

Who Do I Contact for More Information?

North Somerset Levels Internal Drainage Board

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Copies of the Board's Land Drainage Byelaws can be downloaded from the website.

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Swans on Tickenham Boundary Rhyne

FLOOD RISK

In a Flood Risk situation, the key organisations to contact are the Environment Agency and the Lead Local Flood Authority, in this case North Somerset Council.

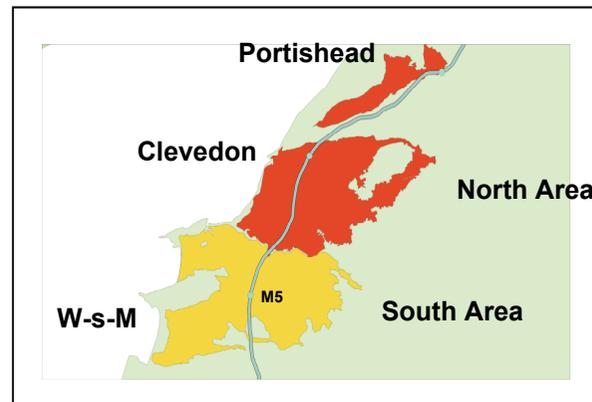
The Environment Agency has powers providing for:

- The installation and operation of flood warning systems.
- The construction, operation and maintenance of tidal and fluvial flood defences.
- Discretionary powers to improve and maintain those watercourses that form the designated 'main river' system.

If you think there is a risk of flooding, call the Environment Agency Flood Line on: 0345 988 1188 for information.

In cases of flooding in urban areas and flooding of public highways, call North Somerset Council on: 01934 888802

Wessex Water is the authority with responsibility for the public foul and surface water sewerage system and for sewage treatment works. In cases of sewage flooding, call Wessex Water on: 0845 600 4600



Areas covered by IDB Drainage District

NORTH SOMERSET LEVELS INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD



Oldbridge River - Puxton Moor

General Information

What are Internal Drainage Boards?

Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) are statutory water level and flood risk management authorities, responsible directly to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs [DEFRA] and, since the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, also working in partnership with the Lead Local Flood Authority and other Risk Management Authorities in their districts.

IDBs operate in the lowland areas of England and Wales, and are mainly concentrated in Somerset (including North Somerset), South Gloucestershire, East Anglia, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, where flood risks are high.

What Do Internal Drainage Boards Do?

The principal duty laid on IDBs under the Land Drainage Act 1991, is to exercise a general supervision over all matters relating to the drainage of land within their statutory Drainage Districts.

IDBs have powers under the Land Drainage Act 1991 to undertake flood defence works, land drainage improvements and water level control, on all watercourses other than 'main river' (which are under the control of the Environment Agency), within their Drainage Districts.

IDBs monitor the condition of, undertake maintenance work on and control water levels in strategic watercourses, generally known as 'Viewed Rhynes'.

IDBs also have powers to ensure that watercourses, other than those which they currently keep 'In View', are maintained by the riparian owners and, where an impediment to the natural flow occurs, they can require the riparian owner to undertake whatever clearance work the IDB deems necessary.

What are Viewed Rhynes?

Viewed Rhynes form the basic and essential connecting network of strategic arterial watercourses, usually linking to the 'main river' system. These are watercourses identified by the IDBs, in recognition of their importance to flood defence and land drainage, and of their role in supplying water for summer grazing of livestock and other agricultural needs.

The designation of a watercourse as a 'Viewed Rhyne' is flexible and an IDB may take any ordinary watercourse into, or out of, 'View' as they choose and according to the changing needs of the area served.

IDBs may also create new watercourses, or carry out improvement works to any watercourse (other than 'main river') in their District, to aid the efficient operation of the strategic watercourse system.

How are Internal Drainage Boards Funded?

IDBs obtain their funding from drainage rates levied on farmers or other occupiers of agricultural land within their Drainage District. They also make a 'Special Levy' on the local authority for the balance of their annual expenditure, through a formula that takes into account the area of non-agricultural land within their Drainage District.

In addition, IDBs can obtain grant aid from DEFRA towards the cost of carrying out capital schemes and, in some instances, major improvement works.

What about Conservation Interests?

Under the Land Drainage Act 1994, a duty is placed on IDBs to further conservation interests when considering proposals relating to the functions of their Board. This duty is augmented by other legislation, concerning the conservation of the natural environment and biodiversification.

Who deals with Land Drainage Consents ?

Under the Land Drainage Act 1991, applications for Consent to culvert, or make any other alteration to a watercourse, or to carry out other works affecting the land drainage system within an IDB Drainage District, requires Consent from the IDB concerned. Fees for examining the proposals and processing the application are charged by the IDB.

IDBs may also seek contributions from developers where the development proposals will result in an increase in the rate of flow or total volume of water being discharged into their Drainage District and where, as a consequence of the development, improvement works to the drainage system, or a higher standard and frequency of maintenance, will be needed.

What Land Drainage Powers and Responsibilities do Local Authorities Have?

Outside the Drainage District of an Internal Drainage Board local authorities have similar powers under some parts of the Land Drainage Act 1991. Since 2010 they can also grant consent for land drainage works outside of IDB operational boundaries.

Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 local authorities became Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) and were given responsibilities which include leading the co-ordination of flood risk management in their areas.

What About Highway Drainage?

Highway drainage is the responsibility of North Somerset Council - for more information about highway drainage and the cleaning of road gullies, please contact North Somerset Council Streets and Open Spaces on 01934 888802.