



# Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

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## Position Statement from the Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

The Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board extends its heartfelt sympathy to the residents whose homes have been flooded and to the farmers whose fields have been affected by the recent flooding in Boston and the wider Black Sluice Catchment area.

The Board firmly believes that had the pumps at the Black Sluice Pumping Station been fully operational, the flooding of homes in Boston last night may have been prevented, and the extent of agricultural flooding could have been significantly reduced, not only in this incident but also in previous flooding events during the winter of 2023/24.

In addition to the direct flooding caused by the overtopping of the South Forty Foot Drain, we are also seeing secondary impacts from highland carriers, which overflow when they are unable to discharge into the South Forty Foot Drain. This includes flooding in villages such as Billingborough, Helpringham, Screddington, and other areas to the west of the drainage district.

The Board is committed to making representations to the Environment Agency, and wider government departments, that the 2013/14 flood modelling is revisited, taking into account the new data and experiences from these recent events. The original modelling indicated that decommissioning the Black Sluice Pumping Station would only have a limited impact, affecting a small area of agricultural land and around five properties, where individual flood prevention measures could be implemented. However, with 40 properties now flooded in Boston, including homes on the edge of a large housing estate, it is critical that this modelling be reassessed to better reflect the current situation.

The Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board remains fully supportive of the Environment Agency and the vital work it does. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Agency to enhance flood protection for the residents and ratepayers within the Black Sluice Catchment.

Daniel Withnall  
Chief Executive

Paul Holmes  
Chairperson of the Board