

# **BEDFORD GROUP OF DRAINAGE BOARDS**

## **Biosecurity Policy**

### **PURPOSE**

This document sets out the Biosecurity Policy of the Bedford Group of Drainage Boards, comprising the Alconbury and Ellington, the Bedfordshire and River Ivel and the Buckingham and River Ouzel Internal Drainage Boards. It covers activities undertaken by the IDB on a daily basis to reduce the spread and damage from invasive non-native species.

It is intended that the Boards' staff and contractors will follow procedures commensurate with this Policy.

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

Invasive non-native species are widespread nationally and if left uncontrolled present a threat to our aquatic and riparian systems. It is imperative that our field operations to manage flood risk and water levels do not exacerbate the risks to the environment and economy that are posed by these species. Failure to minimise the spread of invasive non-native species, when visiting a site where an invasive non-native species is known to be present, can risk prosecution under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.

Vigilance is required if we are to stop the spread of invasive non-native species, and it is imperative that we integrate basic biosecurity with our operations to prevent this spread. Much to do with biosecurity involves awareness, common sense and agreed procedures.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Boards' Joint Management Committee (JMC) are responsible for reviewing and approving the content and implementation of this Policy.

The Boards will ensure any new contracts let will include reference to the Policy where a risk, arising from the works involved, is considered to exist.

All Board Members, staff and contractors are required to comply with the Policy's requirements and share responsibility for performance in implementing the Policy with regard to the health, safety and welfare of the environment.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

This Policy is implemented through supporting guidance documentation covering biosecurity procedures.

Where biosecurity risks have been identified, Operational Staff will be provided with training and information on identification of invasive non-native species likely to be found within the Drainage District.

All operational machinery, tools and personal protection equipment (PPE) identified as at risk of cross-contamination will be subject to 'check, clean, dry' decontamination procedures before moving between operations on watercourses and sites.

All Operational Staff will report sightings of invasive non-native species to their respective Site Manager.

### **APPROVAL**

This Policy was approved by the JMC on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018. This Policy will be reviewed, at a minimum, every five years.