From: Tessa Manning <Tessa.Manning@blacksluiceidb.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 November 2026 14:25
To: _planningadvice
Subject: FW: DC Weekly Apps Validated
Attachments: Guidance Sheet - Black Sluice.pdf

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- Someone new is on this email. tessa.manning@blacksluiceidb.gov.uk, planningadvice@sholland.gov.uk recipient(s) added.

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From: Planning
Sent: 03 November 2026 14:19
To: ocella@sholland.gov.uk
Subject: RE: DC Weekly Apps Validated

Good afternoon

H14-0999-26 & H04-0979-26

Please see attached guidance sheet which may apply to the sites dependent on surface & treated water discharge and Byelaws etc.

Kind regards

Tess

From: TempUser <MAILBOX@blacksluiceidb.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 November 2026 10:24
To: Planning <Planning@Blacksluiceidb.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: DC Weekly Apps Validated

From: Ocella@sholland.gov.uk <Ocella@sholland.gov.uk>
Sent: 02 November 2026 04:07
To: TempUser <MAILBOX@blacksluiceidb.gov.uk>
Subject: DC Weekly Apps Validated

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GUIDANCE FOR PROPERTY OWNERS & DEVELOPERS

Internal Drainage Boards and Development Control

The Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board (the Board) is an independent authority constituted under the Land Drainage Act 1930, with duties "to exercise a general supervision over all matters relating to the drainage of land within its district".

The Board acts as a non-statutory consultee to Local Planning Authorities, but importantly the Board has its own statutory powers with respect to drainage which also determines how and if a development may proceed. The Board's current powers derive from the Land Drainage Act 1991 (LDA1991).

The Board also acts as an agent to the Lead Local Flood Authority (Lincolnshire County Council - LCC) for LDA1991 Section 23 consenting & enforcement matters, and as a non-statutory sub-consultee for matters regarding flood risk and surface water drainage.

How the Board appraises Properties or Developments

The following factors are considered by the Board when appraising proposed properties or developments:

- Rainfall Run-off and Surface Water Development Contributions
- Disposal of Foul or Dirty Water
- Discharge Outfalls
- Access to Watercourses
- Filling in or Culverting Watercourses
- Property Floor Levels
- Site Ground Level
- Environment and Biodiversity

Detailed guidance for each of these factors follows - **emboldened sentences** indicate the Board has statutory powers.

Application forms and other leaflets referred to may be obtained from the Board's offices (address above), or the Board's website.

SECTION 1 - RAINFALL RUN-OFF AND SURFACE WATER DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

The Board's prior written consent is required to increase the rate of rainfall run-off from a property or development.

The Board's Byelaw No. 3 states that:

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, introduce any water into the District or, whether directly or indirectly, increase the flow or volume of water in any watercourse in the District.

Where possible, sustainable methods of disposal should be used which do not adversely affect existing surface water management, nor adversely expose people or property to an increased risk of flooding. In most instances sustainable disposal will best be achieved by dealing with rainfall run-off at or as near as possible to source using Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). SuDS is a presumption for all developments of 10 properties and above.

For example:

1. Rainwater recycling
2. Soakaways, Infiltration areas and Swales
3. Filter drains and porous pavements
4. Attenuation or balancing ponds

NB: Soakaways and infiltration systems should be designed and proved with a percolation test in accordance with BRE Digest 365 or other approved code. No discharge fee is required by the Board.

A Surface Water Development Contribution (SWDC) shall be payable to the Board for any discharge from any property or development.

Prior written consent is required from the Board where a development will result in an increase in the rate or volume of flows into ANY watercourse within the Board's district. One of the conditions imposed as part of any such approval is the payment of a surface water development contribution to the Board.

The charge is made to help fund the cost of improvements to the drainage network that are required to cater for increases in the rate and/or volume of surface water flows. Surface Water Development Contributions are payable on receipt of an invoice from the Board which will be issued within any consent granted. Consent shall not be interpreted as granted by virtue of this guidance document.

The contribution is calculated by:

- Determining the impermeable area of the site to be positively drained (in square metres, m^2)
- Establishing the charging band the impermeable area (in hectares) of the site that is to be positively drained will fall into
- Establishing the charging band the proposed discharge rate (in litres/second/impermeable hectare) will fall into

The current maximum charge applicable is **£129,456 per impermeable hectare** (£12.95 per m^2) for sites with less than 5ha of impermeable area proposing to discharge at an un-attenuated rate, with the rate decreasing proportionally for areas of 5ha and above.

Further details, including the charging bands and method of calculation, can be found on the Board's website.

NB: The Board cannot guarantee to accept any water if it is unfeasible to increase the capacity of the existing system. Where localised off-site works are required to any watercourse, then the improvement must be approved by the Board and paid for by the property owner/developer in addition to the development contribution. The Board may be prepared to carry out the work using its powers under the Land Drainage Act 1991 on a rechargeable basis.

Where the discharge is via a third party system, such as an LCC adopted highway or SUDs system, an Anglian Water surface water sewer, or an ordinary watercourse (including those maintained by the Board), then the permission of the relevant authority or landowner is required, and an additional discharge fee may be due.

SECTION 2 - DISPOSAL OF FOUL OR DIRTY WATER

The Board's prior written consent is required to discharge any water into any surface water system.

Foul or dirty water, including water from vehicle wash downs, shall NOT be discharged directly into a surface water system. Where a separate foul water system (i.e. Anglian Water) is not provided, then the water shall be treated before disposal.

If a property owner/developer wishes to make a discharge into *any* watercourse within the Board's district, then the consent of both the Board and the Environment Agency (EA) is required as follows:

a. *From the Board* - to allow an increase in flow into the drainage system *****
b. *From the EA* - who will agree the *quality* of the water to be discharged +

***** not required for discharges of *at or less than 1m^3/day* into a watercourse *not* maintained by the Board
\+ not required for discharges less than 5m^3/day

Septic tanks shall not discharge directly to a watercourse but to a soakaway system designed and proved to BRE Digest 365. Where soakaways are not suitable due to ground conditions, then owner will be responsible for emptying the tank as required.

If septic tanks are not approved by the EA, then a package treatment unit will be required; the Board recommends that, unless there is a 600mm freeboard from the unit outlet invert to normal water level, the unit should have a pumped discharge.

SECTION 3 - DISCHARGE OUTFALLS

The Board's prior written consent is required before any structure is placed in any watercourse, as per Section 23 of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

All outfalls shall have a suitable headwall installed to protect the banks from erosion. No part of the headwall unit or pipe end shall protrude beyond the profile of the bank in order that flails and weed cutting machinery is not obstructed. Suitable scour protection shall be placed below and/or in front of the headwall if necessary. Details of a suitable headwall can be obtained from the Board. A suitable non-return valve or spring-loaded flap is also recommended over the pipe end to prevent surcharging during periods of high water levels. Outfall connections into piped systems shall be to a manhole, although the use of a proprietary saddle connector may be permitted.

SECTION 4 - ACCESS TO WATERCOURSES FOR MAINTENANCE AND BOARD BYELAWS

No obstructions shall be placed in, over, under or within 9 metres of the edge of a Board-maintained watercourse without the prior written consent of the Board.

The Board's Byelaw No. 10 states:

"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 similar growth within 9 metres of the landward toe of the bank where there is an embankment or wall, or within 9 metres of the top of the batter where there is no embankment or wall, or where the watercourse is enclosed within 9 metres of the enclosing structure"

The Board has a separate policy leaflet regarding this byelaw.

This byelaw allows the Board unrestricted access to carry out maintenance of watercourses vested with the Board under the LDA1991. Maintenance includes:

- Annual maintenance works – flailing (mowing) of alternate banks and removal (cutting) of weed from the bed of the watercourse. Weed is deposited on the bank to decompose naturally. All open watercourses.
- Desilting (dredging) – removal of siltation from the bed of open watercourses. Selected watercourses on a 5-10 year rolling programme.
- Jetting/CCTV – removal of siltation from piped watercourses by high pressure jetting, and CCTV inspections to assess condition. Selected watercourses on a 10 year rolling programme.

IMPORTANT – Development of land adjacent to Board-maintained watercourses

The Board is subject to a licence issued by the Environment Agency (EA) for the removal of siltation from its maintained systems, whether open or piped, as the arisings are classed as waste material.

Where silt is removed from open watercourses, normal practice is for the silt to be deposited on adjacent agricultural land, where the arisings are left to dry and then spread across the adjacent field. Where land has been or is planned for development, whether residential or industrial or business use, the Board will deposit silt within the 9 metre byelaw distance.

IF DEVELOPERS DO NOT WISH FOR SILT ARISINGS TO BE PLACED ON LAND ADJACENT TO THEIR DEVELOPMENTS, THEN THEY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR BEARING ALL COSTS OF REMOVAL OF ANY ARISINGS TO A DESIGNATED WASTE TRANSFER FACILITY FOR THE LIFETIME OF THE DEVELOPMENT.

SECTION 5 – COMMON LAW OWNERSHIP AND MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITITES

Within common law, the ownership and maintenance responsibility for any watercourse, and any structures within, lies with the adjacent landowners, unless proved otherwise in writing. This includes watercourses maintained by the Board.

Where a section of watercourse lies wholly within a land or property boundary, or lies alongside a highway, then the land or property owner is considered wholly responsible for the ownership and maintenance of that section of watercourse and any structures within, unless proved otherwise.

NB: this does not include Environment Agency Main Rivers or systems owned and maintained by a utility or other local or national authority.

DEVELOPERS SHALL INFORM PURCHASERS OF THE PRESENCE OF ANY WATERCOURSES AND THEIR OWNERSHIP AND MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN COMMON LAW.

SECTION 6 - FILLING IN OR CULVERTING WATERCOURSES

The Board's prior written consent is required before ANY watercourse is culverted, filled in, or otherwise obstructed.

Section 23 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 states that no person shall:

(a) erect any mill dam, weir or other like obstruction to the flow of any ordinary watercourse or raise or otherwise alter any such obstruction; or
(b) erect a culvert in an ordinary watercourse, or
(c) alter a culvert in a manner that would be likely to affect the flow of an ordinary watercourse,

without the consent in writing of the drainage board concerned.

[Ordinary watercourses include every river, stream, ditch, drain, cut, dike/dyke, sluice, sewer (other than a public sewer) through which water flows and which does not form part of a main river.]

The Board considers that it is beneficial for watercourses to remain open wherever possible for both drainage and environmental purposes. Culverting or filling destroys wildlife habitats, damages a natural amenity, and interrupts the continuity of the linear habitat of a watercourse. It can also remove functional flood plain storage and therefore increase the risk of flooding.

The Board has a separate policy leaflet regarding the culverting of Board-maintained Watercourses.

SECTION 7 - PROPERTY FLOOR LEVELS

The Board may make recommendations to the Planning Authority in respect of good practice in relation to flood risk and land drainage.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF): Technical Guidance states that: *site layout and surface water drainage systems should cope with events that exceed the design capacity of the system so that water can be safely stored or conveyed from the site without adverse impact.*

Sewers for Adoption specifies that: *site rainfall runoff systems should be designed not to flood any part of the site in a 1:30 year (3.3%) event.*

The Board recommends that no property should flood in a 1:100 year (1%) site specific event, therefore flood storage above a 1:30 year event may need to be provided in areas such as roads, parking, open space etc. In addition, the Board may recommend a minimum floor level based on recorded flooding or catchment modelling. Other authorities or insurance companies may require a higher standard of protection or floor level.

SECTION 8 - SITE GROUND LEVELS

The ground level of the site must not be raised above the level of neighbouring land unless it can be shown that it will not:

- Obstruct overland surface water flow from neighbouring land
- Cause surface water to flow overland off the site onto neighbouring land
- Raise the sub-surface water table causing water logging of neighbouring land

In general, if ground levels are raised above surrounding land then interceptor infiltration drains (French Drains) will need to be installed around the site boundary. The future responsibility (including maintenance) of such drains shall lie with the relevant land or property owner.

SECTION 9 - ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY

It is the Board's statutory duty, when considering whether to issue consent, to take into account any likely adverse effect on the environment.

The Board is a signatory to the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and welcomes opportunities to work in partnership with developers to carry out environmental improvements on Board-maintained watercourses.

SECTION 10 – RATING INFORMATION

All land over half an acre within the Board's district is subject to an agricultural drainage rate payable annually to the Board. This rate allows the Board to maintain 850km of arterial drainage systems vested with the Board under the Land Drainage Act 1991. It does NOT include all watercourses within the district.

Drainage rate bills are issued on the 1st April of every year and are payable upon receipt. Further advice is available from the Boards finance department.

March 2022