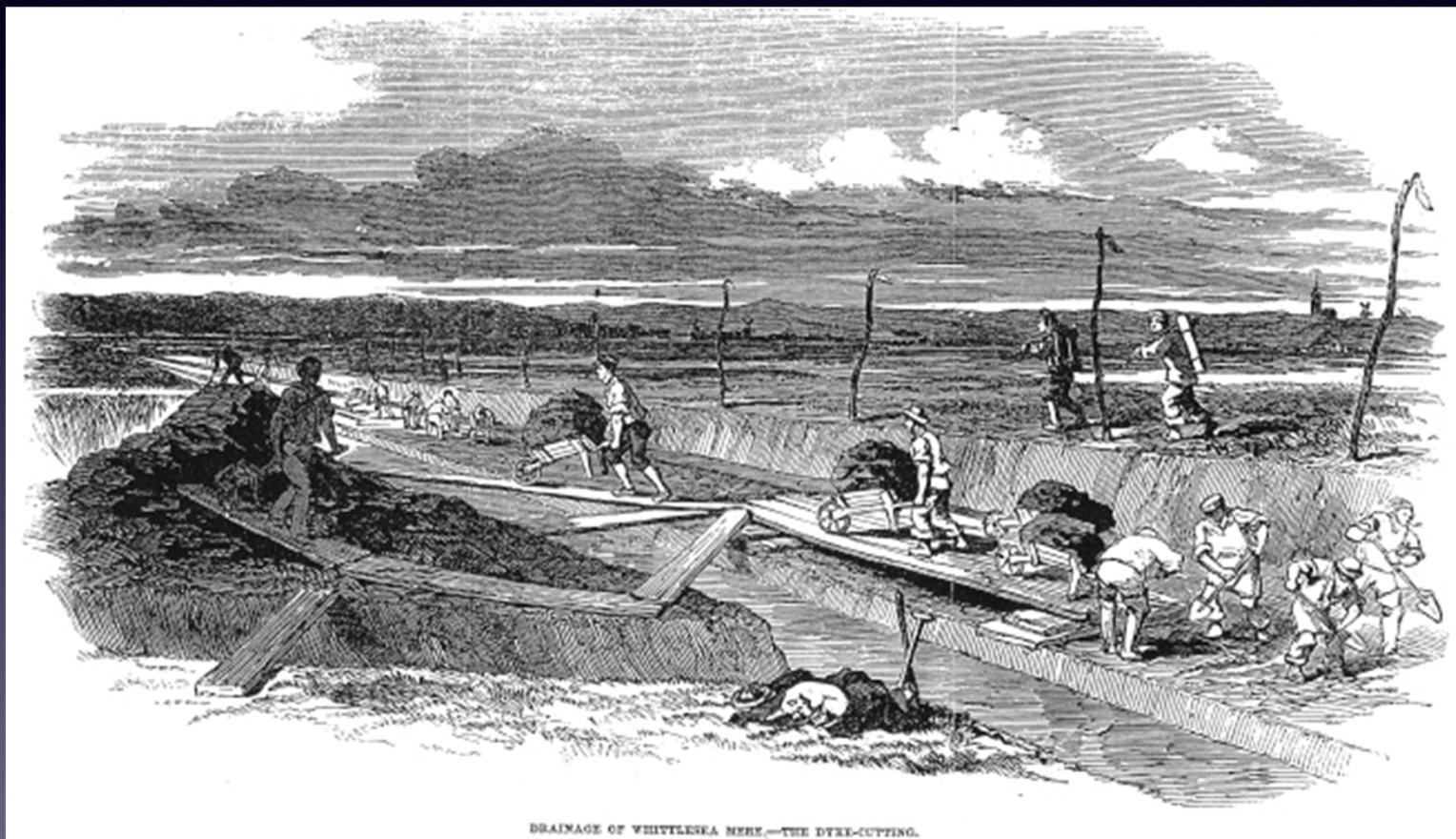
INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS (IDBs) IN FIGURES



Why are IDBS Important



Drainage of the Fens

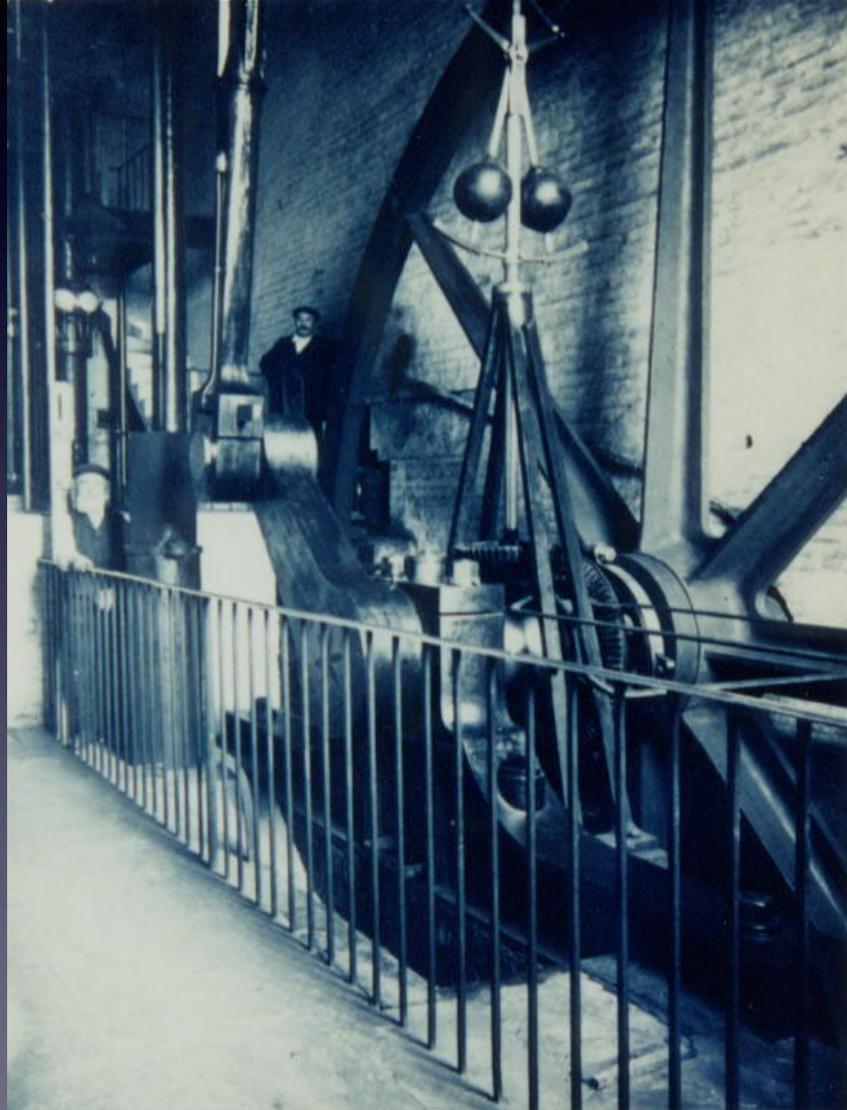


DRAINAGE OF WHITTLESEA MERE,—THE DYKE-CUTTING.

Wind



Steam





Diesel



Puny Pumping Station



Downham Market Group of IDBs

Downham and Stow

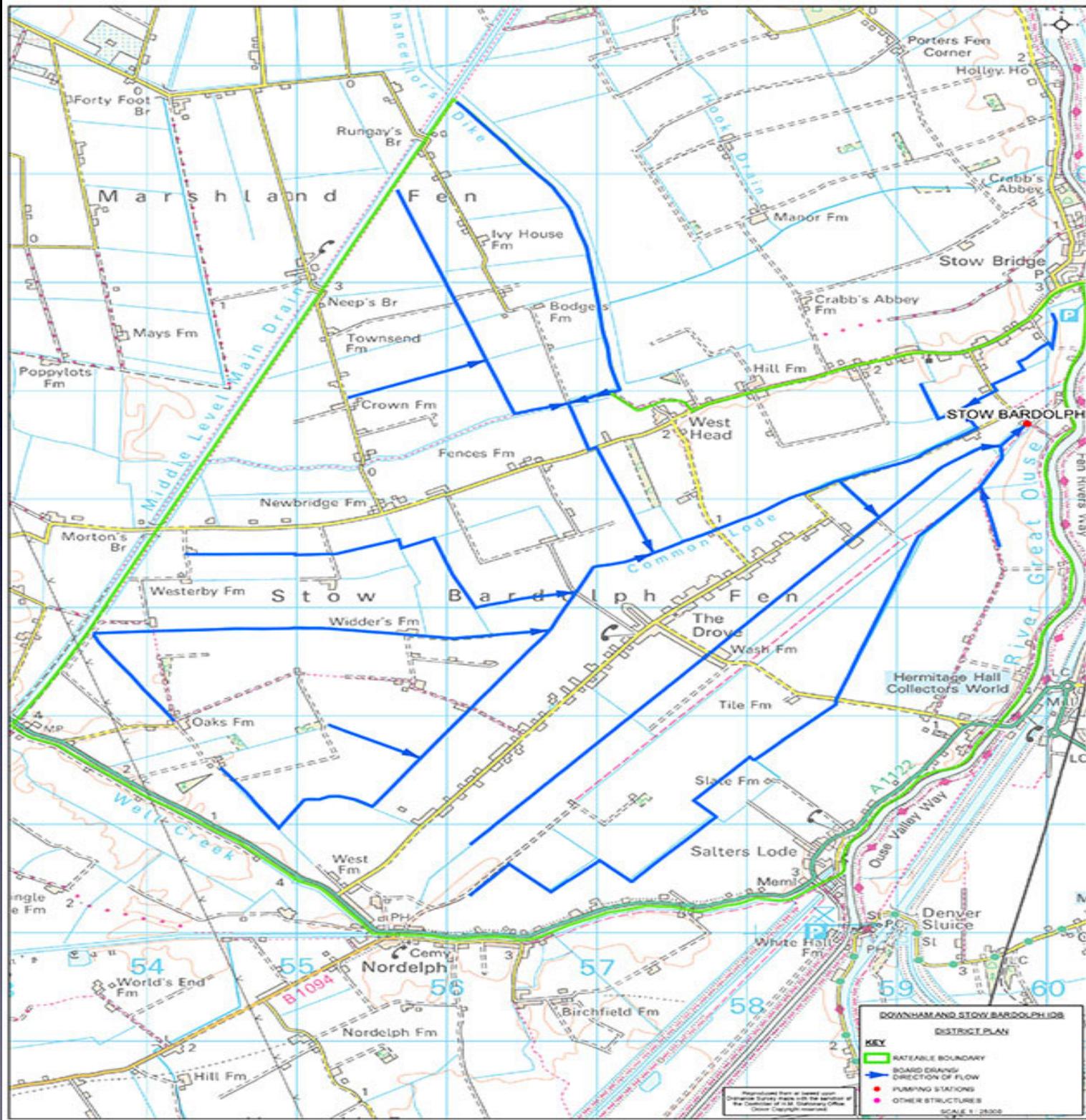
East of Ouse, Polver and
Nar

Northwold

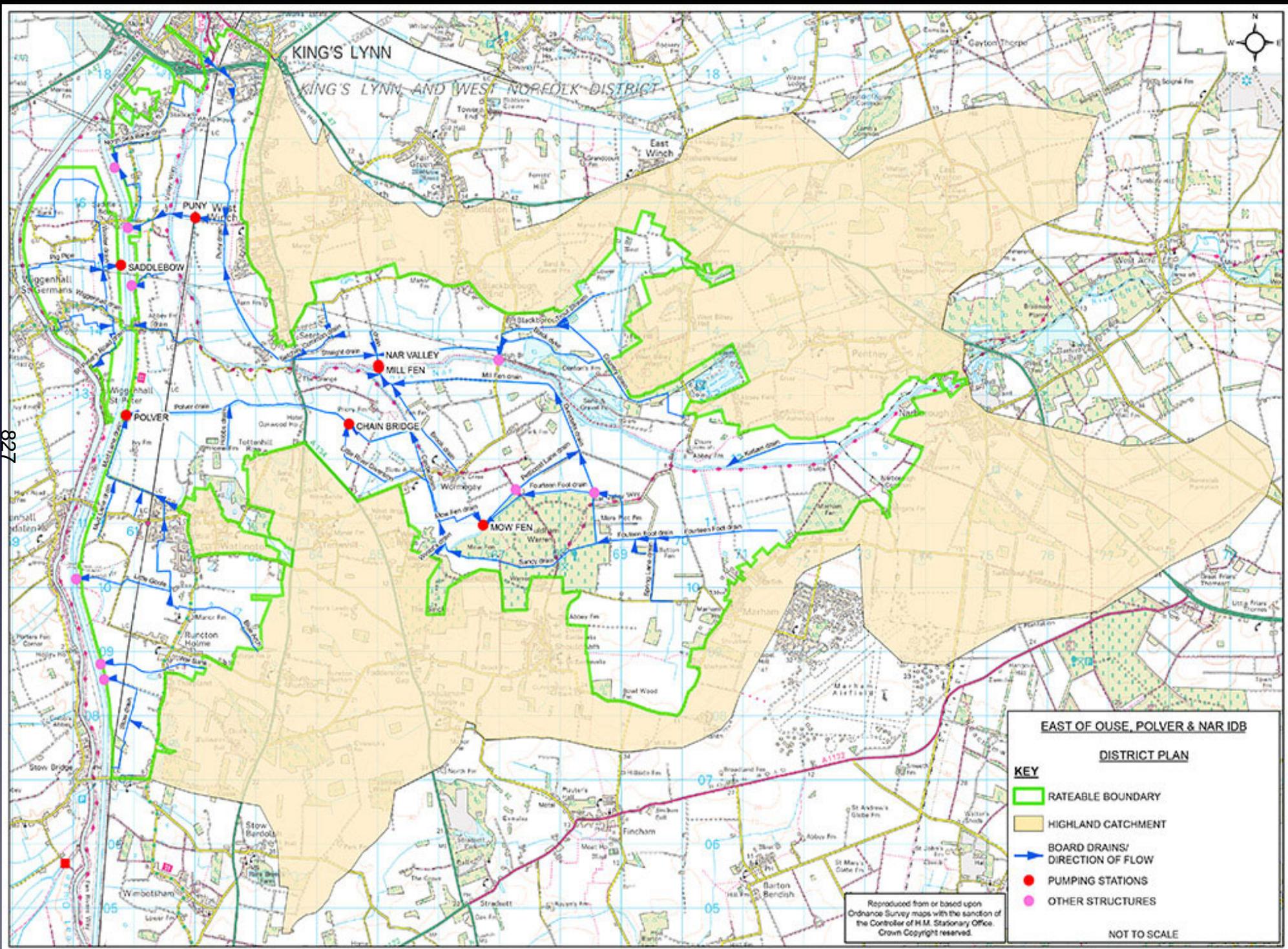
Southery and District

Stringside

Stoke Ferry



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KING'S LYNN
KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK DISTRICT

EAST OF OUSE, POLVER & NAR IDB

DISTRICT PLAN

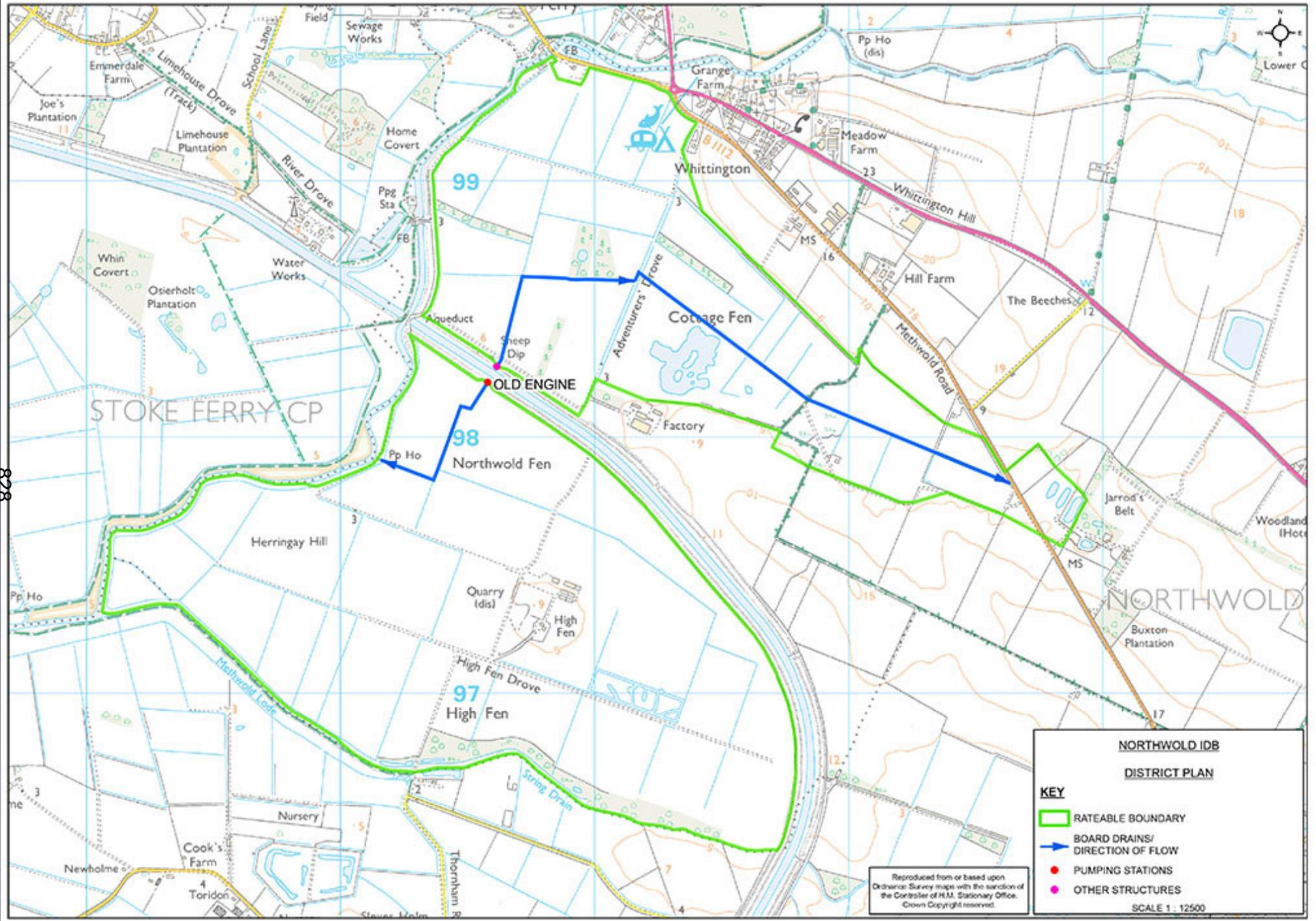
KEY

- █ RATEABLE BOUNDARY
- HIGHLAND CATCHMENT
- BOARD DRAINS/
DIRECTION OF FLOW
- PUMPING STATIONS
- OTHER STRUCTURES

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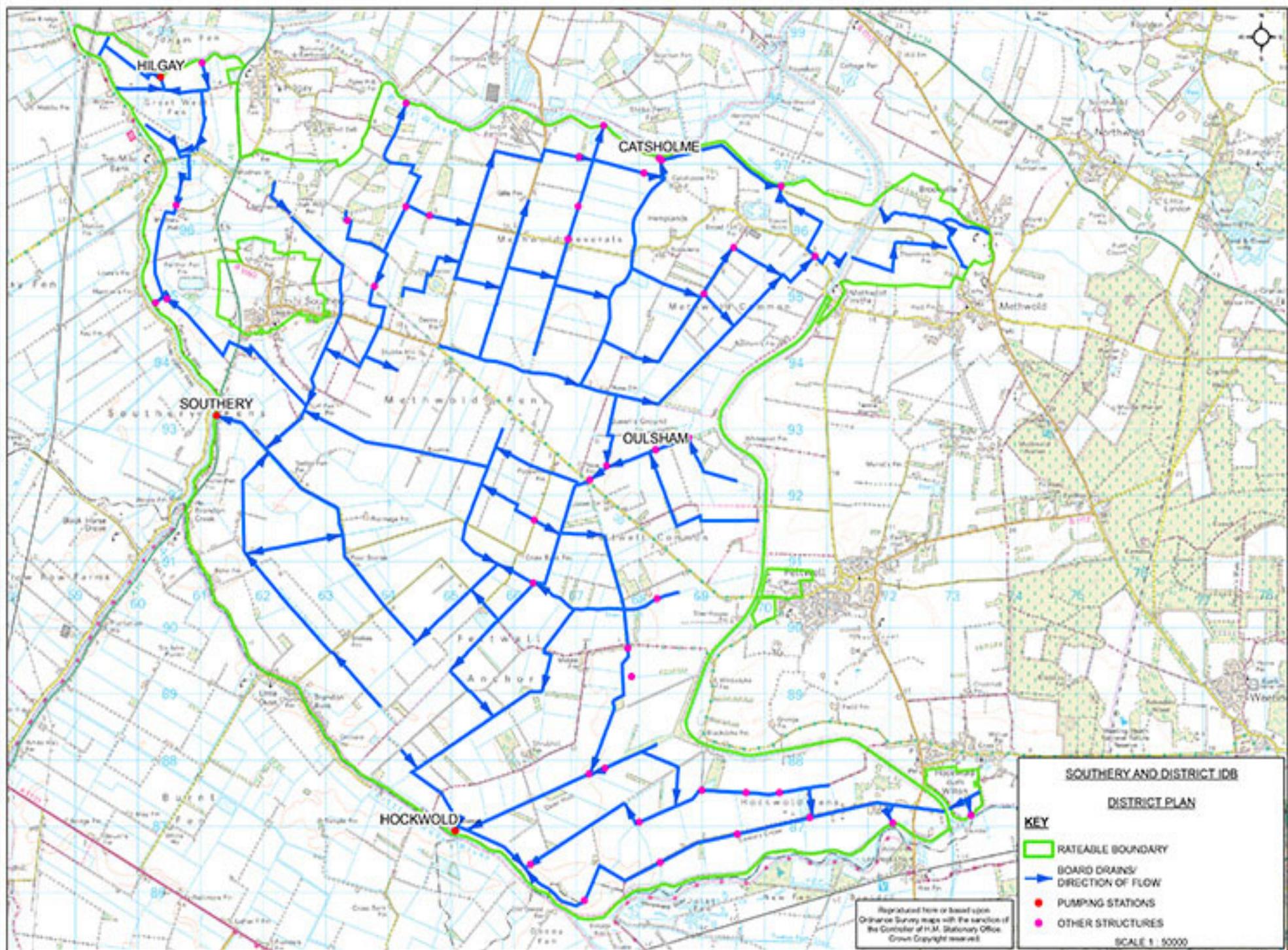
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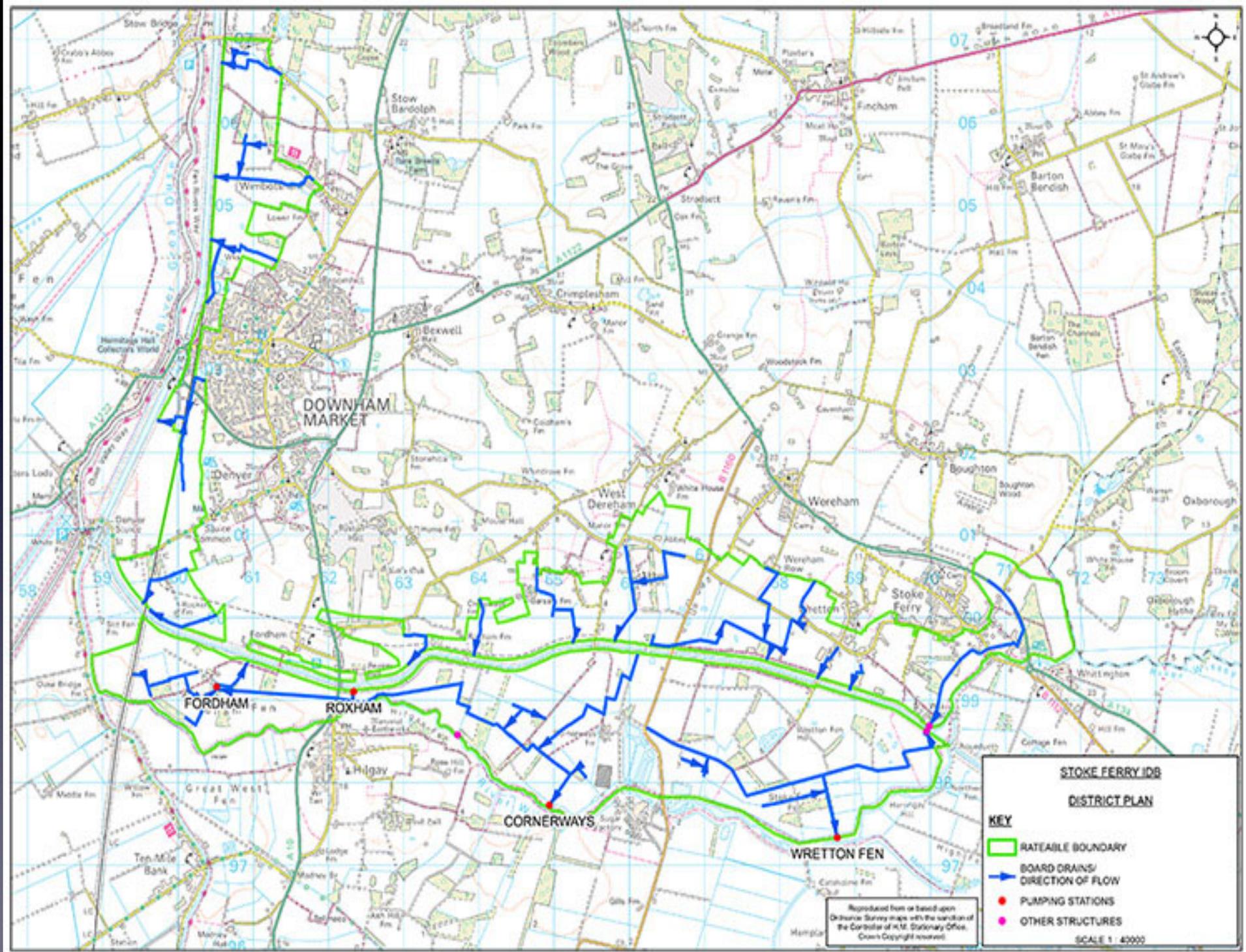
NORTHWOLD IDB
DISTRICT PLAN

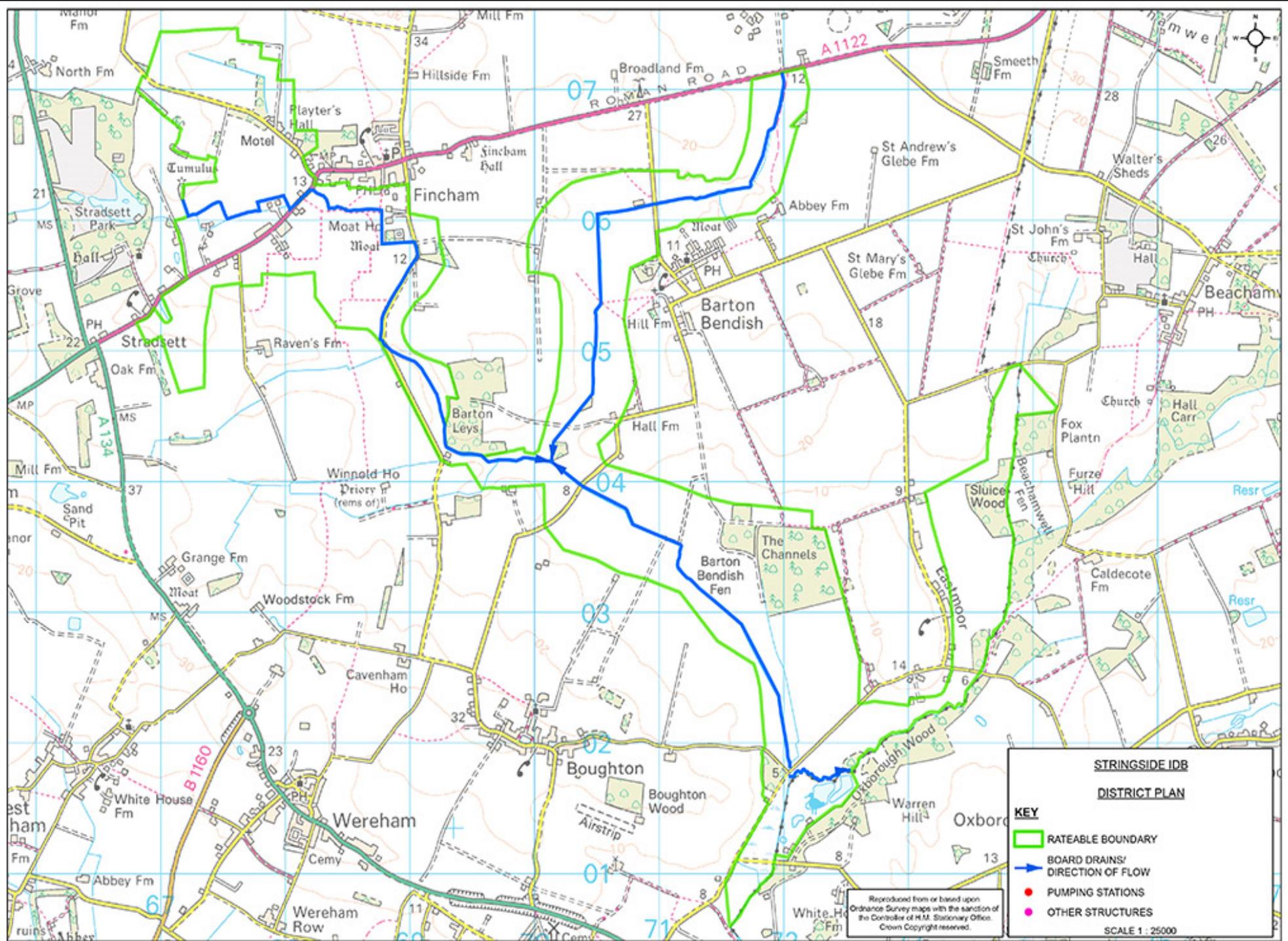
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DIRECTION OF FLOW
- PUMPING STATIONS
- OTHER STRUCTURES

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Governance

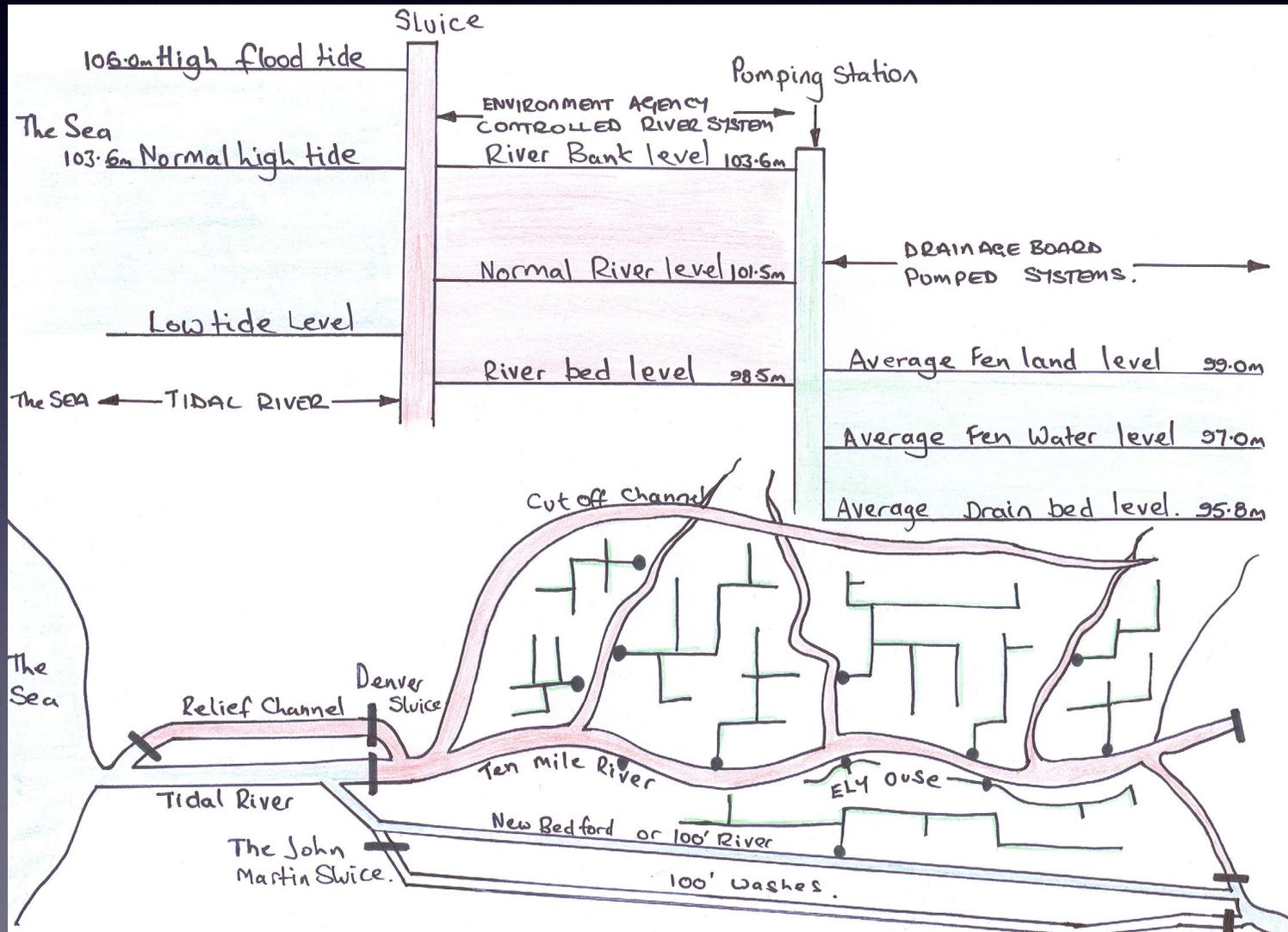
- Chairman
- Vice-Chairman
- Board Members Elected from Agricultural Rate Payers
- Board Members Appointed by District Councils

Funding

- Drainage Rate Levied on Land Owners £596k
- Special Levy from District Councils £592k
- Total Budget £1188k
- Highland Water Payment from EA
- Can claim for Defra Grant for Major Projects

IDB	Annual Income £	Special Levy £	Average Annual Spend £	22/23 Balance £	23/24 Balance £
Downham and Stow	196,570	61,512	187,000	393,841	365,829
East of Ouse, Polver and Nar	406,718	271,226	497,000	1,343,323	1,197,788
Northwold	12,936	250	13,574	4,100	1,167
Southery and District	677,393	211,062	782,664	551,992	425,813
Stoke Ferry	113,368	45,982	150,000	641,605	602,223
Stringside	12,770	2,027	11,994	16,382	11,259

Land Levels in the Fens



Build and Maintain Pumping Stations



Grass Cutting



Weed Cutting



Dredging/Improvement



Irrigation





Water Voles

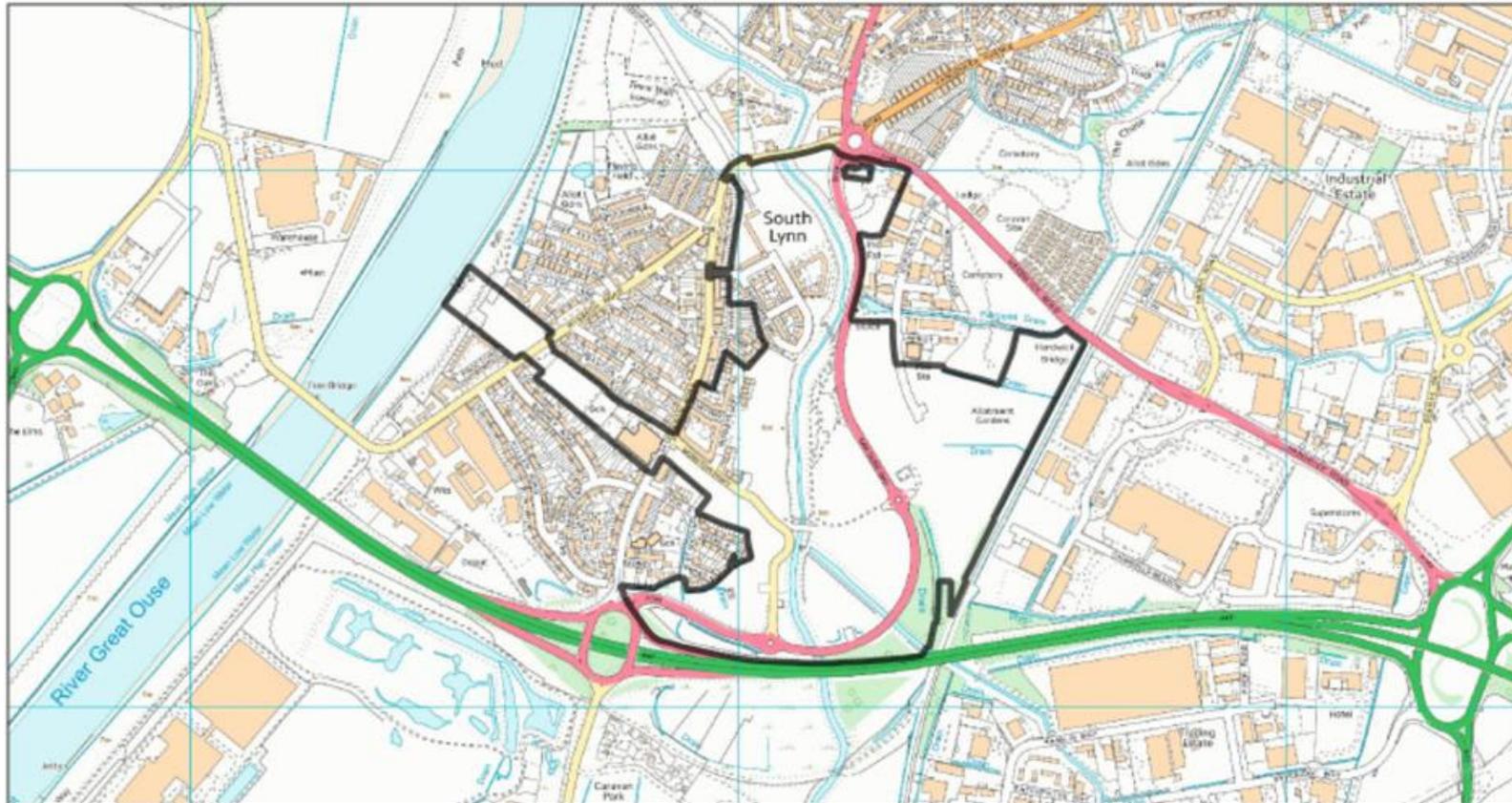


Barn Owls



Eels

Planning Development



Borough Council of
King's Lynn & West Norfolk



Tel. 01553 616200
Fax. 01553 691663

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Ordnance Survey 100024314



1:10,000

18/12/2017

Brownfield Land Reference: BLR46

Future for the Fens



FCERM Strategy and Roadmap

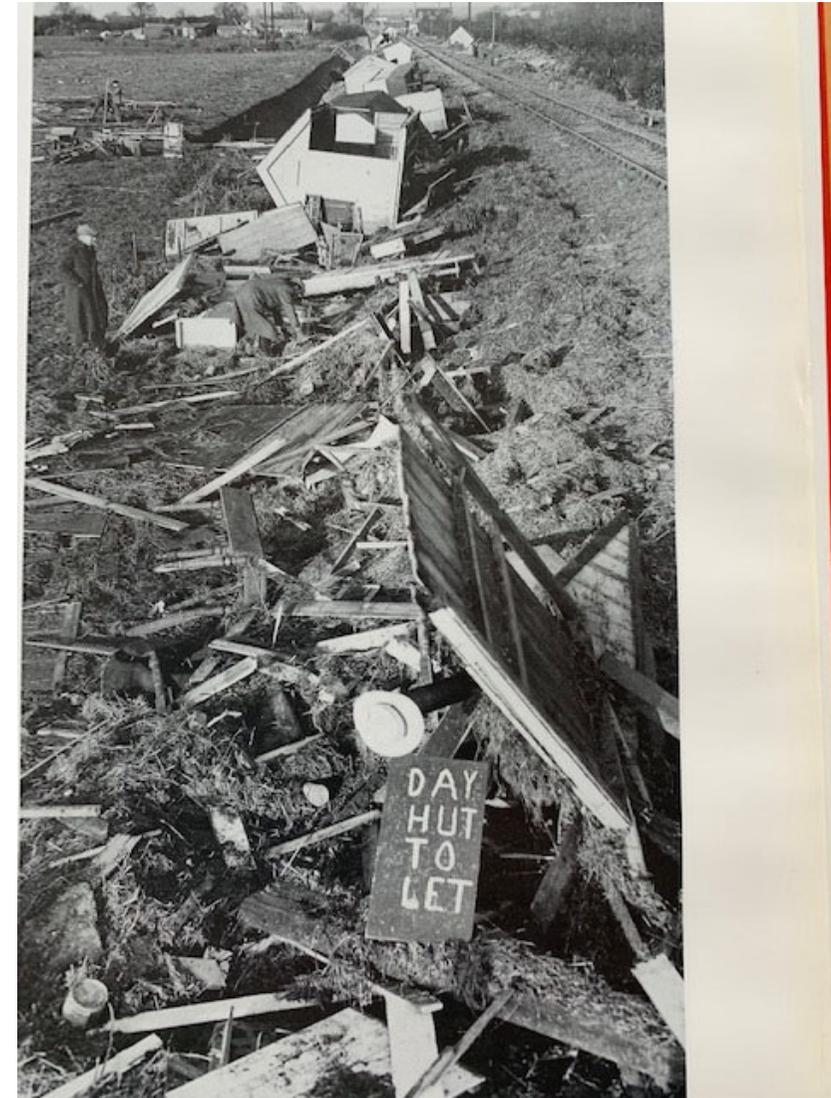
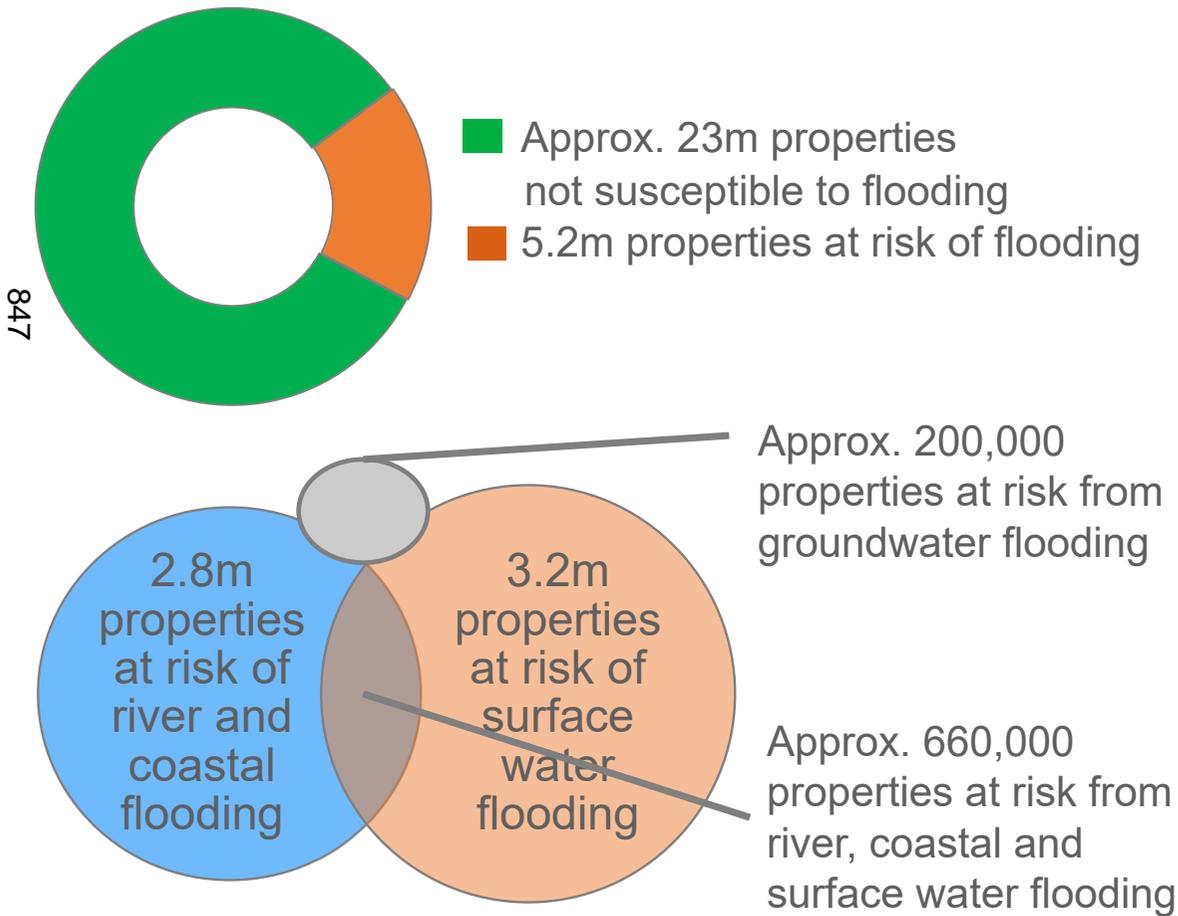
An introduction for local authorities

Phil Hulme, Flood & Coastal Risk Manager
Anne-Marie Quibell, Senior Flood Risk Advisor

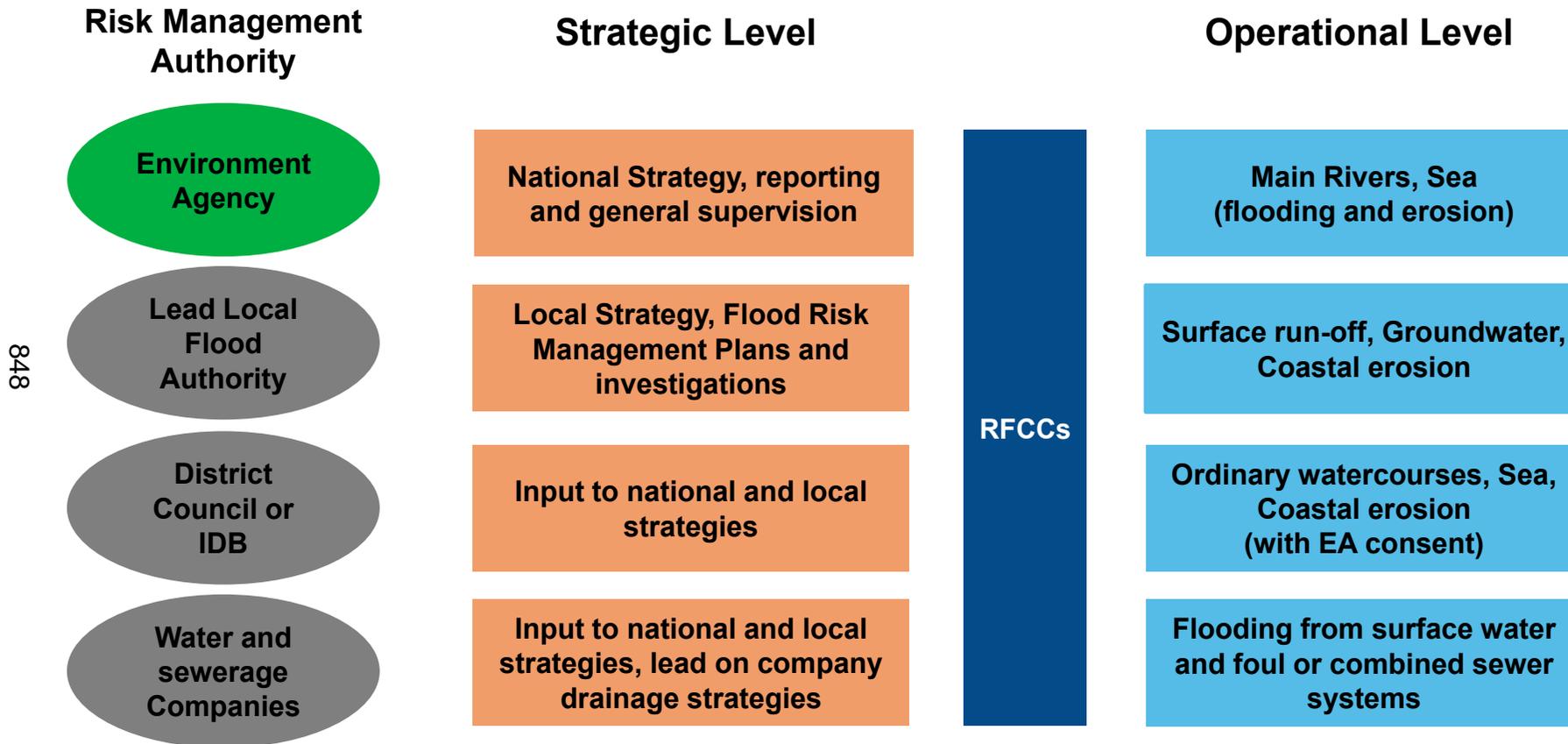
Minute Item EC69:



Properties at risk of flooding by source



Flood and Water Management Act – FCRM roles and responsibilities in England



Arrangements underpinned by duties to cooperate and share data, ability to delegate functions, and scope for Ministerial directions

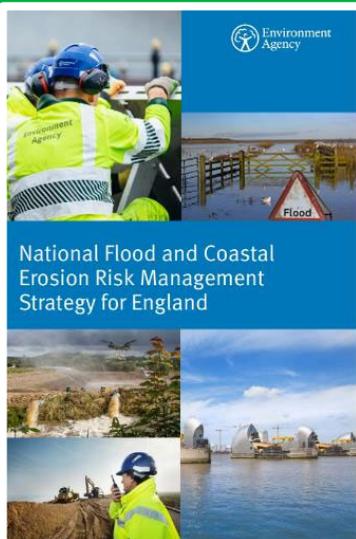


FCERM Strategy Implementation - journey to date

September 2020

Publication of the FCERM Strategy (2020-2026)

849



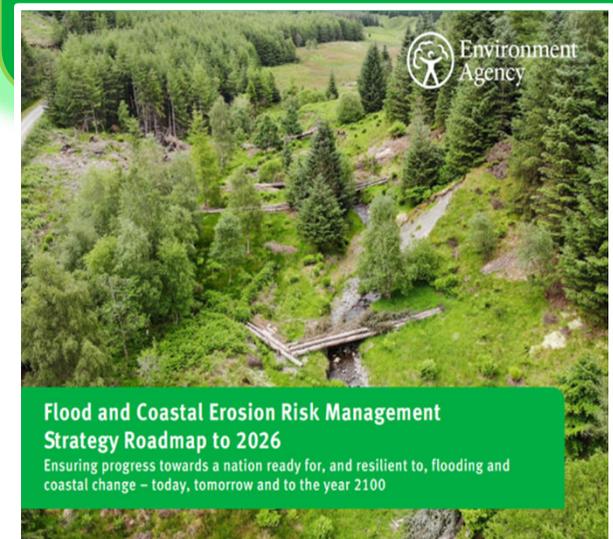
May 2021

Publication of strategy action plan 2021-22 (one year only)



June 2022

Publication and launch of Roadmap to 2026



Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy

Its long-term vision is for:

"a nation ready for, and resilient to, flooding and coastal change – today, tomorrow and to the year 2100"

Provides 3 long-term ambitions to help move the country towards the vision:

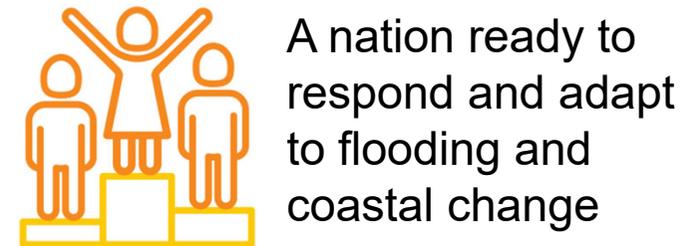
Ambition 1



Ambition 2



Ambition 3





Climate resilient places



851



What will be better or different?

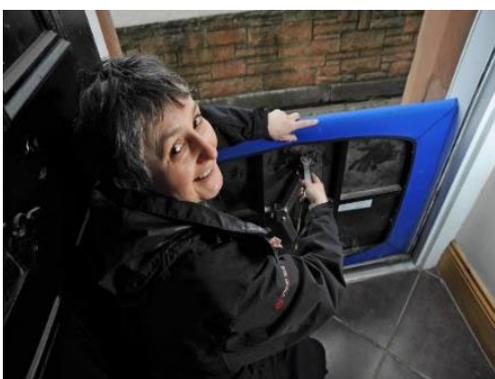
Risk management authorities will work with partners to:

- Deliver practical and innovative actions that help to bolster resilience to flood and coastal change in local places.
- Make greater use of nature-based solutions that take a catchment led approach to managing the flow of water to improve resilience to both floods and droughts.
- Maximise opportunities to work with farmers and land managers to help them adapt their businesses and practices to be resilient to flooding and coastal change.
- Develop adaptive pathways in local places that equip practitioners and policy makers to better plan for future flood and coastal change and adapt to future climate hazards.

A nation ready for, and resilient to, flooding and coastal change



Today's growth and infrastructure resilient in tomorrow's climate



What will be better or different?

Risk management authorities will work with partners to:

- Put greater focus on providing timely and quality planning advice that helps avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding and coastal change.
- Leave the environment in a better state by contributing to environmental net gain for new development proposals.
- Ensure that spending on flood and coastal resilience contributes to job creation and sustainable growth in local places.
- Mainstream property flood resilience measures and to 'build back better' after flooding to reduce damages and enable faster recovery for local communities.
- Provide expert advice on how infrastructure providers (road, rail, water and power supplies) can ensure their investments are more resilient to future flooding and coastal change avoiding disruption to peoples' lives and livelihoods.

A nation ready for, and resilient to, flooding and coastal change





A nation ready to respond and adapt to flooding and coastal change



What will be better or different?

Risk management authorities will work with partners to:

- Support communities to better prepare and respond to flooding and coastal change, including transforming how people receive flood warnings
- Ensure people and businesses receive the support they need from all those involved in recovery so they can get back to normal quicker after flooding
- Help support communities with managing the long-term mental health impacts from flooding and coastal change
- Develop the skills and capabilities needed to better support communities to adapt to future flooding and coastal change
- Become a world leader in the research and innovation of flood and coastal risk management to better protect current and future generations

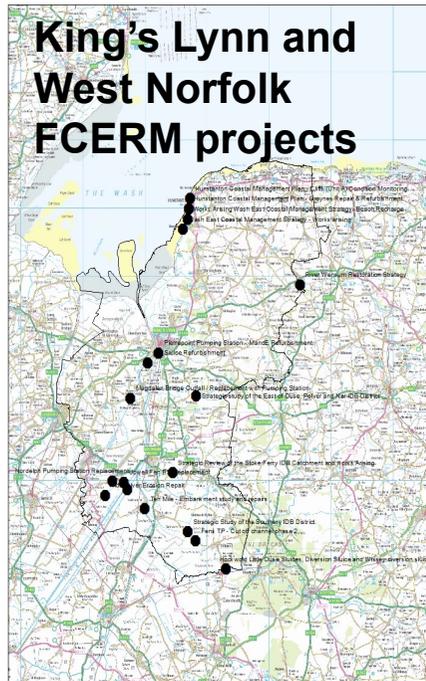


A nation ready for, and resilient to, flooding and coastal change

Examples of actions directly relevant to local authorities

Ambition 1 – Climate resilient places

- Risk management authorities will double the number of natural flood management projects delivered as part of the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Investment Programme. These projects will deliver multi-beneficial outcomes including improving biodiversity, contributing to cleaner and healthier rivers as well as providing carbon sequestration.
- Coastal groups will review the policies and actions in their Shoreline Management Plans to ensure they reflect adaptive approaches to managing current and future coastal change.



- Coast protection authorities leading projects in the Coastal Transition Accelerators Programme will support communities to transition from areas of the coast that cannot sustainably be defended from erosion. The Environment Agency will support the programme management and lessons learnt.
- Risk management authorities will work with partners on Local Nature Recovery Strategies to identify where actions for nature could benefit flood and coastal risk management. Risk management authorities will also identify where they can contribute to nature recovery through their investments, plans and strategies. This includes ensuring that Local Flood Risk Management Strategies, Flood Risk Management Plans and Shoreline Management Plans complement the actions in Local Nature Recovery Strategies.
- Risk management authorities will support farmers and landowners to access Environmental Land Management agreements and to adapt their businesses and practices to be more resilient to flooding and coastal change.



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Examples of actions directly relevant to local authorities

Ambition 2 – Today's growth and infrastructure in tomorrow's climate

- The Environment Agency will work with planning authorities to ensure that spatial plans and growth strategies reflect adaptation to future flooding and coastal changes. This should include reflecting the policies and actions in Local Flood Risk Management Strategies and Shoreline Management Plans.
- The Environment Agency will work with the Association of Sustainable Drainage Authorities to support lead local flood authorities to promote best practice in incorporating sustainable drainage systems for new development.
- Risk management authorities taking forward flood and coastal projects (that require planning permission) will achieve at least 10% biodiversity net gain ensuring that they leave biodiversity in a better state than before.
- The Environment Agency will work with risk management authorities to develop common approaches for inspecting and managing assets for all sources of flooding. This will also help to ensure that all 'third party' owners of flood and coastal defences are aware of their responsibilities to ensure assets are safe and resilient.
- The Environment Agency, Water UK and Ofwat will work with risk management authorities to inform Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans to improve resilience to surface water and drainage flood risks.



Examples of actions directly relevant to local authorities

Ambition 3: A nation ready to respond and adapt to flooding and coastal change

- The Environment Agency will continue to work with local resilience forums as they develop their flood plans that better coordinate, prepare and respond to flood incidents. This includes updating Multi-Agency Flood Plans, and the Environment Agency undertaking a 'health check' every three years
- The Environment Agency will create new engagement skills courses for practitioners in risk management authorities. They will build capability in collaborating with communities and creating partnerships that are inclusive and enhance public understanding of a range of flood resilience actions.



After today



**Environment
Agency**

Given your role in the delivery of the roadmap, we hope this helps you feel confident and understand the objectives within it

- Is there anything we need to do further as a collective to ensure this happens?
- Would you benefit from me information about the projects which are ongoing locally as well as those that impact King's Lynn and West Norfolk nationally (and with partners)
- Look at the Roadmap!

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1080740/FCERM-Strategy-Roadmap-to-2026-FINAL.pdf

For any queries, contact:

Anne-Marie Quibell:

Anne-Marie.Quibell@environment-agency.gov.uk

