The Role of Internal Drainage Boards in the 21st Century

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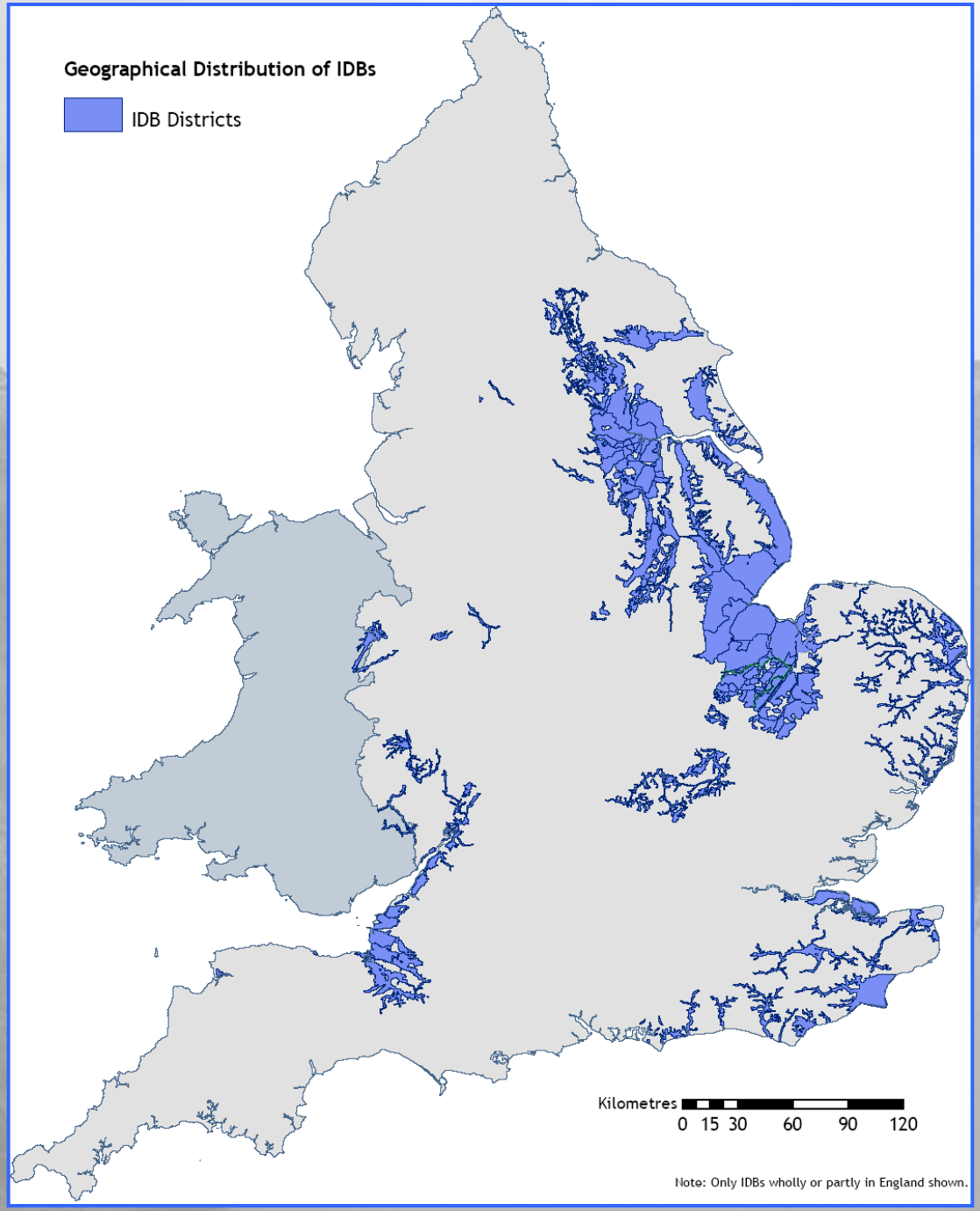
INTRODUCTION

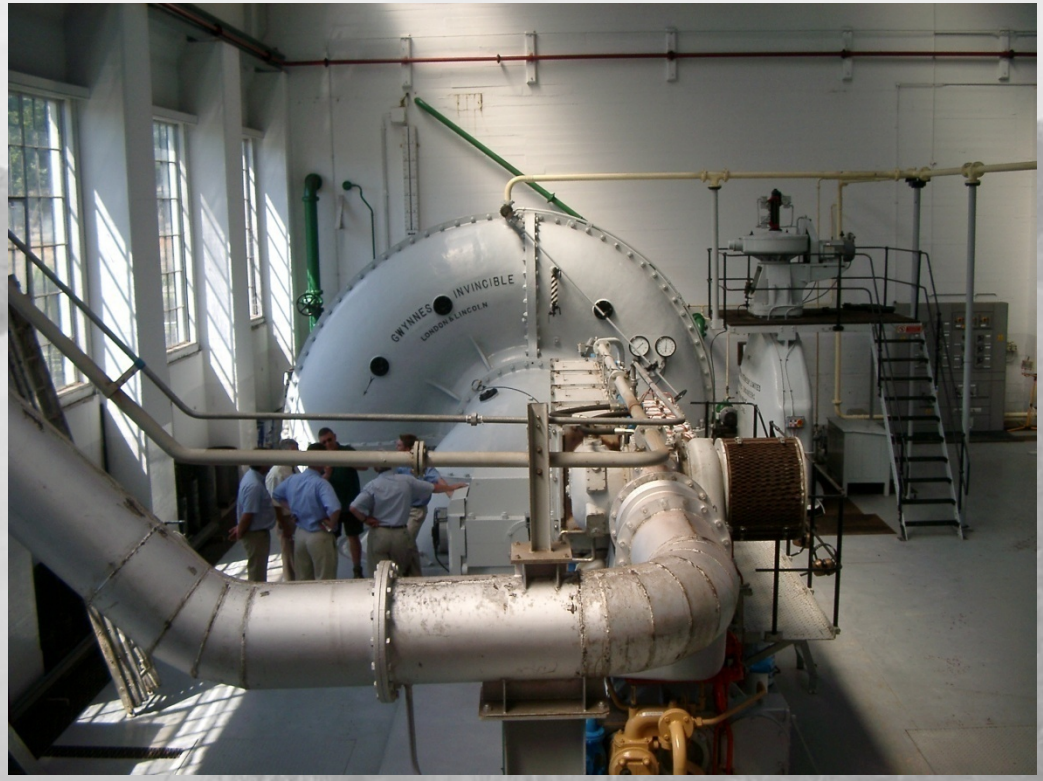
- Description of IDBs
- Significance of water level management to Transport and Infrastructure
- Summer 2007 Flood Event



- 179 Internal Drainage Boards in England & Wales
- Internal Drainage Boards cover a 10th of England's total land area
- 1.2million hectares
- None in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Internal Drainage Boards:

- Statutory Bodies
- Land Drainage Act 1991
- Pumped and gravity
- Funding
- Board Membership



Water level management every day

IDBs' Vital Statistics

- **Average annual expenditure over £49 million**
- **Operate and maintain:**
  - **500 pumping stations**
  - **22,000 km of watercourse**
  - **174 automatic weed screen cleaners**
- **Employ 600 staff**
- **Assets in excess of £145 million**





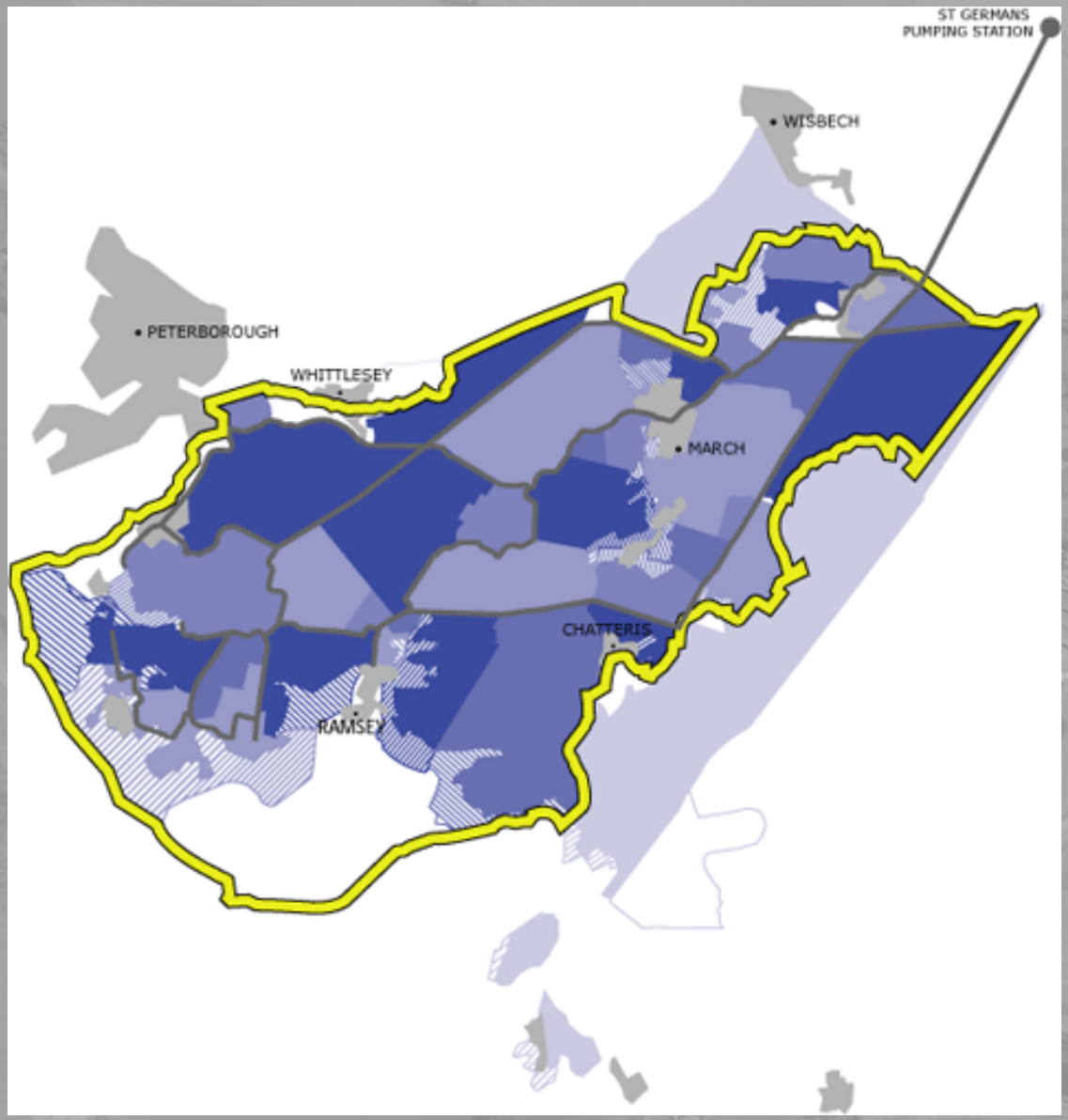
Providing water level management to:

Social — **people**
properties

Economic — **20 Power stations &**
Power lines
Oil refineries
Major industrial premises
Transport: railways, roads, airports,
including > 200km of Motorway
Utilities
Food production

Environment — **SSSIs**
Habitat

Construction begins on St Germans Pumping Station



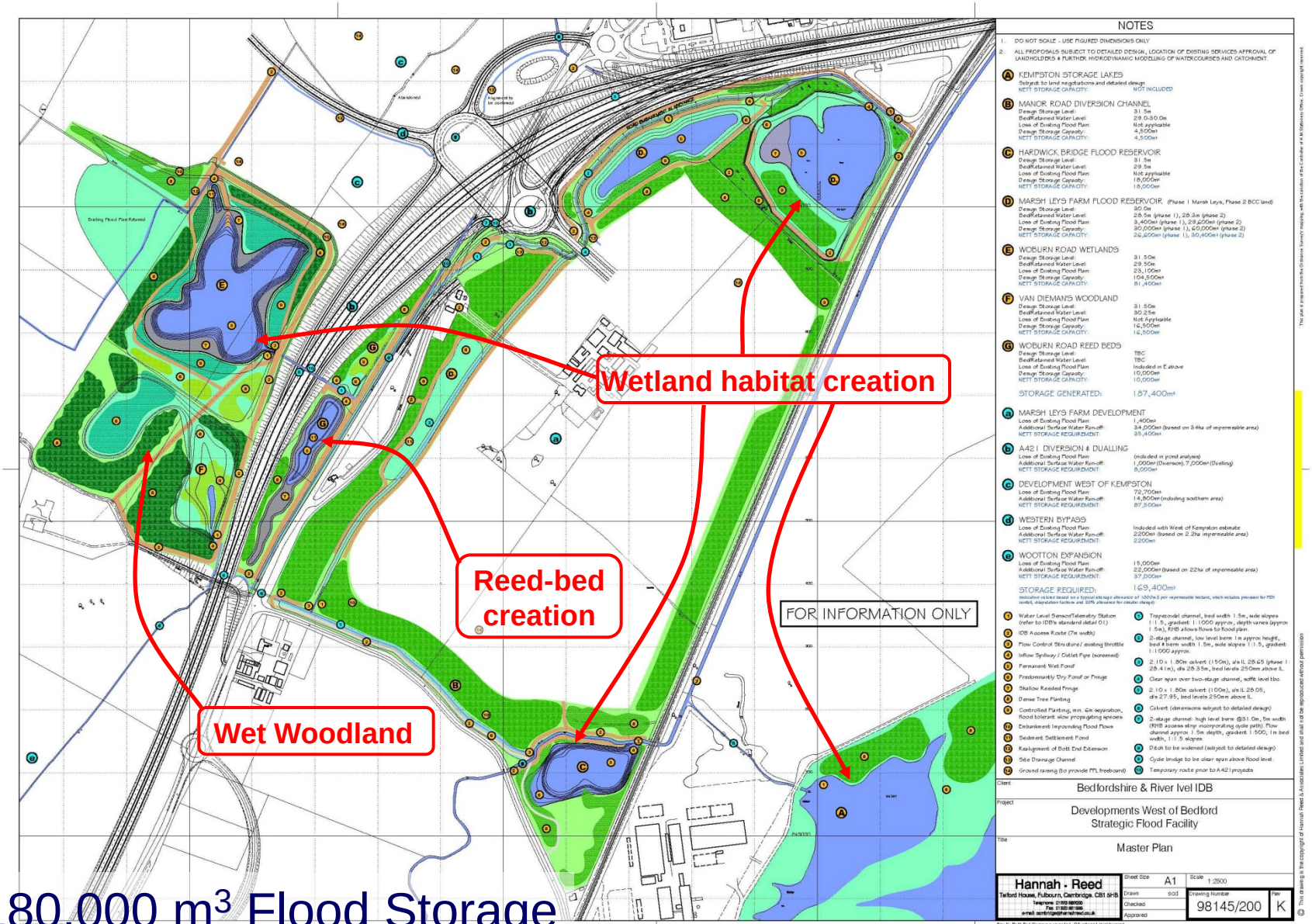
The Pumping Station Protects:

- 300 square miles of land
- 25,000 homes
- including Ramsey, March, Chatteris and parts of Peterborough.
- 1,000 businesses

Construction begins on St Germans Pumping Station

The Environment & Biodiversity

- **Responsibilities associated with 398 SSSIs**
- **Water Vole Mitigation Measures Guidance**
- **Working in conjunction with Natural England, Wildlife Trusts, RSPB etc**
- **IDBs involved with Integrated Urban Drainage pilot projects, part of Defra's 'Making space for water' initiative**



180,000 m³ Flood Storage

West of Kempston SuDS

Summer Floods 2007

Reviews:

- **Pitt**
- **Efra Select Committee**
- **Audit Commission**

Conclusions

Internal Drainage Boards manage water levels every day for:

- **Flood risk management**
- **Infrastructure protection**
- **Irrigation and drainage**
- **Habitat management**

Thank you

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