

Annual Report for the year ended

31 March 2025



Department
for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs

The Law – the following annual report is provided in accordance with Paragraph 4 of Schedule 2 to the Land Drainage Act 1991.

No later than 31 March 2026 a PDF copy of this form must be provided to:

- Floods, Waterways and Environment Agency Sponsorship Division, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs via flood.reports@defra.gov.uk
- Asset Management and Engineering, Environment Agency via idbfund@environment-agency.gov.uk
- The Chief Executives of:
 - all local authorities that pay special levies to the Board
 - all County Councils or London Boroughs within which the Board is situated

Please complete the form electronically, and please answer **ALL QUESTIONS**

Please round all cash figures down to nearest whole £

Lower Severn

Internal Drainage Board

Section A – Financial information

Special levies received by the Board: show information on receipts for current year and projected receipts for next year, from each local authority.

Name of local authority	2024-25	2025-26
1. Bristol City Council	948,676	1016980
2. South Gloucestershire Council	426,283	456975
3. Stroud District Council	201,920	216458
4. Gloucester City Council	91,505	98120
5. Forest of Dean Council	56,313	60367
6. Herefordshire Council	15,487	16603
7. Tewkesbury Borough Council	9,242	9907
8. Malvern Hills Council	2,110	2262
Total	1,751,535	1877672

Section A – Financial information (continued)

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 31 March 2025

Please read the 'Notes' section before completing this form. Please show any deficit or loss as a negative number (in brackets).

Boards must ensure that the Income and Expenditure information provided below is consistent with the Board's annual accounting statements which have been prepared in accordance with proper practices found in *Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England – A Practitioners' Guide to proper practices to be applied in the preparation of statutory annual accounts and governance statements March 2025*¹

INCOME	Total
A. Drainage Rates	AA 161393
B. Special Levies	AA 1751535
C. Higher Land Water Contribution – from the Environment Agency	AA 181133
D. Contributions received from developers/other beneficiaries (please specify, adding rows below as necessary)	AA
	£
E. Receipts from Grants applied in year (please specify, adding rows below as necessary)	AA 2071260
FDGIA	£
IDB Fund: Asset Improvement (tranches 2A/2B)	£2071260
IDB Fund: Storm Recovery (tranche 1)	£
Local Levy funding	£
Other Government Grants (please specify, adding rows below as necessary)	£
F. PSCAs (please specify, adding rows below as necessary)	AA
Environment Agency	£
LLFA	£
Other RMA (that is not the EA or a LLFA)	£
Other local authority (that is not an LLFA)	£
[Individual source]	£
G. Rechargeable Works	AA 4171
H. Interest and Investment Income	AA 89457
I. Rents and Acknowledgements (please specify below as necessary)	AA

¹ <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/resource/practitioners-guide-2025.html>

Rents	£	
Acknowledgements	£	
J. Total Other Income. (please specify, adding rows below as necessary)		
PWLB Loan	£2000000	
Insurance Claim Receipts	£6895	AA 2010051
Application Fees	£1800	
Scrap metal sales and EV charging	£1356	
Total income		AA 6269000

EXPENDITURE	Total
K. New Works and Improvement Works	BB
L. Total precept to the Environment Agency	BB 231524
M. Watercourse maintenance	BB 3094290
N. Pumping Stations, Sluices and Water level control structures	BB 96626
O. Administration	BB 270035
P. PSCAs (please specify, adding rows below as necessary)	
Environment Agency	£
LLFA	£
Other RMA (that is not the EA or a LLFA)	£
Other local authority (that is not an LLFA)	£
Q. Rechargeable Works	BB 4171
R. Finance Charges – including, capital repayment and loan interest charges	BB 30631
S. Biodiversity enhancement and conservation (please specify below as necessary)	
General, across the whole region	£2422004
SSSI specific, where relevant	£
T. Other Expenditure (please specify, adding rows below as necessary)	
[Individual source]	£
[Individual source]	£
Electricity Charges (please specify below)	
Element for standing charge	£10207
Element for energy used	£63344
Fuel – petrol and diesel costs (please specify below)	
Fleet and plant machinery	£52021

EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS

U. Profits/(losses) arising from the disposal of fixed assets (please specify, adding rows below as necessary)		CC 5852
Van	£4511	
Trailer	£1341	
Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		AA-BB+CC 0
V. Developers Funds income not applied in year (please specify, adding rows below as necessary)		£0
[Individual source]	£	
W. Grant income not applied in year (please specify, adding rows below as necessary)		£0
[Individual source]	£	
X. Long term Loans (please specify, adding rows below as necessary)		£2000000
PWLB	£2000000	

Balance Sheet at 31 March 2025	2023-24	2024-25
Fixed Assets	1814691	4234446
Current Assets	19909707	4594749
Less Current Liabilities	312306	995189
TOTAL Net Current Assets	1597401	3599560
Less Long-Term Liabilities	0	2000000
TOTAL Net Assets	1597401	1599560
Total	3412092	5834006

Value of drainage rates outstanding at year end?

0 %
£826

Value of special levies outstanding at year end?

0 %
£0

Notes:

Income

- C. Higher Land Water Contribution: This should include the full contribution received, from the Environment Agency, regardless of any adjustment with the Environment Agency Precept.
- D. Contributions from Developers and Other Beneficiaries: This includes financial support from developers, partners, and government bodies (where the funding doesn't fall under other rows) that contribute to maintaining and improving infrastructure. Please note: Fees paid for consent applications should be recorded under "Other Income", not in this section.
- E. Receipts from grants: This should cover any Government grants (including from the Environment Agency and Natural England) that you have received in year, including the FDGiA, IDB Fund grants, Local Levy, and other grants you may also receive (such as Countryside Stewardship, provided by the Rural Payments Agency, for water level management). Please list each grant source as separate lines in the sub-table and show the total amount from all sources in the final column (AA).
- F. Public Sector Cooperation Agreements (PSCAs): This covers all such agreements in the reporting period. PSCA income should be the full amount and include any contribution towards the board's administration costs. Please list the funding from each source as separate lines in the sub-table and show the total amount from all sources in the final column (AA).
- G. Rechargeable works: This is where the board does work on behalf of someone else, e.g. a landowner, local authority, etc. For consortia this should include technical costs associated with an externally funded or self-funded scheme but should not include recharge of general administration costs.
- I. Rents and Acknowledgements: Rent is income through a formal lease. Income through a payment for a fee, service or historical right, where there is not a formal agreement, is an Acknowledgement.
- J. Total Other Income: This is all other income that has not been captured in the other rows, such as absorption account surpluses (for example plant and labour absorption accounts). To include any consortium income based on percentage and set monthly fees for administration/management purpose, and income from Consent fees. Please list the funding from each source as separate lines in the sub-table and show the total amount from all sources in the final column (AA).

Expenditure

- K. New Works and Improvement Works: This covers the gross cost of undertaking minor capital works that have not been capitalised, and the annual depreciation charges of all major schemes that have been capitalised. You should also include a fair proportion of the support costs directly associated with delivery of the schemes.
- L. Total Precept to the Environment Agency: This should include the total precept payment demand from the Environment Agency, regardless of any adjustment with the Environment Agency Higher Land Water Contribution.
- M. Watercourse Maintenance: This covers the costs associated with the maintenance of watercourses, meaning work associated with open channels, pipelines, culverts, bridges, etc. Plant, vehicle and labour charges should include a fair proportion of the overheads such as depot/workshop costs, employment on-costs, insurances and depreciation, etc. **Please do not include electricity or fuel costs as these are captured separately.** You should also include a fair proportion of the support costs directly associated with delivery of the maintenance programme.
- N. Pumping Stations, Sluices and Water level control structures: This covers the costs associated with maintaining and operating the pumping stations, sluices and water level control structures. Plant, vehicle and labour charges should include a fair proportion of the overheads such as depot/workshop costs, employment on-costs, insurances and depreciation, etc. **Please do not include electricity or fuel costs**

as these are captured separately. You should also include a fair proportion of the support costs directly associated with maintaining and operating the pumping stations, sluices and water level control structures.

O. Administration: The covers the cost of non-technical staff only, office accommodation, annual depreciation of office equipment that has been capitalised, minor office equipment that has not been capitalised, postages, telecoms, stationery, printing, advertising, auditing of accounts, general insurances and all other costs associated with supporting the organisation. Please note that this does not include support costs, which are directly associated with the delivery of front-line services. **Please do not include electricity or fuel costs as these are captured separately.**

P. Public Sector Cooperation Agreements (PSCA): all expenditure associated with the PSCA active during the reporting period. Please list the beneficiary of the spending as separate lines in the sub-table and show the total spending for all beneficiaries in the final column (BB).

Q. Rechargeable Works: The covers all costs associated with undertaking work for third parties. Plant, vehicle and labour charges should include a fair proportion of the overheads such as depot/workshop costs, employment on-costs, insurances and depreciation, etc. You should also include a fair proportion of the support costs directly associated with undertaking the rechargeable work.

R. Finance Charges: This covers all the costs of servicing any borrowing, in terms of bank/loan/hire purchase interest payable including the capital payment.

S. Biodiversity enhancement and conservation: This covers the costs associated with undertaking works (capital or maintenance) that are likely intended to help enhance and/or conserve biodiversity. These costs are likely to be incurred in implementing actions set out in a board's Biodiversity Action Plan or other conservation actions. If possible, you should identify the overall costs and break them down into two groups: general across the whole IDB area, and SSSI specific areas (in implementing actions set out in Water Level Management Plans or River Restoration Plans). **Please do not include electricity or fuel costs as these are captured separately.**

T. Other Expenditure: This covers all other expenditure, such as a provision for bad/doubtful debts, write-offs, and absorption account deficits (for example plant and labour absorption accounts). Please list the costs from each source as separate lines in the sub-table and show the total amount from all sources in the final column (BB).

Note the headings for recording the total cost of electricity and fuel use. For electricity subtotals record the elements of the total cost that account for the cost of the power used and separately the standing charge element. For diesel record the elements of the total cost that account for fuel used to run pumps and the fuel used for plant and machinery.

Exceptional Items

U. Profits/(losses) arising from the disposal of fixed assets: For the disposal of assets, state the difference between any proceeds from the sale/disposal of the asset and the cost of the asset less accumulated depreciation.

V. Developers Funds income not applied in year: Total balance of developer fund at year end.

W. Grant income not applied in year: Unspent grant at year end.

X. Loans: This should cover any borrowings that the Board has e.g. from the Public Works Loan Board. Under Section 55 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 Boards are permitted to borrow money for purposes related to their functions. Please list each loan as separate lines (as necessary) in the sub-table and show the total amount of loans in the final column.

Section B – IDB Reporting

Please answer **ALL QUESTIONS by checking boxes or providing text, where asked to do so.** Where a box is left unchecked, we will assume that there is nothing to report under that heading. Please provide quantified responses in the units requested (i.e. Hectares, Km or Cumecs).

The “Reporting period” is 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

Policy Delivery Statement

Boards are required to produce a publicly available policy statement setting out their plans for delivering the Government’s policy aims and objectives. It is recommended that these statements are published on drainage Boards’ websites and are reviewed every three years.

1. Is an up-to-date statement in place and copy (or weblink) provided to Defra, and EA?
2. What year was your statement last updated? 2022

Financial Planning

3. Do you have a financial plan covering the next three years or longer?

Biodiversity

4. Do your Board have a Biodiversity Action Plan?
5. If yes, is the Biodiversity Action Plan available on your website?
6. In what year was your Biodiversity Action Plan last updated? 2022
7. Have you reported progress on Biodiversity Action Plan implementation on your website?
8. When was biodiversity last discussed at a Board meeting (date)? 04/02/2025
9. Is Biodiversity policy a standing item for discussion at Board meeting?
10. Do you have a biosecurity process?

SSSI and NNR water level management plans

11. Are you responsible for the management of any SSSI or NNR water level management plans?

If so, please complete the following table:

Name	Partners	Date of last review	Date of last update
Walmore Common SSSI	NE, FWAG	2015	2015
Burley Deane	NE	2009	2009
Slimbridge New Grounds	WWT, NE, EA	2018	2018
Chaceley Meadow	GCC, NE	2004	2004
Ashleworth Ham	WWT, NE, GWT	2004	2018

12. Do you contribute towards any SSSI or NNR water level management plans managed by others?

If so, please complete the following table:

Name	Partners	Date of last review	Date of last update

13. Area of SSSI or NNR where the Board is responsible for water level management plan/s? hectares

14. Area of SSSI or NNR within the Board area that contributes towards water level management plan/s managed by others? hectares

15. Area of SSSI or NNR in recovering or favourable condition where Board water level management activities are responsible? hectares

16. Area of SSSI or NNR where water level management actions by your Board are needed to achieve recovering or favourable condition? hectares

Other Conservation Areas

17. Area of non-designated land within the Board area subject to water level management agreements for conservation purposes? hectares
(Stewardship Agreements are shown on MAGIC.gov.uk)

Access to environmental expertise

18. Does your Board have access to environmental expertise?

19. If yes, please indicate all the options below through which environmental expertise is regularly provided to your Board:

Co-opted members

Directly employed staff

Contracted persons or consultants

Other arrangements (explain below)

Public sector cooperation agreements (PSCAs)

20. How many PSCAs have you worked on behalf of other organisations during the reporting period?

21. Please list the number of PSCAs with each risk management authority you have worked on during the reporting period. The total here should match question 20.

Environment Agency

Lead local flood authority

Other Local authority (e.g. District Council)

Other RMA (post further details below)

further information

22. Please indicate the type of work being undertaken through the PSCA(s) during the reporting period.

Routine maintenance (such as mowing operations or desilting)

Asset operation and monitoring

Asset repairs (such as levee repairs)

Length of main river managed in reporting period

Kilometres

Cumulative length of works undertaken on main river managed in reporting period (this figure takes account of activities that are repeated or overlap during the reporting period)

Kilometres

Support during flood incident



Other work undertaken through a PSCA and further information (explain below)

Asset Management

23. What system/database does your Board use to manage the assets it is responsible for?

Paper records



Electronic system



Other arrangements (explain below)

24. Has your Board continued to undertake visual inspections and update asset databases on an annual basis?



25. What is the total length of identified ordinary watercourse that the Board is responsible for within the drainage district?

550

Kilometres

26. Length of ordinary watercourse maintained by the Board during the reporting period?

550

Kilometres

27. Cumulative length of works undertaken on ordinary watercourse maintained in the reporting period (this figure takes account of activities that are repeated or overlap during the reporting period)

550

Kilometres

28. How many pumping stations does the Board operate?

6

29. How many individual pumps are within these pumping stations (based on primary power source)?

Electric

10

Diesel

Renewable energy pumps (e.g. directly powered by wind, solar, hydro, etc)

Other type of pumps

30. How many other pumps does the Board operate?

Temporary / mobile pumps

1

Other

31. What is the cumulative design capacity of the Board's static pump(s) (enter zero if no pumps are operated)

4.5

m³/s/sec
cumecs

Temporary/mobile pump(s) (enter zero if no such pumps are operated)	0.3	m ³ /s/sec cumecs
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Health and Safety

32. Does the Board have a current Health and Safety policy in place?

33. Does the Board have a Board Member focused on ensuring that Health and Safety is considered when Board decisions are made?

34. Does the Board have a responsible officer for Health and Safety?

35. Number of 'learning events' or 'near miss' incidents in reporting year? This is an event that, while not causing harm, has the potential to cause injury or ill health. 1

36. Have there been any reportable incidents in the past year (explain below)? This would cover incidents under Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013. Yes

An incident reported to RIDDOR due to a 360 Excavator slipping into drainage ditch during flooded conditions

Guidance and Best Practice

37. Has your Board adopted a formal Scheme of Delegation?

38. Has your Board supported externally accredited training or professional development for Board members, during the reporting period?

39. Has your Board provided in-house training or professional development for Board members during the reporting period? This could include induction training, or competency and professional skills development opportunities.

40. What training did Board members undertake?

Governance

Ethics

Finance

Environment

Health, safety and welfare

Communications and engagement

Other (specify below)

The board has in the 2026 year adopted a formal training platform for Members and Officers, and this has been supported by the board members in meetings. This will be reported in the 2026 IDB reporting outcome.

41. Is your Board website information current for the reporting period? (Board membership, audited accounts, programmes of works, WLMPs, etc)

42. Has your Board adopted computerised accounting and rating systems?

43. Has your Board published all minutes of meetings for the reporting period on its website?

44. Has the Board published information on its website for the reporting period about its approach to maintenance works and to provide contact details that allow for, and encourage public engagement?

45. When planning maintenance and capital works are environmental impacts considered and wherever possible best practice applied?

Governance

Has your Board adopted the following:

46. Standing Orders

47. If so have the Standing Orders been approved by Ministers

48. Byelaws

49. If so, has the Board adopted:

 The 2021 model byelaws

 The 2012 model byelaws

 Bespoke byelaws

50. Have the byelaws been approved by Ministers

51. Code of Conduct for Board Members

52. Financial Regulations

53. Register of Member's Interests

54. Anti-fraud and corruption policy

IDB Board

Note: Elected members of the Board relate to the number of landowners/drainage rate payers that are elected to the Board. Appointed members relates to the number of members appointed by the local authorities to represent local council taxpayers.

55. Membership of the IDB Board: please set out the number of

Board members (in total – elected and appointed)	26
Seats available to appointed members	15
Elected members on the Board at year end	11
Appointed members on the Board at year end	15

56. Board Attendance: this should be expressed as the number of appointed and elected attendees at meetings and not as percentage attendance.

Please set out the mean average number of elected members in attendance at each Board meeting during the reporting period. 9

Please set out the mean average number of appointed members in attendance at each Board meeting during the reporting period. 7

57. Have you held elections (with or without a vote) within the last three years?

If so, did the Board comply with the requirements specified under the Land Drainage Act 1991 (Schedule 1); elected members should hold office for a term of three years, at which point, a further election needs to be held

If so, did the Board comply with the requirements specified by the Secretary of State under the Land Drainage (Election of Drainage Boards) Regulations 1938 (Regulation 28), to advertise and notify local stakeholders accordingly.

Complaints Procedure

58. Is the procedure for a member of the public to make a complaint about the Board easily accessible from the Board's website.

59. Please set out the number of complaints:

Received during the reporting period

Unresolved by the close of the reporting period

Referred to the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman during the reporting period

Upheld by the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman:

From this reporting period

From those outstanding from a previous reporting period

Public Engagement

Set out what work your Board has done in this reporting year to engage with the public (tick relevant box(es) below):

Published:

60. Completed IDB1 Form	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
61. Annual Accounts or Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
62. Press Release/s	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
63. Newsletter/s	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
64. Notice/s	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
65. Public Consultation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
66. When was the public information about the Board and its activities on the website last updated during the reporting period?	
In past 6 months	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
In the past year	<input type="checkbox"/>

Media engagement with:

67. National and/or local media e.g. TV, radio, etc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
68. National and/or local media e.g. newspaper, magazine, etc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
69. Trade media (e.g. coverage by ADA, NADC, ICE, Drain trader, Water Industry Journal, Water & Wastewater Treatment, Water Magazine, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
70. Social media	<input type="checkbox"/>

Public meetings:

71. Held public meeting/s	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
72. Attended meetings e.g. Parish Council, local interest group, local flood group, etc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Public events:

73. Attended show/event/s e.g. county shows, fairs, etc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
74. Attended trade event e.g. Flood and Coast, Flood and Water Live, etc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

75. Hosted Board open day, tours, etc



About the Drainage Board

76. Land area of the drainage district covered by the board	31442	Hectares
77. Total number of agricultural rate payers the Board invoices	1187	
78. Land area of the drainage district assessed for special levy	7299	Hectares

Further information: this is an opportunity to share any extra information you think Defra should know about (Max 100 words).

Section B – Declaration

Lower Severn ENTER INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD NAME HERE

Internal Drainage Board

I confirm that the information provided in sections A and B and within this form is correct.

Signature



Date

05/02/2026

Name in BLOCK LETTERS

GLENN TAUTE

Designation

CEO

Email address

GTaute@lowerseverniddb.org.uk