4.07 The well-maintained defence, whose crest width between the former railway embankment and Sharp's Bridge is approximately 2.50m, appears adequately proportioned and there is again no obvious reason to suspect that it is likely to succumb to breach.

4.08 The Vernatts Sluice, constructed circa 1873, incorporates three sets of pointing tidal doors that automatically allow the discharge of fluvial flows from the Vernatts Drain to the River Welland as permitted by relative water levels over the tidal cycle. For aesthetic and amenity reasons, the water level in the upstream channel is maintained at a predetermined minimum level of around 1.50m ODN by overspill arrangements at the landward end of the individual sluice culverts.

4.09 Failure of this structure would present a scenario similar to that portrayed for Fulney Lock but the probability is considered equally remote and is therefore not considered further. It is nevertheless, important to note that double stop log chases are incorporated in the side and dividing walls of the sluice immediately downstream from the tidal doors, and the IDB has advised that timbers are specifically retained for damming in the event of emergency.



Vernatts Drain Outfall Sluice

Land Drainage Infrastructure

4.10 The land drainage infrastructure must obviously be considered as a potential flooding source albeit that the IDB channels and pipelines serving the northern