

THE RIVER STOUR (KENT) INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Meeting of the Board held on Thursday 8 August 2024 at 2.00pm
at Godmersham & Crundale Village Hall, Canterbury Road, Godmersham CT4 7DR

PRESENT

Mr G Steed (Chairman), Cllr A Hicks (Vice Chair), Cllr R Carnac (remote), Ms N Dyas, Mr D Fuller, Cllr R McGeever, Cllr G Meaden, Cllr D Parks, Cllr W Scobie, Mr M Wilkinson and Mr L Woollorton.

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr P Dowling (Clerk & Engineer), Ms A Eastwood (Finance & Rating Officer) and Mr J Williamson (Technical Officer).

WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Cllr D Parks (DDC) to his first meeting, and he also welcomed the following EA Officers: Mr R Tournay (Stour & Swale Team Leader Asset Performance Team), Mr I West (Technical Advisor) and Dr R Charman (Geomorphology Technical Specialist). He further welcomed Mr Alasdair Hope (Member of the Public).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr P Dunn, Mr G Holdstock, Mr P Howard, Cllr D Ledger, Ms A Lynch and Mr P Williams. Apologies were also received from Mr J Dilnot (Operations Officer).

ABSENT

Mr D Botting, Cllr A Buchannan and Cllr M Moorhouse.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Ms N Dyas declared a landownership interest in relation to National Grid's proposals at Minster.

PRESENTATION ON THE LOWER STOUR BATHYMETRIC SURVEY – UPDATE BY DR R CHARMAN (ENVIRONMENT AGENCY)

Dr Charman began his presentation by briefly explaining the Estuary Theory to help clarify the way sediment has and continues to make its way into our estuaries. Approximately 22,000 years ago when glaciers melted, sea levels rose and river derived sediment from bare post glacier landscape, deposited on mass in new sheltered bays – this is called infilling. In most estuaries, of all river derived sediment 90% deposits in the estuary and 10% goes out to sea, but when a perfect funnel shape is formed and a new equilibrium is reached between sea level and the river input, sediment output to sea increases. Scientists estimate that this will occur in about 130 years in the Stour.

Dr Charman stated that he has been looking at whether the operation of the Stonar Cut has an impact on the estuary through conducting surveys and subsequently analysing its results. These surveys must be conducted on carefully chosen dates and repeated annually to ensure that most factors are similar. Scatter Plot surveys downstream of Grove Ferry have been conducted since 1999 and annually in November for the past 3 years. Dr Charman analysed data by comparing results from November 2013, November 2021 and November 2023 at the following points of the watercourse: 1km downstream Plucks Gutter (Long Section and Cross Section), Minster Stream/Sewerage Treatment Works (Long Section and Cross Section), Richborough Hill Area (Long Section and Cross Section), Sandwich Bridge (Long Section and Cross Section), Stonar

Cut (Upstream Side – Long Section; Stonar Cut (Downstream Side – Long Section and Cross Section).

Ms Dyas stated that the section 1km downstream of Plucks Gutter is totally silted up and it has been occurring since the channel was last desilted in 1989, it is concerning that siltation will continue for the next century when the channel is already struggling. Dr Charman stated that these survey results show no evidence of this section silting up over the past 10 years but there will be some siltation at the upstream end.

Dr Charman explained that because the Stonar Cut gates are opened to let flood flows through, which otherwise would go around the Sandwich loop, you would expect increased siltation. Historically it has silted up, but levels have been stable since 2013, which suggests that the operation of the Stonar Cut is not causing any problems in this area.

Concluding most long and cross sections show consistently lower bed elevations over the channel centre and cross sections between 2013 and 2023, with the exceptions being upstream and downstream of the meander bend 1km downstream of Plucks Gutter and the cross sections on Richborough Hill and Sandwich Bridge.

Cllr Hicks asked how the increased implementation of wastewater treatment plants will affect the levels. Dr Charman replied that the impacts of sea level rise over 100s of years will massively out way the impacts of additional discharge from wastewater treatment plants. Ms Dyas stated that if this area is the pinch point, any further inflow will cause the river to break its banks because it is so shallow that it cannot convey the water down the channel.

The Chairman asked how this data is being used by the EA to forward plan desilting for areas that will potentially need it. Mr Tournay stated that funding requests need to be backed by data and justified but in the short term there are no available funds to carry out any work. He continued to say that another survey is planned for November 2024 and then there will be a survey every 5 years. Dr Charman stated that originally the surveys were to assess the implications of using the Stonar Cut, being an abnormal setup, so this was the area to focus on and everything else was seen to function naturally.

Cllr McGeever commented that although downstream is going to be more influenced by the rise of sea level and sediment deposits, there needs to be consideration for how the higher flows wastewater treatment plants are introducing upstream, will change the dynamics of the watercourses and its impact downstream. Dr Charman stated that he is not as worried about additional wastewater as he is about wastewater being recycled to be used as drinking water hence reducing freshwater input into the system.

Mr Fuller mentioned the modelling at Broad Oak Reservoir which will take some flow and Dr Charman stated that he thinks it comes from the Stour at Plucks Gutter and he added that he has raised his concerns regarding the pressures and implications of this.

The Chairman thanked Dr Charman for his presentation and for answering all the questions posed to him. He further stated that the Stour is a very heavily managed watercourse and has not been allowed to evolve and develop naturally. This management whether it's putting in defences or planning building has had a huge impact and for that reason alone it is imperative that the survey and monitoring continues to ascertain what is happening within the Stour.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON MONDAY 6 JUNE 2024

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on Thursday 6 June 2024 were received. It was proposed by Cllr Scobie, seconded by Cllr McGeever and resolved that the minutes be

confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the proceedings at that meeting. Cllr Parks abstained because he was not present at said meeting.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Ref: F3-3 The Old Thrustbore

The Clerk & Engineer reported that Network Rail have agreed that a joint survey would be beneficial, and on first instance asked to view the cctv footage resulting from the Board's survey.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE, GENERAL PURPOSES AND WORKS COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 22 JULY 2024

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance, General Purposes & Works Committee held on Monday 22 July 2024 were received. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr Wilkinson and resolved that these minutes be received. Cllr Hicks abstained as she was not present at said meeting.

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Ref: F8-6 Surface Water Development Contributions (SWDCs)

Treated effluent discharges to the RSIDB District

The Chairman asked the Technical Officer about the progress in trying to align this charge with the SWDCs. The Technical Officer replied that as expected this has proved difficult because the charges relate to difference nature of the developments. He added that he looked at two different sites and related these costs back to how much they pay per square meter per property, and it resulted on the costs per property for the less dense housing development being twice as much as for the dense site.

The Technical Officer reported that ADA, who were initially broadly supportive of these charges, have been contacted again as has the Water Management Alliance for further support.

Report for the period May to July 2024

Actions from previous meeting:

Ref: W4/SW – the Clerk & Engineer forwarded the links to Clean Rivers & Seas and Beachbouy to the Members where current and past discharges can be seen. A visit to Lenham WwTW was planned as part of this year's Annual Inspection but this has been cancelled because there are works planned for that date on the site.

Ref: W4/WSR Rainfall & River Flow Data

The Clerk & Engineer reported that rainfall across the Stour catchment in May ranged from 48.9mm at Sholden to 60.9mm at Canterbury and averaged 54.9mm (118% of the Long-Term Average). June ranged from 11.8mm at Broadstairs and Sholden to 22.7mm at Bybrook, averaging 15.4mm (just 30% of the LTA) and July's data is not yet available.

At the end of June, the Environment Agency still categorised river flows in the Stour catchment as notably high. However, due to a dry June hands off flow constraints were applied to some licensed abstractions within the Upper Stour catchment area. Although groundwater levels continue to fall consistently across Kent, levels are still categorised from exceptionally high to above average for this time of the year. All reservoirs currently remain healthy.

Ref: W7 IDB Programme of Works (Including works carried out under PSCA)

Weed Cutting

This year's weed cutting programme started on 16 July and focussed on the highest priority watercourses, in line with the recent maintenance review and to minimise the risk of disturbing nesting birds. Although a good start has been made there have been a few difficulties, and the Operating Officer has had to make some minor changes to the programming. This revised process will continue to be monitored and further revised as necessary to ensure efficient delivery.

Matthews Close Dyke was the first to be cut due to heavy vegetation and to allow for any storm flows. The seven newly adopted watercourses will be cut this year, after they have been surveyed and after initial works such as Pioneering and De-silting are completed to bring them up to standard.

Approximately 120km of Main Rivers are also scheduled to be cut under the PSCA.

De-silting

The 2024-25 de-silting programme is still to be finalised but currently includes the following IDB watercourses:

8	Whitfield Road Dyke	208	Ash Level Feed Dyke
22	Withersdane Dyke	210	Chandlers Dyke
47	Wickham Main Stream	212	Horseshoe West
50	Monkton Main Stream East	300	Redsells Dyke
85	Lower Newnham Stream	311	Richborough Stream
110	Blackhole Dyke	316	Norman Road Dyke
123	May Drove Lead Dyke	319	Blackhole Middle Dyke
195	Snipe Dyke	320	Minster Crossing Dyke

Another section of the Delf Stream in Sandwich (approx. 50m in length) is to be narrowed and deepened under the PSCA to help improve flows. Brushwood faggots are to be installed, which will help to protect the riverbank from erosion and will provide space for the placement of silts.

Spoil Spreading

Spoil from last year's de-silted watercourses will be spread in liaison with affected landowners, in August/September.

Tree & Shrub Maintenance

Details of this year's tree maintenance programme, including another substantial amount on Main Rivers under the PSCA, will as usual be finalised during the weed cutting season using feedback from Rhino staff. This work will be scheduled for completion in late 2024, early 2025 although some work may be necessary earlier to facilitate de-silting operations.

Structures Maintenance

Harrison's Stop on Wickham Mainstream (IDB47) on the Grove Marsh is planned to be renewed in the autumn, again in cooperation with the East Kent Engineering Partnership. Minor repairs and improvements will also continue to several other structures.

Water Level Control

All water levels are now at normal summer level. Remote water level monitors are to be installed across the Minster and Monkton Marshes this summer to aid monitoring and understanding of the drainage system.

Ref: A10-21 Beaver Activity

Damage to the Grove Wall at Stodmarsh was repaired in close liaison with Natural England and the EA with very good results so far – timbers and branches were placed to allow the beavers to continue using those points. Repairs to other water level management structures are also planned and the results will be reported in due course.

Natural England's National Beaver Officer invited the RSIDB to join a National Beaver Practitioner Group, which meets four times each year to share experience and best practice. The Board's Operations Officer is most involved with managing the effects of beaver activity on the ground so will join this group. One of its first tasks will be to produce a manual of management techniques which will eventually develop agreed best practice.

Mr B Morris (Beaver Technical Specialist, EA Southeast) has moved on to a position with the Beaver Community Trust so will continue working within the area.

Ref: A4-3 Biodiversity

The following update was provided by KSCP:

- 1. Surveying** – Brief surveys of IDB30 Long Reaches & IDB106; Seaton Lead Dyke desilted last year to assess impacts, look for improvement opportunities and to monitor recovery. Continued water quality sampling on IDB305 North Stream, part of ongoing programme to monitor effects of surface water and silt runoff from adjacent salad fields. Planned summer BAP survey programme and full BAP surveys of IDB287 Maison Dieu and IDB314 Worth Minnis Drain.
- 2. Management Prescriptions** – Completed edits to management sheets for watercourses surveyed in 2023. Additional edits to management sheets for selected watercourses considering recently available habitat management advice for BAP Priority Dragonfly/Damselfly Species.
- 3. Enhancement Projects** – Kayaked watercourses at Wade Marsh checking for Parrot's Feather which was absent once again. Communication and site visit with RSPB Worth Marshes Warden to discuss tree planting to enhance habitat for Scarce Chaser, a BAP Priority species of dragonfly. Met with Operations Officer to allocate actions for tree planting and Natural Flood Management projects to be progressed over the summer.
- 4. Engagement with Landowners and External Organisations** – Data from 2023 BAP surveys sent to Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre. Shared key findings from IDB 314 survey with RSPB warden.
- 5. Communication and training** – Added data to Making Space for Nature online map, part of the development process for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Delivered Biodiversity presentation at contractor induction.

Ref: W7G Environment Agency Works

The following summary of EA activities was received:

Currently:

- Maintenance activities are taking place, including FSR mowing.
- Weed cutting programme has started.
- Seaton weir erosion protection works, is currently being monitored.
- Improvement works at Aldington scheduled for late summer/Autumn.
- Nargate weed cut underway in response to excessive growth due to enhanced neutrality source sewage outfall.

- Data task updating our systems with asset start dates, DQF etc may need to get info from IDB and have liaised with James and Shaun.
- Stour Mouth pump fitted not operational yet.
- Hacklinge track repair went well, planning for use in the future.

Work delivered April to July 2024:

- MEICA asset maintenance / repairs.
- Structure operational checks.

2024-2025 Project list:

- Stonar Cut penstock repairs due autumn.
- Meica asset maintenance / PPMs (Planned Preventative Maintenance).
- Annual in-channel maintenance programme.
- Tree pioneering – watercourses to be determined.
- Rippers Cross and Paddocks Farm pumping stations – step replacement.
- Lower Stour bathymetry survey.
- Stourmouth Pumping Station – eel friendly pump works and elver pass installation (multi-year project expected to start in 2024/25).
- Minster Pumping Station – eel friendly pump replacement and elver pass installation (pump replacement expected spring 2025).
- Northern Sea Wall beach management – shingle recycling.
- Rippers Cross and Paddocks Farm PS pump refurbishments – currently in process of SETEL updates.
- Brewery Sluice – trash screen replacement is ongoing (completion expected autumn 2024).
- Little Stour outfall repairs (completion expected autumn 2024).
- Ash Level Pumping Station – basement columns repairs.
- Black Sluice Pumping Station – motor refurbishment, VSD installation, screw bearings replacement.
- Black Sluice Pumping Station – eel pass pump replacement.
- Hacklinge Pumping Station – works to prevent pump 3 backflow.
- Sarre Pumping Station – like for like screw replacement (completion expected autumn 2025).
- Monks Wall FSR – erosion repairs and structure maintenance.
- Ashford FSRs – access improvements.

The list of projects may be subject to change during the year, depending on staff resource, contractor availability, incident response activities, flood risk priorities and budget position.

Ms Dyas asked about the previously reported leak at Monkton Engine. Mr Tournay replied that there is currently no funding allocated to repair this.

Ref: W5 Planning Applications

The Technical Officer stated that we endeavour to find contact details of applicants or their agents for any application we comment on; we then make sure they receive a copy of our comment directly. This has resulted in more developers contacting the IDB to discuss Land Drainage Consent (LDC) requirements.

The Technical Officer informed that, following Cllr McGeever's request at the last Board meeting, he has included below a brief update on all applications he has objected to over the last year. Cllr McGeever commented that this detail is appreciated and has helped him to understand the situation with these applications.

Ashford Borough Council

18/01822/AS

**Land at Court Lodge, Pound Lane, Kingsnorth
Construction of up to 1000 new homes, etc**

We have raised specific concerns related to the proposed installation of an onsite WwTW and the permanent flow from it to our District. Numerous other objections have been received from various other Authorities. Pending.

PA/2022/2669

**Land off Norman Road and Romney Marsh Road, Ashford
Development of 90 one and two bedroom apartments in three buildings**

We objected to this application for several reasons related to surface water management, development in the flood-plain, and general functionality. The applicant was unable to resolve the issues and the application was withdrawn. Withdrawn.

PA/2023/0393

**Wetlands West of Sewage Works at junction of Branch Road and Ashford Road, Chilham
Construction of engineered wetland with landscaping.**

For this engineered wetland proposal (for Nutrient Neutrality purposes), we are concerned that there has yet to be any direct communication from the applicant, especially regarding the need for LDC for any works within 8m of a watercourse. The proximity of IDB30 Long Reaches to the north of the site necessitates a minimum 6m clearance for operational activities (such as weed-cutting and desilting). Construction and bunding within the Byelaw Margin must be carefully considered to ensure they do not impede maintenance activities. Detailed information on impacts on non-IDB maintained watercourses is also required. If permission is granted, conditions should be applied to ensure that there are no permanent works within 6m of IDB30 and an informative should be attached to the Decision Notice to inform the applicant of the necessity for LDC.

OTH/2023/1471

**The Forstal, Blind Lane, Blind Lane, Mersham, Kent
SuDS Verification Report**

We objected to the Condition that required confirmation that the SuDS system had been installed as designed; there are two flow control structures, but the applicant used the same photo to demonstrate they had been installed. Another photo was supplied that allowed the objection to be withdrawn. Resolved.

OTH/2024/0094

**Land between railway line and, Willesborough Road, Kennington, Kent
Details submitted pursuant to conditions 21 (Surface Water Drainage Scheme) and 49 (Arboricultural Impact Assessment) of planning permission 19/00025/AS**

This application has not yet addressed our concerns raised in January regarding the 8l/s/Ha discharge rate. Additional information is needed to clarify the reasoning for this elevated rate. Without this, it is recommended that the condition **not be discharged** to avoid complications with LDC approval from the RSIDB.

PA/2024/0260

**Waterbrook Park, Waterbrook Avenue, Sevington
Mixed-use application comprising 144 dwellings, etc**

We placed an objection on this application, pending clarification on suitable revisions to the discharge rate, water quality control, basin design and climate change allowances. The application has yet to be determined. Pending.

OTH/2024/0902**Former Houchin Playing Fields, Canterbury Road, Kennington, TN24 8QQ****Details submitted pursuant to conditions 9, 11 & 32 - 22/01067/AS**

This site falls largely within the RSIDB Drainage District and so has the potential to impact drainage and downstream flood risk. LDC will therefore be required for the proposed drainage outfall and for the additional volume of water being discharged. KCC (as LLFA) are objecting to the discharge of conditions owing to insufficient information and overly optimistic rainfall allowances in the system modelling. We have raised an **objection** related to the modelling of the detailed design and over the potentially avoidable use of a pump in a 'sustainable' drainage system. Pending.

The applicant's plan to use a pump for surface water discharge is not environmentally sound or sustainable unless absolutely necessary. We have recommended that the applicant explore gravity-powered outfall options with upstream flow control. The requirement for a SWDC to the Board if the proposals increase runoff into the district must also be highlighted. Byelaw 3 applies.

PA/2024/1087**Land north of M20 Coastbound south of, Kennington Road, Willesborough****Outline application for up to 180 dwellings with associated infrastructure, engineering works, and open space with all matters reserved except for access**

This outline application for up to 180 dwellings requires further attention at the detailed design stage with respect to potential drainage and flood risks. Prior written consent from the IDB is mandatory for any works affecting ditches or watercourses on the site. KCC (as LLFA) has requested additional information and clarification, which we have supported. The Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy proposes an attenuated discharge due to unviable infiltration, but it must be demonstrated that the receiving network can accommodate this.

The applicant must also be aware of the need for LDC if the proposals increase runoff into the district. Details on the foul flow rate and volume are also necessary. Byelaw 3 applies.

Canterbury City Council**CA/23/00484****Land at The Hill Bekesbourne Lane East of Bekesbourne Hill Bekesbourne Canterbury****Outline planning application for up to 300 residential dwellings**

We objected to this application owing to concern over the intended point of discharge (a damaged culvert with an unknown outfall point), a pumped portion of the development site and the treated effluent flows that had not been considered in the calculations. Pending

CA/23/01743**Land North of Popes Lane Sturry, CT2 0JZ****Outline application for up to 120 residential dwellings with all matters reserved except for access**

Upon reviewing the supplementary information by Enzygo (flood risk consultants), we have no objection to the outline application for up to 120 residential dwellings. However, the requirement for LDC for surface water discharge into the Drainage District remains critical, and the detailed design required for any subsequent Reserved Matters application will need careful consideration. We would not necessarily expect a full, detailed design for an outline application. Byelaw 3 applies

Dover District Council**23/00227****Land West of Kestrels Fen and South of Ash Bypass Ash
Change of use of land for open timber storage, erection of 2 storage containers**

We opposed this application initially owing to proposed works within 8m of an IDB maintained watercourse without due consideration of access given. We met with the applicant and secured appropriate revisions. Resolved but refused and resubmitted.

23/00420**White Mills Wake and Aqua Park Ash Road Sandwich
Training lake and caravan pitches**

We raised an objection owing to a general absence of information pertaining to surface water flood risk, freeboard in the lake and overall impermeable area. The applicant commissioned a revised report that adequately dealt with the concerns raised. Resolved.

24/00580**Land North of Gobery Hill, Gobery Hill, Wingham
Erection of 17 dwellings**

Although this application is outside of our Drainage District, the surface water runoff will ultimately flow towards and into our catchment. The applicant has proposed two options for discharging surface water into the district, requiring LDC from both Kent County Council and the RSIDB.

The absence of a detailed drainage strategy at this planning stage is concerning. Determination of the application should be postponed until a finalised and modelled drainage strategy is provided, demonstrating adequate space for surface water management. Evidence that the receiving watercourse can handle the flow without increasing flood risk is also essential. Byelaw 3 applies

24/00370**Meadow Cottage, The Street, Preston, CT3 1EB
Erection of 15 dwellings, 1 replacement dwelling, new vehicular access, parking and landscaping (existing dwelling to be demolished)**

Although this application is outside of our Drainage District, the surface water runoff will ultimately flow towards and into our catchment. LDC from both Kent County Council and the RSIDB will therefore be required. A finalised drainage strategy must be provided and modelled to ensure sufficient space for water management on-site.

If off-site disposal is chosen, confirmation that the receiving network can handle the flow without exacerbating flood risk is essential. A finalised strategy should follow KCC's guidelines, including using the recommended M5-60 value in modelling (the M5-60 is the recognised baseline for modelling software and represents the rainfall that would occur over a 1-hour period during a '1 in 5yr' rainfall event). If the M5-60 is too low, there is a risk that the attenuation will be undersized, and the off-site flows underestimated. Byelaw 3 applies.

Folkestone & Hythe District Council**20/0604/FH****Land to the South of Ashford Road, Sellindge
Erection of 55 dwellings**

Following review of the latest flood risk and drainage information, we have been able to withdraw our previous objections. KCC (as LLFA) has accepted the proposed attenuated drainage to the adjacent highway system as being the only viable option for surface water

disposal. Since the highway drainage ultimately discharges into our Drainage District, LDC from the RSIDB is still required. A one-off SWDC will be needed to manage increased flow into the district. Byelaw 3 applies.

23/0389/FH/CON

Land Rear of Rhodes House, Main Road, Sellindge

Approval of details pursuant to condition 16 (surface water drainage)

We raised an objection to the discharge of the surface water management related Condition as the applicant had not contacted us to discuss the system or the offsite issues of concern to the Board. The objection was not upheld, and the application was approved. However, there is a note on the Decision Notice to remind the applicant that LDC is required. Partially resolved – Technical Officer to follow-up.

20/0604/FH

Land to the South of Ashford Road, Sellindge

Outline planning application for the erection of up to 55 dwellings

We initially objected to this application because of the assumed connection of the SuDS system to the Highways drain, without any indication of approval from KCC. The applicant has since demonstrated that infiltration is not possible and has obtained theoretical approval from KCC for connection to their system. The applicant has also formally acknowledged that LDC from the RSIDB is needed and that a SWDC is payable. Resolved.

23/1610/FH

Land Adjoining the Dragonfly, (Former Piggery), Main Road, Sellindge

32 dwellings and doctors' surgery

We objected to this application because there was an absence of information pertaining to drainage and off-site flood risk. The application was refused, with one of the reasons being drainage and flood risk. Refused.

Swale Borough Council

24/502123/EIOUT

Land North and South of The A2 Boughton Bypass Dunkirk Kent ME13 9LG

Outline application (all matters reserved except for access) for a mixed use phased development comprising up to 1,815 houses and associated development.

For this large-scale mixed-use development outside of our District, we have noted that the applicant intends to discharge runoff towards and into our district. LDC from both Kent County Council and the RSIDB is necessary for any surface water drainage scheme.

We have informed the LPA and the applicant that we would wish to be fully involved in the evolution of the surface water management design. A finalised and modelled drainage strategy demonstrating adequate surface water management on-site will be essential before approval of the subsequent and detailed Reserved Matters application. Byelaw 3 applies.

Thanet District Council

F/TH/24/0034

Richborough Energy Park Sandwich Road

Construction of a 99.99MW battery storage scheme and associated development (Retrospective)

We have no concerns with the applicant's surface water management plan. The system has been designed for direct discharge to the Tidal Stour with accommodation provided for tide-locked situations. Provided a non-return flap is installed, the system appears robust (subject to appropriate maintenance).

F/TH/24/0269**Richborough Energy Park Sandwich Road RAMSGATE Kent CT13 9NL****Variation of conditions 2, 3, 5, 6 and 11 of approved permission of F/TH/22/1245**

These proposals do not affect IDB-adopted watercourses. The proposed attenuated discharge to the Tidal Stour, with a non-return flap on the outfall, appears adequate for managing runoff, even during tide-locked conditions. The SuDS scheme is acceptable, provided the outfall is properly maintained. No further concerns are identified, given the absence of other watercourses on-site.

Ref: W15 Applications for Land Drainage Consent

24 ST 02**Proposed: Removal and replacement/improvement of existing culverts****Location: Cheeseman's Green floodplain, 3km south of Ashford, Kent. 2x OWC**

Taylor Wimpey applied to remove two existing culverts and replace them with larger structures that include integrated mammal-runs. The current ~1050mm culverts on the Bilham Dyke and Longinge Dyke watercourses will be upgraded to single 1200mm diameter circular culverts, each incorporating 300mm diameter mammal-runs.

The culvert headwalls will be constructed using dry concrete-filled bags. The works are planned for the summer, using over-pumping to manage low flows (rather than a watercourse diversion). These improvements are necessary to facilitate the construction of a Public Right of Way (PROW). We have no concerns with these proposals provided the applicant can formally identify the body who will be responsible for the long-term oversight and maintenance of the system. Consent will not be issued until this information is received.

24 ST 03**Proposed: Discharge of surface water/treated effluent to the RSIDB Drainage District****Location: Former Brickworks, Naccolt, Wye with Hinxhill, Hinxhill, Ashford, Kent, TN25 5NU**

We have previously made a planning representation on an application that sits outside of our District (17/01840/AS). The developer's consultant subsequently applied for LDC under Byelaw 3, specifically for discharging surface water from a SuDS scheme that limits the discharge rate to 3.1 l/s into the district. There will be a SWDC of **£4,360.80** for the management of this water, in-line with the recently revised fee schedule.

LDC has already been obtained from Kent County Council for the drainage works outside the RSIDB District. This application is solely related to the management of the additional volumes of water the RSIDB will need to manage. The Chairman thanked everyone for their feedback on this application which was extremely helpful.

24 ST 04**Proposed: Thrustbore and installation of a cable beneath OWC****Location: Land to the east of Church Lane and west of Sellindge Substation, Sellindge**

This application involves the installation of a cable beneath Church Lane and an adjacent Ordinary Watercourse (OWC) via thrust-bore. The cable will be over 1 meter below the channel bed-level, with pits for the cable's entry and exit positioned well away from the banks to reduce risk. This is therefore a low-risk application with minimal issues for the Board.

ADMINISTRATION

Ref: A1-3 Review of Internal Drainage District Boundary

The Board previously agreed to pursue the extension of its Internal Drainage District to the full catchment area. Contact has been made with the Environment Agency and Kent County Council, the partner organisations most involved or affected by any future boundary change, to establish their positions. KCC's Flood & Water Manager responded as follows:

“In principle, the Flood and Water Management Team are supportive of IDB expansion and we would be happy for you to progress this. As we discussed, there are some areas that we would like clarity about, in particular:

- *The customer experience for land drainage enquiries. These are fairly low in your area, but we do receive some and we would like to ensure that customers who have issues with ordinary watercourses continue to receive advice and support.*
- *Roadside ditches. Our highways team also use the land drainage powers to enforce the maintenance of roadside ditches where they flood the highway. How they will be able to work with you where these ditches are now in your district is something that they will be interested in.*

Whilst the FWM team is supportive, we have not yet discussed this more widely. Depending on the nature of the consultation, our response may require a formal decision, as it would be a reasonably significant change of our powers. At present we can't say what the wider council's view would be, though if the issues raised above can be covered satisfactorily, we should be able to support it.”

Assurances have been provided in response to the above; the IDB will continue to engage with all those with concerns/issues in relation to ordinary watercourses to offer guidance and support. This boundary change should in fact help to remove some of the confusion around catchment areas and IDD boundaries. And the IDB will continue to work with Highways and others to help resolve issues with roadside ditches, as we do at present within the existing district boundary. Again, this change should enable the IDB to carry out works across the wider network to reduce flooding at known hotspots.

The Environment Agency's FCRM Operations Manager for Kent, South London and East Sussex responded as follows:

“Thank you for the update the Stour IDB's plans to extend their Drainage District boundaries. As we set out in our original response the Environment Agency has no objection to the planned expansion as currently planned it will have no effect on our current funding elements between the Environment Agency and the Board. We do not see the proposal affecting our operational activities and any current collaborative arrangements we have in place.

In fact, we see the proposal as a positive in terms of the additional control you as a Board will have on any proposed planning, development, and other activities across the catchment in the future. Also, I note that KCC have been consulted and have no objections to the proposal. I note that the planned increased area currently comes with no additional financial element currently and the proposal will have no impact on the Environment Agency's upland water contribution annual payments or impact our ability to raise some funding against the current precept which we continue to negotiate with the Board on an annual basis.”

Discussions will continue with KCC and the EA to address any issues, and contact will be made with Defra to confirm its views and requirements, including any requirements in relation to the

Board's existing Differential Rating Order. Wider consultation will then be carried out as previously agreed. **Action: Clerk & Engineer to consult with Defra.**

Ref: A2-3 Annual Inspection

This year's site visits are to take place on Wednesday 18 September in the Ashford area. Details are still to be agreed but visits to the following sites are being considered: a Wastewater Treatment Works, Hothfield Flood Storage Reservoir, Buxford Stream enhancements, a development site to view SuDS and the Conningbrook engineered wetland. **Action: Clerk & Engineer to progress.**

Ref: A2-3.1 Environment Agency Stour Field Team Training Day

The Environment Agency's Stour Field Team open training day was held on Thursday 27 June at Plucks Gutter Depot and was attended by IDB members and staff. There were several demonstrations, including the IDB's tractor pump and the day was well attended and enjoyed by all.

The Chairman stated that it was an excellent day and expressed his thanks to the Operations Officer and the Water Level Controller for organising and operating the pump with the help of EA colleagues. He further stated that everyone was surprised by how good a piece of equipment this is, and it should service the Board well for many years to come.

Ref: A3-2 Election of Members

The IDB Election is to take place on Tuesday 29 October 2024. A Register of Electors detailing ratepayers eligible to vote has been produced and has been made available for inspection. No comments or queries were received so the Board should now approve the Register. As the Register will remain available for public inspection until the date of the Election, it is proposed that the Chair, Vice Chair, Clerk & Engineer and/or Finance & Rating Officer be delegated the authority to consider and determine any queries or objections received.

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr McGeever and resolved that the Chair, Vice Chair, Clerk & Engineer and/or Finance & Rating Officer be delegated the authority to consider and determine any queries or objections received. It was further proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Ms Dyas and resolved that the Register of Electors be received and approved.

Ref: A3-6 Health & Safety

It was reported that the Board's Health & Safety Policy is due to be reviewed in consultation with the Health & Safety Sub-Committee, which currently consists of the Chair, Vice Chair, Cllr D Ledger, for approval at the November meeting of the Board.

Ref: A8-1 Association of Drainage Authorities

Following the recent general election, ADA wrote to all MPs covering Internal Drainage Board areas, welcoming them into role or returning to their seats. ADA also used this opportunity to promote its key priorities for its members:

1. Long term investment horizons in the face of climate change challenges.
2. Manage our rivers and flood defences from source to sea.
3. Robustly address surface water flood risks.
4. Greater local decision making for better catchment management.
5. Support local funding for flood & water management.

6. Improving regulations to integrate water level and flood risk management.

The Vice Chair opined that it is great that ADA have taken the initiative to inform all MPs. The Chairman agreed it to be very positive and it is something that we are also planning to do by highlighting the work we do to local MPs and district councils. The Clerk & Engineer stated that the extension of the district will give us the opportunity to do this as part of our consultation.

Ref: A8-1.1 ADA South-East Branch

The next meeting of the ADA South-East Branch is set to take place at Ashford Cattle Market on Thursday 24th October. Items for the Agenda should be sent to the Branch Secretary, Ms Ana Eastwood.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

FINANCE, GENERAL PURPOSES & WORKS COMMITTEE (FGP&W Committee)

The Chairman stated that Cllr S Blair was a Member of the FGP&W Committee and as she is no longer representing DDC, there is a vacancy on this committee. The Chairman stated that this committee is re-elected every November, but there is one more FGP&W Committee meeting before then and he asked Cllr D Parks, as Cllr Blair's replacement, if he would agree to fill this vacancy. Cllr Parks agreed, and it was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by the Vice Chair and agreed that Cllr Parks join the FGP&W Committee until November 2024.

Ref:A1-1 Board Members

The Clerk & Engineer reported that Cllr Moorhouse is unable to attend daytime meetings, so has never attended a Board meeting. Therefore, it is likely that Dover District Council (DDC) will reappoint his position if DDC retains two positions on the Board.

He further updated that he contacted the Councils' Democratic Services and Thanet District Council (TDC) wish to reclaim their two positions on the Board and DDC would also like to retain the two positions currently held. Hence the Clerk & Engineer contacted Ashford Borough Council (ABC), who have 5 members, enquiring if they would be willing to drop down to four members – an update will be provided once a reply is received.

National Grid Proposal

Ms Dyas stated that she farms Minster, Monkton and Ebbsfleet Marshes and National Grid are hoping to build a substation and a converter station on a large part of the Ebbsfleet Marsh. She further added that National Grid are also planning other works, including a new solar farm.

When National Grid produced their proposal summary they stated potential impacts include pollution, temporary physical disturbance, increased runoff rates and volumes, temporary loss of flood plain storage, impediment of the flood plain flows and temporary deterioration of water quality. Ms Dyas reported that the proposals now include the importation of hundreds of thousands of tonnes of sand to raise the whole area by two metres to remove building from flood risk. This is a major concern because other areas will be put at a greater risk of flooding and the sand will potentially make the whole of the marsh saline.

The Technical Officer commented that these plans would not be allowed by the EA or the Board and we are making sure that anything they are doing there will not adversely impact the area with attenuated surface water runoff so not to be any greater than presently. The Chairman reiterated that it is important that the EA and IDB link-up for this. Mr Tournay stated that there is a meeting coming up regarding this proposal, the Technical Officer asked for an invite to it.
Action: Technical Officer to liaise with the EA to produce a joint/consistent response.

MEETING CLOSED

There being no other business the Chairman thanked all for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.