

South Holderness

Internal Drainage Board

POLICY STATEMENT ON FLOOD PROTECTION

AND

WATER LEVEL MANAGEMENT

SOUTH HOLDERNESS INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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May 2013

SOUTH HOLDERNESS INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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INTRODUCTION

Purpose

This Policy Statement has been prepared by South Holderness Internal Drainage Board to provide a public statement of the Board's approach to its management of flood risk and water levels in its area.

Background

DEFRA has policy responsibility 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 South Holderness Internal Drainage Board.

The Government has published a policy aim and three objectives for flood and coastal defence. To ensure a more certain delivery of the aim and objectives by the individual Operating Authorities the Government has published a series of High Level Targets. The first target requires each Operating Authority to publish a Policy Statement setting out their plans for delivering the Government's policy aim and objectives in their area. This will include an assessment of the risk of flooding and coastal erosion in their area and what plans they have to reduce that risk.

This Policy Statement fulfils that requirement. Copies are available from the Board's Offices at 18 Market Place, Patrington, HULL, HU12 0RB. We are also providing a copy to the DEFRA, the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, the Environment Agency and Local Authorities

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.

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.

HOW THE BOARD WILL DELIVER THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY AIM AND OBJECTIVES

South Holderness Internal Drainage Board supports the Government 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. Co-operate with the Agency in responses to flood emergencies and participating, 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.

- Within the drainage district potentially all the area is at some risk to flooding and the Board will seek to retain this risk at acceptable levels through appropriate improvements and the implementation of a sound maintenance strategy. They will also seek to ensure that the EA's flood defences, which also afford protection to the District, are maintained at a satisfactory standard.
- Work will be carried out in accordance with best practice and to deliver best value for money taking due regard of guidance available from DEFRA, the EA and other Organisations.
- Regulate, as necessary, using the available powers and the actions of others to ensure their works do not increase the flood risk.
- Ensure that riparian owners are aware of their responsibilities for maintenance of Watercourses within their Land Ownership.

HOW THE BOARD WILL DELIVER THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY AIM AND OBJECTIVES

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

- 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 Act 1991 and 1994, the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the European Birds and Habitats Directives and the Conservation (Natural Habitats & C) Regulations 1994.
- When carrying out our works we will seek to avoid, wherever possible, damage to environmental interests 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 Operating Authority, work in partnership with English Nature to complete, implement where appropriate, and review Plans in accordance with DEFRA guidance on plan completion and timetables set out in the High Level Targets.

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

- The potential impact on flood risk through future development in the Drainage District, or in the wider catchment draining to the District, is fully recognised by the Board and it will take an active role in the assessment of structure planning, local plans and individual applications to ensure flood risk is not increased. Where appropriate the Board will secure from Developers contributions to cover the cost of both immediate and longer term works necessary in ensuring that any potential increase in flood risk can be removed. Such contribution will be recorded in accordance with DEFRA/MAFF Circular (successor to 30/92).

FLOODING RISKS IN THE BOARD'S DISTRICT

As mentioned in Section 2, the entire Drainage District is at some risk to flooding but that risk is substantially controlled and some variation in the standards of protection will apply.

The following are the key details of the District:- Areas still to be verified

Area(ha)	
Catchment Area draining to and including the District	32,000
Total Area of the District	7,807
Area of Agricultural Land	6,750
Area of Residential Property	863
Area of Industrial Property	194
Major Infrastructure	
Motorway	The Board has no motorways
Classified Roads	A1033 Hull/Withernsea Road
Sites of Environmental Interest –	Humber Estuary SSSI, Dimlington Cliff SSSI, Kelsey Hill Gravel Pits SSSI, Roos Bogs SSSI, The Lagoons SSSI.
Nature Reserve	Spurn Point, Kilnsea, Hodgsons Field, Skeffling.

South Holderness Internal Drainage Board has provided the EA with information on the major flood defence assets for which the Board are responsible.

Assets for which the Board has Operating Authority responsibility:-

Pumping Stations -	None
Cloughs	Preston New Clough, Ottringham Clough, Welwick Outfall
Other Water Level Control Structures	Bilton Non Return Valve

Main Watercourses Part Old Fleet, Preston New Drain, Reedmere Sewer, Part Thorngumbald Drain, Part Burstwick Drain, Part Keyingham Drain, Main Drain Ottringham, Part Winestead Drain, Welwick Drain, Part Skeffling Drain, Part Easington Drain, Weeton Beck, Longbank Drain, Kilnsea Drain

Critical Watercourses*none

Raised Embankments none

*Critical watercourses are those from which over spilling will put at risk of flooding a significant number of people and properties. Against clear criteria the above length has been agreed with the EA.

FLOODING RISKS IN THE BOARD'S DISTRICT

Assets for which the Board has Operating Authority responsibility/Continued.....

Passing through or adjacent to the District are the following assets maintained by the EA:-

Main Rivers	Old Fleet Drain, Burstwick Drain, Keyingham Drain, Thorngumbald Drain, Winestead Drain, Skeffling Drain
River Raised Embankments	River Humber Bank
Coastal Flood Defences	Easington Long Bank

Within the critical watercourses for which the ERYC are the responsible Authority.

Flood Risk from these Watercourses

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

- Assets in place considering design standard and life
- Environment Agency flood risk maps
- Other information such as the history of flooding and land use impacts.

There are no areas which are more vulnerable to flooding due to the particular local circumstances. The Board is satisfied that there are minimal risks to human life arising from any failure in its assets or over spilling from its watercourses.

Through the operation and maintenance of the outfalls and the channel system the Board seek to maintain a general standard capable of providing flood protection to agricultural land and developed areas of 1 in 20 and 1 in 100 years respectively. This likely return period cannot be taken literally and should be considered as a chance of some over spilling from the system taking place each year as being 5% and 1% respectively.

Reduction of the Flood Risks

The Board monitor the condition of its Outfalls and watercourses, particularly those designated as critical, over spilling from which could affect property. Consistent with the established need a routine Maintenance Programme is in place to ensure that the condition of the assets is commensurate with the standards of protection which are

sought. Where standards are not at the policy level improvement works, where they can be demonstrated to meet with DEFRA criteria, will be considered and undertaken as appropriate.

The Board welcome from its agricultural Ratepayers, Special Levy Councils and members of the public any comments on the condition of its system which could lead to any increased flood risk.

FLOODING RISKS IN THE BOARD'S DISTRICT

The Board will seek to promote the need for works in its District and create an understanding among people who live and work in it as to what the flood risk is and the efforts made to control it. They will also seek to achieve directly and through local Councils a culture within which the watercourses are seen as vital to controlling flood risk, whilst providing an interesting aquatic habitat and dissuade abuse of them through dumping waste or obstructing flows in other ways.

REVIEW OF THIS POLICY STATEMENT

South Holderness Internal Drainage Board will review this Policy Statement within a period not extending beyond five years.

This Policy was approved by the board at their meeting on..... *12 June 2013*

Signed

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Chairman

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Clerk