

THE RIVER STOUR (KENT) INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

LAND DRAINAGE BYELAWS

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THE RIVER STOUR (KENT) INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD BYELAWS

The River Stour (Kent) Internal Drainage Board under and by virtue of the powers and authority vested in them by Section 34 of the Land Drainage Act 1976, do hereby make the following Byelaws which are considered necessary for securing the efficient working of the drainage system in their District: -

1. Commencement of Byelaws

These Byelaws shall come into operation at the expiration of one month beginning with the day on which they are confirmed by the Minister.

2. Application of Byelaws

(a) These Byelaws shall have effect within the District;

(b) The watercourses referred to in these Byelaws are watercourses, which are for the time being vested in or under the control of the Board.

3. Control of Introduction of Water and Increase in Flow or Volume of Water

No person shall, without the previous consent of the Board, for any purpose, by means of any channel, siphon, pipeline or sluice or by any other means whatsoever, introduce any water into the District or, whether directly or indirectly, increase the flow or volume of water in any watercourse in the District.

4. Control of Sluices etc

Any person having control of any sluice, water control structure or appliance for introducing water into any watercourse in the District or for controlling or regulating or affecting the flow of water in, into or out of any watercourse shall use and maintain such sluice, water control structure or appliance in accordance with such reasonable directions as may from time to time be given by the Board with a view to the prevention of flooding or any shortage in the flow or supply of water and to the efficient working of the drainage system in the District.

5. Fishing Nets and Angling

No person shall angle or set any nets or engines for the catching or keeping of fish in any watercourse in such a manner as to cause damage to or endanger the stability of the bank of the watercourse or to affect or impede the flow of water.

In this Byelaw “nets” includes:

- (a) a stake net, bag net or keep net;
- (b) any net secured by anchors and any net, or other implement for taking fish, fixed to the soil or made stationary in any other way;
- (c) any net placed or suspended in any inland or tidal waters unattended by the owner or a person duly authorised by the owner to use it for fish, and any engine, device, machine or contrivance, whether floating or otherwise, for placing or suspending such a net or maintaining it in working order or making it stationary.

6. **Diversion or Stopping up of Watercourses**

No person shall, without the previous consent of the Board, take any action, or knowingly permit or aid or abet any person to take any action to stop up any watercourse or divert or impede or alter the level of or direction of the flow of water in, into or out of any watercourse.

7. **Detrimental Substances not to be Put into Watercourses**

No person shall, so as directly or indirectly to obstruct, impede or interfere with the flow of the water in, into or out of any watercourse or so as to damage the bank:

- (a) discharge or put or cause or permit to be discharged or put or negligently or wilfully cause or permit to fall into any watercourse any object or matter of any kind whatsoever whether solid or liquid;
- (b) allow any such object or matter as is referred to in sub-paragraph (a) of this Byelaw to remain in proximity to any watercourse in such manner as to render the same liable to drift or fall or to be carried into any watercourse.

Provided that nothing in this Byelaw shall be deemed to render unlawful the growing or harvesting of crops in accordance with normal agricultural practice.

8. **Lighting of Fires**

No person shall light or cause or permit to be lighted or commit any action liable to cause to be lighted any fire on any land adjoining the watercourse where such action is liable to set on fire the peat land forming the banks of the watercourse or any vegetation including trees, growing on land forming the banks of the watercourse.

9. **Notice to Cut Vegetation**

Any person having control of any watercourse shall, upon the receipt of a notice served on him by the Board requiring him so to do, cut down and keep cut down all vegetation including trees, growing in or on the bank of a watercourse, within such

reasonable time as may be specified in the notice, and shall remove such vegetation including trees, from the watercourse immediately after the cutting thereof.

Provided that, where a hedge is growing on the bank of a watercourse, nothing in this Byelaw shall require more than the pruning of the hedge so as to prevent it from growing over or into the watercourse, and the removal of the resultant cuttings.

10. **No Obstructions within Eight Metres of the Edge of the Watercourse**

No person without the previous consent of the Board shall erect any building or structure, whether temporary or permanent, or plant any tree, shrub, willow or other similar growth within 8 metres of the landward toe of the bank where there is an embankment or wall or within 8 metres of the top of the batter where there is no embankment or wall, or where the watercourse is enclosed within 8 metres of the enclosing structure.

11. **Repairs to Buildings**

The owner of any building or structure in or over a watercourse or on the banks thereof shall, upon receipt of a notice from the Board that because of its state of disrepair:

- (a) the building or structure is causing or is in imminent danger of causing an obstruction to the flow of the watercourse, or
- (b) the building or structure is causing or is in imminent danger of causing damage to the bank of the watercourse,

carry out such reasonable and practicable works as are specified in the notice for the purpose of remedying or preventing the obstruction or damage as the case may be within such reasonable time as is specified in the notice.

12. **Control of Vermin**

The occupier of any bank of a watercourse or any part thereof shall, upon being required by the Board by notice, within such reasonable time as may therein be specified, take such steps as are specified in the notice, being such steps as the Board consider necessary and practicable for preventing the bank from becoming infested by rabbits, rats, coypu, foxes and moles or any other wild mammal not being an animal listed in Schedule 5 or Schedule 6 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

13. **Damage by Animals to Banks**

All persons using or causing or permitting to be used any bank of any watercourse for the purpose of grazing or keeping any animal thereon shall take such steps including fencing as are necessary and reasonably practicable and shall comply with such reasonable directions as may from time to time be given by the Board to prevent the bank or the channel of the watercourse from being damaged by such use.

Provided that nothing in this Byelaw shall be deemed to affect or prevent the use of, for the purpose of enabling animals to drink at it, any place made or to be made or constructed as approved by the Board.

14. **Vehicles not to be Driven on Banks**

No person shall use or drive or permit or cause to be used or driven any cart, vehicle or implement of any kind whatsoever on, over or along any bank of a watercourse in such manner as to cause damage to such bank.

15. **Banks not to be used for Storage**

No person shall use or cause or permit to be used any bank of any watercourse for the purpose of depositing or stacking or storing or keeping any rubbish or goods or any material or things thereon in such a manner as by reason of the weight, volume or nature of such rubbish, goods, material or things causes or is likely to cause damage to or endanger the stability of the bank or channel of the watercourse or interfere with the operations or access of the Board or the right of the Board to deposit spoil on the bank of the watercourse.

16. **Not to Dredge or Raise Gravel, Sand etc**

No person shall without the previous consent of the Board dredge or raise or take or cause or permit to be dredged or raised or taken any gravel, sand, ballast, clay or other material from the bed or bank of any watercourse.

17. **Fences, Excavations, Pipes etc**

No person shall without the previous consent of the Board:

- (a) place or affix or cause or permit to be placed or affixed any gas or water main or any pipe or appliance whatsoever or any electrical main or cable or wire in or over any watercourse or in, over or through any bank of any watercourse;
- (b) cut, pare, damage or remove or cause or permit to be cut, pared, damaged or removed any turf forming part of any bank of any watercourse, or dig for or remove or cause or permit to be dug for or removed any stone, gravel, clay, earth, timber or other material whatsoever forming part of any bank of any watercourse or do or cause or permit to be done anything in, to or upon such bank or any land adjoining such bank of such a nature as to cause damage to or endanger the stability of the bank;
- (c) make or cut or cause or permit to be made or cut any excavation or any tunnel or any drain, culvert or other passage for water in, into or out of any watercourse or in or through any bank of any watercourse;

- (d) erect or construct or cause or permit to be erected or constructed any fence, post, pylon, wall, wharf, jetty, pier, quay, bridge, loading stage, piling, groyne, revetment or any other building or structure whatsoever in, over or across any watercourse or in or on any bank thereof;
- (e) place or fix or cause or permit to be placed or fixed any engine or mechanical contrivance whatsoever in, under or over any watercourse or in, over or on any bank of any watercourse in such a manner or for such length of time as to cause damage to the watercourse or banks thereof or obstruct the flow of water in, into or out of such watercourse.

Provided that this Byelaw shall not apply to any temporary work executed in an emergency but a person executing any work so expected shall, as soon as practicable, inform the Board in writing of the execution and of the circumstances in which it was executed and comply with any reasonable directions the Board may give with regard thereto.

18. **Tidal Outfalls**

No person shall place or cause to be placed or abandon or cause to be abandoned upon the foreshore any trees, roots of trees, branches, timber, tins, bottles, boxes, tyres, bricks, stones, soil, wire, rubbish or other object or matter whatsoever which (whether immediately or as a result of subsequent tidal action) may impede or be likely to impede the flow of water through the sluices or outfall pipes through the tidal banks or through the watercourses on such foreshore or impede or be likely to impede the operation of such sluices or outfall pipes or may cause or be likely to cause damage thereto.

19. **Interference with Sluices**

No person shall without lawful authority interfere with any sluice, or other water control structure or appliance for controlling or regulating the flow of water in, into or out of a watercourse.

20. **Legal Protection of the Water Vole (*Arvicola terrestris*)**

The Water Vole has received limited protection through its inclusion on Schedule 5 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) but only in respect to the provisions of Section 9 (4) of the Act. This section of the Act protects the Water Vole's places of shelter or protection, but does not protect the Water Voles themselves. Legal protection makes it an offence to intentionally:

- a) Damage or destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place which Water Voles use for shelter and protection.
- b) Disturb Water Voles while they are using such a place.

21. **Damage to Property of the Board**

No person shall interfere with or damage any bank, bridge, building, structure, appliance or other property of or under the control of the Board.

22. **Defacement of Notice Boards**

No person shall deface or remove any notice board, notice or placard put up by the Board.

23. **Obstruction of the Board and Officers**

No person shall obstruct or interfere with any Member, Officer, Agent or Servant of the Board exercising any of his functions under the Act or these Byelaws.

24. **Saving for Other Bodies**

Nothing in these Byelaws shall:

- (a) conflict with or interfere with the operation of any Byelaw made by the Environment Agency or of any navigation, harbour or conservancy authority but no person shall be liable to more than one penalty or in the case of a continuing offence more than one daily penalty in respect of the same offence;
- (b) restrict, prevent, interfere with or prejudice the exercise of any statutory rights or powers which are now or hereafter may be vested in or exercised by-
 - (i) any public utility undertaking carried on by a local authority under any Act or under any Order having the force of an Act;
 - (ii) the undertakings of the Environment Agency and of any water undertaker or sewage undertaker;
 - (iii) any public gas transporter within the meaning of part I of the Gas Act 1986;
 - (iv) any navigation, harbour or conservancy authority;
 - (v) any person who acts as the operator of a relevant railway asset with respect to the construction, use or maintenance and repair of any such asset or the free, uninterrupted and safe use of any such asset and the traffic (including passengers) thereon;
 - (vi) any local authority;

- (vii) any highway authority for the purposes of the Highways Act 1980 (as amended by any subsequent enactment) in relation to any highway whether or not maintainable at public expense;
 - (viii) any undertaking engaged in the operation of a telecommunications system;
 - (ix) a relevant airport operator within the meaning of Part V of the Airports Act 1986;
 - (x) the Civil Aviation Authority and any subsidiary thereof;
 - (xi) the British Waterways Board;
 - (xii) the Coal Authority;
- (c) restrict, prevent, interfere with or prejudice any right of a highway authority to introduce into any watercourse surface water from a highway, for which it is the highway authority;
 - (d) restrict, prevent, interfere with or prejudice any right of a licence holder within the meaning of Part I of the Electricity Act 1989 to do anything authorised by that licence or anything reasonably necessary for that purpose;
 - (e) affect any liability arising otherwise than under or by reason of these Byelaws.

25. **Saving for Crown Lands**

- (a) Nothing in these Byelaws shall operate to prevent the removal of any substance on, in or under (or the erection of any structure, building or machinery or any cable, wire or pipe on, over or under) lands belonging to Her Majesty in right of Crown by any person thereunto authorised by the Crown Estate Commissioners.
- (b) Nothing contained in any of the foregoing byelaws should be deemed to be or shall operate as a grant by or on behalf of the Crown as owner of the foreshore below high water mark of any estate or interest in or right over such foreshore, or any part thereof, nor shall anything contained in or done under any of the provisions of the foregoing byelaws in any respect prejudice or injuriously affect the rights and interests of the Crown in such foreshore, or prevent the exercise thereon of any public rights or prejudice or injuriously affect any right, power or privilege legally exercisable by any person in over and in respect of the seashore.

26. **Arbitration**

- (a) Where by or under any of these Byelaws any person is required by a notice in writing given by the Board to do any work to the satisfaction of the Board or

to comply with any directions of the Board, he may within 21 days after the service of such notice on him give to the Board a counter-notice in writing objecting to either the reasonableness of or the necessity for such requirement or directions, and in default of agreement between such person and the Board the dispute shall, when the person upon whom such notice was served is a drainage or local authority be referred to the Secretary of State whose decision shall be final, and in any other case shall be referred to the arbitration of a single arbitrator to be appointed in default of agreement by the President of the Institution of Civil Engineers on the application of either party. Where such a counter-notice has been given to the Board the operations of the notice shall be suspended until either agreement has been reached or the dispute has been determined by arbitration in accordance with the provisions of this Byelaw;

- (b) Where by or under these Byelaws any person is required by a notice in writing given by the Board to do any work to the satisfaction of the Board or to comply with any directions of the Board and any dispute subsequently arises as to whether such work has been executed or such directions have been complied with, such dispute if it arises between a drainage authority or local authority and the Board shall be referred to the Secretary of State whose decision shall be final, and in any other case shall be referred to the arbitration of a single arbitrator to be appointed in default of agreement by the President of the Institution of Civil Engineers on the application of either party;
- (c) Where by or under Byelaws 3,6,10,16 or 17 any person is required to refrain from doing any act without the consent of the Board such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld and may be either unconditional or subject to such reasonable conditions as the Board may consider appropriate and where any dispute arises as to whether in such a case the consent of the Board is being unreasonably withheld, or as to whether any conditions subject to which consent is granted are unreasonable, such dispute shall if it arises between a drainage authority or local authority and the Board be referred to the Secretary of State whose decision shall be final, and in any other case such dispute shall be referred to the arbitration of a single arbitrator to be appointed in default of agreement by the President of the Institution of Civil Engineers on the application of either party.

27. **Notices**

Notices and any other documents required or authorised to be served or given under or by virtue of these Byelaws shall be served or given in the manner prescribed by Section 108 of the Act.

28. **Limitation**

Nothing in these Byelaws shall authorise the Board to require any person to do any act, the doing of which is not necessary for securing the efficient working of the drainage system of the District or to refrain from doing any act, the doing of which does not adversely affect the efficient working of the drainage system of the District.

If any conflict arises between these Byelaws and Section 8 of the Water Act 1989 (which relates to the Board's duties with regard to the protection of the environment, nature, conservation and amenity), the said Act shall prevail.

29. **Revocation**

The Byelaws made by the Board on the nineteenth day of July 1979 are hereby revoked.

30. **Interpretation**

In these Byelaws, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions shall have the meaning hereby respectively assigned to them, that is to say: -

“the Act” means the Land Drainage Act 1976;

“Animal” includes any horse, cattle, sheep deer, goat, swine, goose or poultry;

“Bank” includes any bank, cross bank, wall or embankment adjoining or confining or constructed for the purpose of or in connection with any watercourse and includes all land between the bank and the low water mark or level of the water in the watercourse as the case may be and where there is no such bank, cross bank, wall or embankment includes the top edge of the batter enclosing the watercourse;

“Board” means the River Stour (Kent) Internal Drainage Board;

“Consent of the Board” means the consent of the Board in writing signed by the Clerk of the Board or other duly authorised officer;

“District” means the area under the jurisdiction of the Board;

“The Minister” means the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food;

“Occupier” means in the case of land not occupied by any tenant or other person the person entitled to the occupation thereof;

“Owner” includes the person defined as such in the Public Health Act 1936;

“Railway Property” means any railway of the British Railways Board and any bridges and works connected therewith or forming part thereof for the maintenance or operation of which the said Board are responsible and includes any land held or used by the Board for the purposes of such railway bridges or works;

“Vegetation” means trees, willows, shrubs, weeds, grasses, reeds, rushes or other vegetable growths;

“Vessel” includes any ship, hovercraft (as defined by the Hovercraft Act 1968), lighter, keel, barge, tug, launch, houseboat, pleasure or other boat, aircraft, randan, wherry, skiff, dinghy, shallop, punt, yacht, canoe, raft, float of timber or any other craft whatsoever, and howsoever worked, navigated or propelled;

“Water Control Structures” means a structure or appliance for introducing water into any watercourse and for controlling or regulating or affecting flow, and includes any sluice, slacker, floodgate, lock, weir, pump or pumping machinery;

and other expressions shall have the same meanings as in the Act.

31. **THE COMMON SEAL OF THE RIVER STOUR (KENT) INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD** was hereunto affixed on the fifth day of April, One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Ninety

In the presence of:

R S Chandler – Chairman

R S Watley – Clerk of the Board

32. **PENALTY NOTE**

By Section 34(4) of the Land Drainage Act 1976 every person who acts in contravention of or fails to comply with any of the foregoing Byelaws is liable on summary conviction in respect of each offence to a fine not exceeding the amount prescribed from time to time for level 5 on the standard scale referred to in Section 37 of the Criminal Justice Act 1982 and a further fine not exceeding Forty pounds for every day on which the contravention or failure is continued after conviction. By Section 34(5) of the Act if any person acts in contravention of or fails to comply with any of these Byelaws the Board may without prejudice to any proceedings under Section 34(4) of the Act take such action as may be necessary to remedy the effect of the contravention or failure and may recover the expenses reasonably incurred by it in doing so from the person in default.