



# **BIODIVERSITY HANDBOOK**

**BEDFORD GROUP OF  
INTERNAL DRAINAGE  
BOARDS**

**ELY GROUP OF  
INTERNAL DRAINAGE  
BOARDS**

**APRIL 2021**



## **FOREWARD**

Rivers and other watercourses are important biodiversity assets, providing a home to diverse and important plant and animal communities as well as providing valuable green space.

The Bedford and Ely Groups of Internal Drainage Boards have a responsibility, not only to maintain watercourses in their drainage districts so as to fulfil their land drainage and flood prevention duties, but to maintain and enhance their biodiversity value, a balancing act which is never easy.

This Biodiversity Handbook is being published immediately ahead of the Environment Bill (to be enacted) and seeks to establish good practice in all the activities that the Boards, as public bodies, undertake so as to comply with existing and forthcoming legislation to conserve and enhance biodiversity. This includes planning and maintenance and capital works and provides a framework within which these can be undertaken in a sensitive manner.

In our role as Chairs of the Boards within the two Groups, we look forward to the use of this Handbook and to the improved outcomes for biodiversity that should ensue.

### **BEDFORD GROUP OF INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS**

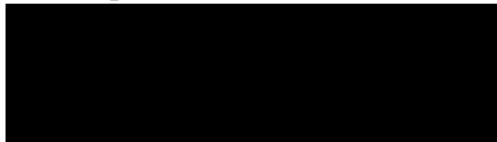
Alconbury and Ellington IDB



Bedfordshire and River Ivel IDB



Buckingham and River Ouzel IDB



## ELY GROUP OF INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS

Burnt Fen IDB

Cawdle Fen IDB

Lakenheath IDB

Littleport and Downham IDB

Middle Fen and Mere IDB

Mildenhall IDB

Padnal and Waterden IDB

Swaffham IDB

Waterbeach Level IDB

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## **CONTENTS**

<b>CHAPTER 1:</b>	<b><u><a href="#">INTRODUCTION</a></u></b>
<b>CHAPTER 2:</b>	<b><u><a href="#">THE BOARDS, THEIR AIMS AND THEIR ACTIVITIES</a></u></b>
<b>CHAPTER 3:</b>	<b><u><a href="#">LEGISLATION</a></u></b>
<b>CHAPTER 4:</b>	<b><u><a href="#">CONSULTATION</a></u></b>
<b>CHAPTER 5:</b>	<b><u><a href="#">PLANNING AND CONSENTING</a></u></b>
<b>CHAPTER 6:</b>	<b><u><a href="#">SITES AND HABITATS</a></u></b>
<b>CHAPTER 7:</b>	<b><u><a href="#">SPECIES AND SURVEYS</a></u></b>
<b>CHAPTER 8:</b>	<b><u><a href="#">GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE FOR BIODIVERSITY IN ROUTINE WATERCOURSE MAINTENANCE WORKS</a></u></b>
<b>CHAPTER 9:</b>	<b><u><a href="#">GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE FOR BIODIVERSITY IN NON- ROUTINE WATERCOURSE WORKS</a></u></b>
<b>CHAPTER 10:</b>	<b><u><a href="#">INITIATIVES</a></u></b>