

**WAVENEY LOWER YARE & LOTHINGLAND  
INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

**Policy Statement on Flood Protection and Water Level Management**

**1.0 Introduction**

Purpose:

- 1.1 This policy statement has been prepared by the Waveney Lower Yare & Lothingland Internal Drainage Board (IDB) in order to provide a public statement of the Board's approach to its management of flood risk and water levels in its district.

Background:

- 1.2 The Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has responsibility for setting policy for flood and coastal defence in England. However, delivery is the responsibility of a number of flood and coastal defence "operating authorities" which includes the Waveney Lower Yare & Lothingland IDB.

- 1.3 The Government has published a policy aim and three objectives for flood and coastal defence<sup>1</sup>. In order to ensure more certain delivery of the aim and objectives by the individual operating authorities, the Government has published a series of high-level targets<sup>2</sup>. The first target requires each operating authority to publish a policy statement setting out its plans for delivering the Government's policy aim and objectives in its area. This will include an assessment of the risk of flooding and coastal erosion in its area and what plans it has to reduce those risks.

- 1.4 This policy statement fulfils the above requirement. Copies are available from the Board's Offices<sup>3</sup>. A copy is also being provided to DEFRA, the Environment Agency (EA) and local authorities.

- 1.5 The Government's policy aim is:

*To reduce the risk to people and the developed and natural environment from flooding and coastal erosion by encouraging the provision of technically, environmentally and economically sound and sustainable defence measures.*

- 1.6 The key objectives to achieve this aim are:

- a) *to encourage the provision of adequate and cost-effective flood warning systems;*
- b) *to encourage the provision of adequate, economically, technically and environmentally sound and sustainable flood and coastal defence measures;*
- c) *to discourage inappropriate development in areas at risk from flooding and Coastal erosion.*

**2.0 How the Board will deliver the Government's policy aim and objectives**

- 2.1 The Waveney Lower Yare & Lothingland IDB supports the Government's aim and objectives for the management of flood risk and water levels. Our policy and approach will be consistent with them, as follows:

**Objective (a): To encourage the provision of adequate and cost-effective flood warning systems.**

- The Board will assist the EA wherever possible in its provision of adequate and cost-effective flood warning systems. It will co-operate with the EA in response to flood

emergencies and participate as necessary in exercises to develop and test emergency response procedures, reviewing such arrangements every two years.

**Objective (b): To encourage the provision of adequate, economically, technically and environmentally sound and sustainable flood and coastal defence measures.**

- The Board's entire District is potentially at some risk of flooding and the Board will seek to retain this risk at acceptable levels through appropriate improvements and the implementation of a sound maintenance strategy. We will also seek to ensure that the EA's flood defences, which also provide protection to the district, are maintained to a satisfactory standard.

2.2 The Board will:

- Carry out its work in accordance with best practice and to deliver best value for money, taking due regard of guidance available from MAFF, the EA and other organisations.
- Regulate the actions of others as necessary, to ensure that their works do not increase flood risk, using the available Powers.
- Ensure that riparian owners are aware of their responsibilities for maintenance.
- Play a positive role in fulfilling our statutory and other responsibilities for nature conservation, including achievement of the Government's environmental objectives and targets. We acknowledge our responsibilities under the Land Drainage Acts of 1991 and 1994, the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the European Birds and Habitats Directives and the Conservation (Natural Habitats & Co.) Regulations 1994 and Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.
- Seek to avoid, wherever possible, damage to environmental interests when carrying out our works and aim to ensure no net loss to habitats covered by Biodiversity Action Plans and seek opportunities to enhance the aquatic environment.
- Ensure that, for those Water Level Management Plans where we are the leading authority, we work in partnership with English Nature to complete, implement where appropriate and review Plans in accordance with DEFRA guidance on plan completion and the timetables set out in the High Level Targets.
- Co-operate with other bodies and give input to the development of Shoreline Management Plans, Coastal Habitat Plans and Local Environment Agency Plans.

**Objective (c): To discourage inappropriate development in areas at risk from flooding and coastal erosion.**

- The Board fully recognises the potential impact on flood risk from future development in its District. We will take an active role in the assessment of local authority structure planning, local plans and individual applications in order to ensure that flood risk is not aggravated. Where appropriate, the Board will secure contributions from developers, to cover the cost of any immediate or longer-term works that may be necessary to ensure that any potential increase in flood risk can be removed. Such contributions will be recorded in accordance with DEFRA Circular \*\*/\*\* (successor to Circular 30/92).

### **3.0 Flood Risks in the Board's District**

3.1 As noted in Section 2, the entire Drainage District is at some risk of flooding but that risk is substantially controlled, although some variation in the standards of protection will apply. The District's salient details in this context are as follows:

Catchment area draining to - and including -

<b><u>Waveney Valley District</u></b>	639.265 Sq.km
Total area of the District	57.49 Sq.km
Area of agricultural land	3965 ha.
Area of residential property	Tbc ha.
Area of industrial property	Tbc ha.
Major Infrastructure:	
Motorway	0 km.
Classified roads	Tbc km.
Sites of Environmental Interest:	
SSSIs (Wortham Ling, Gypsy Camp Meadows, Thrandeston, Redgrave & Lopham Fens and Shelfanger Meadows)	unknown ha.
<b><u>Geldeston 1, Geldeston 2, Geldeston Village, Barsham 1, Barsham 2, Remainder, Gillingham, Worlingham, North Cove, Long Dam, Short Dam District</u></b>	70.11 Sq.km
Total area of the District	19.41 Sq.km
Area of agricultural land	1955 ha.
Area of residential property	Tbc ha.
Area of industrial property	Tbc ha.
Major Infrastructure:	
Motorway	0 km.
Classified roads	3.5 km.
Sites of Environmental Interest:	
SSSI (Stanley & alder Carrs, Aldeby) (Geldeston Meadows) (Barnby Broad & Marshes)	43.5 ha. 3.4 ha 189.62 ha
<b><u>Barnby District</u></b>	28.855 Sq.km
Total area of the District	5.68 Sq.km
Area of agricultural land	482 ha.
Area of residential property	Tbc ha.
Area of industrial property	Tbc ha.
Major Infrastructure:	
Motorway	0 km.
Classified roads	0 km.
Sites of Environmental Interest:	
Wetland SSSI (Spratts Water & Marshes and Barnby Broad & Marshes Carlton Colville)	55.50 ha.
<b><u>Blundeston District</u></b>	26.57 Sq.km
Total area of the District	2.48 Sq.km
Area of agricultural land	235 ha.
Area of residential property	Tbc ha.
Area of industrial property	Tbc ha.
Major Infrastructure:	
Motorway	0 km.
Classified roads	0 km.
Sites of Environmental Interest:	
SSSI ((None known)	0 ha.
<b><u>Belton, Caldecott, General District</u></b>	53.45 Sq.km
Total area of the District	6.72 Sq.km
Area of agricultural land	531 ha.
Area of residential property	Tbc ha.
Area of industrial property	Tbc ha.
Major Infrastructure:	
Motorway	0 km.
Classified roads	0 km.
Sites of Environmental Interest:	

SSSI (None known)	0	ha.
<b><u>Haddiscoe, Wheatacre, Burgh St Peter District</u></b>	34.085	Sq.km
Total area of the District	14.705	Sq.km
Area of agricultural land	1390	ha.
Area of residential property	Tbc	ha.
Area of industrial property	Tbc	ha.
Major Infrastructure:		
Motorway	0	km.
Classified roads	2.5	km.
Sites of Environmental Interest:		
SSSI (None known)	0	ha.
<b><u>Askews, Island, Pettingills, St Olaves District</u></b>		
Total area of the District	794	ha.
Area of agricultural land	792	ha.
Area of residential property	Tbc	ha.
Area of industrial property	Tbc	ha.
Major Infrastructure:		
Motorway	0	km.
Classified roads	0.25	km.
Sites of Environmental Interest:		
SSSI (None known)	0	ha.
<b><u>Fringe, Powells, Raveningham, Norton Low, Norton, Lower Gravitation, Upper Gravitation District</u></b>		
Total area of the District	85.47	Sq.km
Area of agricultural land	11.83	Sq.km.
Area of residential property	853	ha.
Area of industrial property	Tbc	ha.
Major Infrastructure:		
Motorway	0	km.
Classified roads	0	km.
Sites of Environmental Interest:		
Wetland SSSI (None known)	0	ha.
<b><u>Limpenhoe District</u></b>	6.57	Sq.km
Total area of the District	4.17	Sq.km
Area of agricultural land	308	ha.
Area of residential property	Tbc	ha.
Area of industrial property	Tbc	ha.
Major Infrastructure:		
Motorway	0	km.
Classified roads	0	km.
Sites of Environmental Interest:		
Wetland SSSI (Limpenhoe Meadows)		unknown ha.
<b><u>Langley Pumped, Claxton Gravitation District</u></b>	46.57	Sq.km
Total area of the District	12.18	Sq.km
Area of agricultural land	1170	ha.
Area of residential property	Tbc	ha.
Area of industrial property	Tbc	ha.
Major Infrastructure:		
Motorway	0	km.
Classified roads	0	km.
Sites of Environmental Interest:		
SSSI (Poplar Farm Meadows, Langley)	7.23	ha.
Nature Reserve (None known)	0	ha.
<b><u>Burgh Castle District</u></b>	12.90	Sq.km
Total area of the District	7.57	Sq.km
Area of agricultural land	486	ha.

Area of residential property	Tbc	ha.
Area of industrial property	Tbc	ha.
Major Infrastructure:		
Motorway	0	km.
Classified roads	3.5	km.
Sites of Environmental Interest:		
SSSI (Breydon Water, Norfolk)	10	ha.
<b>Lothingland District</b>	Tbc	Sq.km
Total area of the District	Tbc	Sq.km
Area of agricultural land	656	ha.
Area of residential property	Tbc	ha.
Area of industrial property	Tbc	ha.
Major Infrastructure:		
Motorway	0	km.
Classified roads	0.75	km.
Sites of Environmental Interest:		
SSSI (None known)	0	ha.

3.2 The Waveney Lower Yare & Lothingland IDB has provided the EA with information on the major flood defence assets for which the Board is responsible. This information is available from the Agency<sup>4</sup>.

3.3 Assets for which the Board has responsibility as Operating Authority:

Pumping Stations - 21	)	Refer to plans attached to the relevant water level management plan at <sup>3</sup>
Other water-level control structures	)	
Watercourses:	)	
Designated main drains	)	
Critical watercourses *	)	
Raised embankments	)	

Assets, within or adjoining the District, for which the Environment Agency has responsibility as Operating Authority:

Coastal Flood Defences	)	Refer to relevant water level management plan at <sup>3</sup>
Tidal Main Rivers:	)	
Associated raised river embankments	)	
Fluvial Main Rivers:	)	
Associated raised river embankments	)	

3.4 Within the above-mentioned IDB watercourses there are no critical road culverts.

\* Critical Watercourses are those from which overspilling will put at flood-risk a significant number of people and properties. The above length has been agreed with the EA against a set of clear criteria.

#### 4.0 Flood Risks from Watercourses

This section sets out the Board's assessment of flood risk, taking the following factors into account:

- Assets in place, considering design standard and asset-life.
  - Flood Risk Maps.
  - Other information, such as history of flooding and land-use impacts.
- There are no areas that are more vulnerable to flooding due to particular local circumstances.
  - The Board is satisfied that the risks to human life arising from any failure of its assets or overspilling from its watercourses are minimal.

- Through the operation and maintenance of its pumping stations and its main drain system the Board seeks to maintain a general standard capable of providing flood protection to developed areas and agricultural land of 1 in 100 and 1 in 20 years respectively. These return periods cannot be taken literally but should be considered as the chance of some overspilling from the system occurring in any year being 1% and 5% respectively.

## **5.0 Reduction and management of Flood Risks**

The Board monitors the condition of its pumping stations and watercourses but none are designated as being critical and from which overspilling could affect property. Consistent with the established need, a routine programme of maintenance is in place in order to ensure that the condition of its assets is commensurate with the standards of protection that are sought. Where standards are not up to the policy levels, improvement works will be considered and promoted where they can be demonstrated to meet DEFRA criteria.

The Board welcomes any comments on the condition of its system that could lead to any increased flood risk.

The Board seeks to promote the need for works within its District and to create an understanding amongst the District's community as to what the flood risks are and the Board's efforts to control them. It will also seek to achieve, directly and through local councils, an intrinsic understanding that watercourses are vital to controlling flood risk. It will also promote the understanding that watercourses provide an important, interesting aquatic habitat and it will dissuade abuse of watercourses through the dumping of waste or other abusive obstruction of flows.

## **6.0 Review of this Policy Statement**

The Waveney Lower Yare & Lothingland IDB will review this Policy Statement within a period not exceeding five years.

### **References & Contacts:**

- 1 Strategy for Flood and Coastal Defence in England and Wales DEFRA & Welsh Office, September 1993.
- 2 High Level Targets for Flood and Coastal Defence Operating Authorities and Elaboration of the Environment Agency's Flood Defence Supervisory Duty DEFRA, November 1999.
- 3 Waveney Lower Yare & Lothingland IDB, 23 Alexandra Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 1PP.
- 4 Environment Agency, Eastern Area Office, Cobham Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IPS 9JE.

