

RAMSEY IDB BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN – 2010/2011 REPORT

Drainage Ditch

- 1.1 There are two parts of the District namely, Lodes End and Stocking Fen. Only one part of the District will be slubbed out every two years and in the interim will be left to natural vegetation growth for habitation by birds, animals and other creatures. We have tried to launch a plan involving leaving one side of the drain untouched but the vast majority of the District contains drainage channels which are not wide enough to make this a practical proposition.
- 1.2 None of the banks are currently in need of natural erosion protection and none of the drainage ditches are wide enough to allow marginal plant ledges to be constructed. We will look for an opportunity to do this if it arises.
- 1.3 - ditto-
- 2.2 None are of a particular interest to be preserved. The whole of the District attracts wildlife, flora and fauna.
- 3.1 We shall place this Report on the Board's website for information to private land owners and members of the public and await requests for information and advice.
4. There is one badgers' set adjoining Stocking Fen Road where the road meets Muchwood Lane it is not near any of the drains and has been reported to the Environmental Officer.
5. Two black poplar saplings will be planted in the planting season 2011/2012 adjacent to Ramsey High Lode to replace two dead trees.

Reedbed

- 1.1 There are no such large areas.
- 2.2 No requests have been received and therefore no responses have been given.
3. Planning involves leaving one part of the District alone without reed control for a minimum of two years of a time.
- 3.1 - ditto-
- 3.2 Drain maintenance is normally carried out outside the breeding seasons i.e. from September to November each year.

Open Water

- 1.1 No work has been carried out so as to make it necessary to replace habitat but consideration will be given to pond creation if such opportunity arises.
- 1.2 No plans have been made by any of the landowners within the District for creation of flood storage areas and reservoirs.
- 1.3 No such schemes have been proposed so as to make advice and information necessary.
- 2.1 In view of the size of the drains within the District, this might not be possible but the Board will look for an opportunity should one arise. The stretch of drain approaching Lodes End Pumping Station is wide and acts as a reservoir which attracts wildlife and this will be preserved.

Water Vole Action Plan

- 1.1 Drainage management takes into account the presence of water voles and guidance is followed when carrying out operations.
- 1.2 This is discussed at Board meetings.
- 2.1 Most of the drains within the District are insufficiently wide enough to allow marginal shelves.
- 2.2 This is not considered necessary since the banks are all reasonably stable but due consideration will be given if necessary.

- 3.1 Have set up a raft counter for numbers of water voles but without success at Lodes End. Will need more advice from Environmental Officer.
- 3.2 -ditto-
- 4. There is a rodent control programme exercised by the Board. The Report of numbers caught for the 12 months to July 2010 has been delivered to the Environmental Officer. 3 males and 2 female mink.

Otter Action Plan

- 1.1 An otter holt has been installed at Saunders Bridge, Lodes End.
- 2.3 None have been sited in any part of the District over the last 12 months.
- 3.1 None have been seen.

Bats Action Plan

- 1.1 The Board will attach 2 bat boxes to each of its pumping stations or alternatively with the permission of land owners on a stables in Stocking Fen next to the access road to the Stocking Fen Pumping Station or at Ramsey Sewage Works (with the consent of Anglian Water) in winter/spring 2012
- 1.2 The Old Nene Golf and Country Club Ltd are pollarding trees with a view to controlling vegetation and it is expected that this might encourage roosting. The Board has no knowledge of the number of trees pollarded.
- 1.3 The old engine pump house at Lodes End and the pipe outlet from that disused pumping station.
- 2.1 Not yet installed.
- 2.2 Will do this once the installations have taken place.

Kingfisher Action Plan

- 1.1 Two nesting holes in sheet pilings at the old disused pumping station at Lodes End have already been installed.
- 1.2 No fishing perches have yet been left and the Board will look for an opportunity to do this especially during the Drain Maintenance Programme to be carried out in the Stocking Fen area of the District in Autumn 2011.
- 2.1 Kingfishers have been sighted in both parts of the District but it is not yet evident where they are nesting.

Barn Owl Plan

- 1.1 Two boxes will be installed, one at each of the two pumping stations, in 2011/2012. The Board is looking for advice from the Wild Life Conservation Partnership and the Environmental Officer.
- 1.2 Trees are pollarded on the golf course owned by Old Nene Golf and Country Club Ltd but the number is unknown.
- 2.1 Not installed yet.
- 2.2 Not installed yet.

Procedural Action Plan

- 1.1 The District Officer and the Chairman have both been on courses run by Natural England and Middle Level Commissioners.
- 1.2 This done by Middle Level Commissioners through the Environmental Officer.
- 2.2 The Board has no capital schemes currently but will be planning the installation of automatic weed screen cleaners at both pumping stations in the future and will at that time consult with the Environmental Officer.

Report delivered on 31st day of January . 2011

Signed.....*Jeff Edwards*.....

(Jeff Edwards) – District Officer

Signed 

(John A R Chrisp – Clerk to the Board)

Board Name:-									
Action Plan	Target Ref.	Target	Action Ref.	IDB Actions	Partners	Date By	Indicators to report	Reporting	2010/11 Report
Drainage Ditch	1	Manage ditches for biodiversity as well as for drainage	1.1	Establish and maintain a management plan for routine operations incorporating key biodiversity features	Environmental Officer	2015	Plan finalised and followed each year	Annual, after plan created	
			1.2	Look for opportunities to provide natural erosion protection such as marginal plant ledges when re-profiling ditches	Environmental Officer	Ongoing	If re-profiling is carried out, opportunities identified,	Annual	
			1.3	Provide natural erosion protection such as marginal plant ledges, if re-profiling opportunities available	Environmental Officer	Ongoing	Length of ditch with ledge / natural vegetation revegetment	Annual, if opportunities available	
Drainage Ditch	2	Identify ditches of conservation interest and manage appropriately	2.2	Ensure appropriate management of priority ditches for priority species	Environmental Officer, Plantlife, Wildlife Trust	Ongoing	Specified in management plan	Annual	
Drainage Ditch	3	Work with landowners to benefit wildlife in the wider area	3.1	Make ditch management advice available to interested private landowners	Environmental Officer, Wildlife Trust, FWAG	Ongoing	Number of landowners given ditch management advice	In response to approaches	

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Action Plan	Target Ref.	Target	Action Ref.	IDB Actions	Partners	Date By	Indicators to report	Reporting	2010/11 Report
Drainage Ditch	4	Control invasive species	4.1	Report any sightings of non-native invasive species immediately to the Environmental Officer and control appropriately (see Appendix F for lists of potential species)	Environmental Officer, Environment Agency Plantlife, Wildlife Trust	Ongoing	Reports to Environmental Officer	Annual	
Drainage Ditch	5	Plant black poplars to increase existing population	5.1	Identify suitable sites and plant at least 2 young black poplars	Environmental Officer	2015	Number of trees planted	Annual	
Reedbed	1	Identify, assess and map any areas of reedbed over 0.5ha in size	1.1	Pass details of any known areas to MLC Environmental Officer	Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Environment Agency	2012	Response sent, if present.	2013	
Reedbed	2	Support appropriate reedbed creation	2.2	Manage the District Adopted drains, where possible, to assist private landowners who wish to create areas	Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency	Ongoing	Number of requests received Number of landowners assisted	In response to approaches In response to approaches	
Reedbed	3	Take conservation value of reedbed into account when planning and carrying out ditch and river maintenance	3.1	Retain existing reed fringes at the toe of the bank, where possible, when desilting larger drains	Environmental Officer	2010	Operations where reed retained as % of number of opportunities available	Annual	

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Reedbed	3	Take conservation value of reedbed into account when planning and carrying out ditch and river maintenance	3.2	Undertake work outside the bird breeding season (7 th April – 15 th July). Where this is not possible take conservation advice and be aware of the possibility of late-nesting reed warblers and carry out breeding bird surveys prior to works.	Environmental Officer, Wildlife Trust, RSPB	2010	% operations following this advice	Annual	
Open Water	1	Promote the creation of ponds, lakes and reservoirs in appropriate areas	1.1	Consider pond creation as mitigation when a ditch has to be filled in or culverted	Local authorities, Amphibian & Reptile Conservation, Wildlife Trust	Ongoing	Number of ponds created if mitigation opportunities available.	Annual	
			1.2	Support creation of flood storage areas and reservoirs	Environment Agency, Natural England, Wildlife Trust, RSPB	Ongoing	Number of projects involved with	Annual	
			1.3	Assist private landowners with advice, information or contacts as necessary	Amphibian & Reptile Conservation, Wildlife Trust	Ongoing	(a) Number of requests for information and (b) % responded to.	Annual	
Open Water	2	Look for opportunities to create open water habitat when managing ditches	2.1	Create a pool at an appropriate ditch junction when re-profiling (see the Drainage Channel Biodiversity Manual, technique CL3))		2010	One pool successfully created	When created or every 5 years	

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Water Vole 1		Manage ditches according to the law and to best practice for water vole	1.1	Assume water voles are present when carrying out works (discuss special circumstances with the Environmental Officer) and follow the ADA water vole mitigation guide	Environmental Officer	Ongoing	Measures incorporated in management plan	Annual			
			1.2	Publicise good practice for rat control near drainage ditches	Environmental Officer, Wildlife Trust	Ongoing	Good Practice publicised	Annual			
Water Vole 2		Enhance drainage ditch habitat to benefit water vole	2.1	Look for opportunities to add a marginal shelf when re-profiling banks	Environmental Officer	Ongoing	(a) Opportunities looked for, (b) Measures taken	Annual			
			2.2	Consider using coir roll to stabilise banks and provide marginal vegetation	Environmental Officer	Ongoing	(a) Sites considered, (b) Measures taken	Annual			
Water Vole 3		Monitor water vole populations	3.1	Set up a survey programme to monitor water vole populations	Environmental Officer, Wildlife Trust	2010	Surveys carried out	Annual			
			3.2	Provide data on water vole to CPBRC and NBIS via the Environmental Officer	Environmental Officer, CPBRC, NBIS	Ongoing	Data sent via Environmental Officer annually	Annual			

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Action Plan	Target Ref.	Target	Action Ref.	IDB Actions	Partners	Date By	Indicators to report	Reporting	2010/11 Report
Water Vole	4	Control mink as necessary	4.2	Carry out mink control as part of the Middle Level programme and report all sightings to the Environmental Officer	Environmental Officer	Ongoing	(a) Number of trapping days & (b) number of mink caught	Annual	
Otter	1	Improve otter habitat	1.1	Identify and maintain existing key bushes and trees near watercourses likely to be important for otters	Environmental Officer	2012 and ongoing	(a) Sites identified & listed in management plan	Annual	
			1.3	Provide at least one artificial otter holt	Environmental Officer	2015	Number of holts provided	2016	
Otter	2	Monitor otter populations	2.3	Ensure any dead otters are reported to the Environmental Officer and transferred to the Environment Agency for post mortem	Environment Agency	Ongoing	Otters reported, if found	Annual	
Otter	3	Reduce otter deaths related to eel and crayfish trapping and road traffic	3.1	Report incidents of suspected illegal netting, trapping or fishing to the Environment Agency Fisheries Officers and the MLC Environmental Officer	Environment Agency, Angling Clubs	Ongoing	Incidents reported, if discovered	Annual	

Board Name:-									2010/11 Report
Action Plan	Target Ref.	Target	Action Ref.	IDB Actions	Partners	Date By	Indicators to report	Reporting	
Bats	1	Improve habitat for bats	1.1	Put up at least 2 bat boxes at appropriate sites (e.g. pumping stations)	Bat Conservation Trust, Conservation Constructions	2015	Number of bat boxes sited	Annual	
			1.2	Pollard suitable trees to provide bat roosts		Ongoing	Number of trees pollarded	Annual	
			1.3	Identify potential sites for a bat hibernaculum, e.g. in disused buildings or tunnels	Environmental Officer, Bat Conservation Trust	As opportunities arise	(a) Potential sites looked for, (b) Site created	Annual	
Bats	2	Collect information on bat populations	2.1	Monitor bat boxes	Bat Conservation Trust, Conservation Constructions	2015 onwards	(a) Number of boxes monitored, (b) number of boxes used by bats	Annual	
			2.2	Pass bat box information to CPBRC and NBIS via the Environmental Officer	Environmental Officer, CPBRC, NBIS	2015 onwards	Data sent to Environmental Officer annually	Annual	
Kingfisher	1	Improve the quality of kingfisher habitat	1.1	Provide at least 2 potential nest holes in sheet pilings	Environmental Officer	Ongoing	Number of nest sites provided	Annual	
			1.2	Leave kingfisher fishing perches where possible (e.g. occasional branch)	Environmental Officer	Ongoing	Number of perch sites left	Annual	

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Kingfisher	2	Collect records of kingfisher breeding between March and July	2.1	Note sightings of potential breeding kingfisher and pass information to CPBRC and NBIS via the Environmental Officer	Environmental Officer, CPBRC, NBIS	Ongoing	Data sent to Environmental Officer annually	Annual	
Barn Owl	1	Improve the quality of barn owl habitat	1.1	Put up at least 4-2 barn owl nest boxes in suitable locations	The Wildlife Conservation Partnership	2015	Number of nest boxes provided	Annual	
			1.2	Pollard suitable trees to provide natural nest sites	Environmental Officer	Ongoing	Number of trees pollarded	Annual	
Barn Owl	2	Collect records of barn owl presence	2.1	Monitor nest boxes for use. Have occupied boxes checked for success by licenced barn owl ringers.	Environmental Officer The Wildlife Conservation Partnership	Annually Annually, if occupied	Number of nest boxes monitored for use Number of occupied nests checked	Annual from installation onwards Annually, if occupied	
			2.2	Pass barn owl box information to CPBRC and NBIS via the Environmental Officer	Environmental Officer, CPBRC, NBIS	2015 onwards	Data sent to Environmental Officer annually	Annual from installation onwards	

Board Name:-						
Action Plan	Target Ref.	Target	Action Ref.	IDB Actions	Partners	Date By
Procedural	1	Provide training on IDB BAP and conservation management of drainage channels for all relevant staff by 2013	1.1	Establish programme of 1-day courses for IDB staff	Environmental Officer, Wildlife Trust, Natural England	2013
			1.2	Establish suitable training for contractors' staff	Environmental Officer, Contractors	2013
Procedural	2	Take biodiversity into account when planning and undertaking capital works	2.2	Consult with the Environmental Officer and choose the best possible mitigation solutions for biodiversity, e.g. fish-friendly pumps	Environmental Officer	Ongoing

Indicators to report	Reporting	2010/11 Report
Board members/ staff attending courses	Annual	
Contractors attended training course	Annual	
(a) Number of capital schemes undertaken, (b) number of schemes commented on	Annual	