

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	8
Meeting:	SWAVESEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD	Subject:	CONSULTING ENGINEERS REPORT: CHIEF ENGINEER'S SUMMARY & CAPITAL PROGRAMME
Date:	Tuesday 10 February 2026	Officer Responsible:	Nicola Oldfield

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

- A. Consider the development of an investment plan for asset refurbishment/replacement and instruct the Consulting Engineer accordingly.**

Capital Programme

The Environment Agency's grant in aid funding policy is being changed and will be applied to all new projects after April 2026. The pressure on funding is extreme, and the EA is prioritising all projects in the programme.

It is recommended that the Board considers the development of an investment plan for asset refurbishment/replacement and instruct the Consulting Engineer accordingly.

Author Name: Nicola Oldfield

Role: Chief Engineer

Appendix 1: Applications since last meeting

Appendix 2: Operational Services Report

Appendix 3: Mechanical & Electrical Report

There have been 11 planning applications responded to since the last meeting.

There have been 3 Infiltration Device applications acknowledged since the last meeting.

There have been no Byelaw Consent (to undertake works in and around watercourses) or (to discharge to a watercourse) applications granted since the last meeting.

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Meeting:	SWAVESEY IDB	Subject:	CONSULTING ENGINEERS REPORT: OPERATIONAL SERVICES
Date:	Tuesday 10 February 2026	Officer Responsible:	Morgan Lakey

1. Environment Agency/Swavesey IDB/Middle Level Commissioners' PSCA (Public Sector Co-operation Agreement) Works Delivery – 2025 Season

Swavesey IDB and the Middle Level Commissioners were jointly tasked by the Environment Agency (EA) with delivery of a similar maintenance arrangement under the PSCA in 2024.

For their part last season, the Middle Level Commissioners provided plant, machinery and labour to undertake an herbicide application to the EA controlled watercourses and flail mowing services. A Contractors machine was utilised to undertake weed cutting throughout the district.

Following the successful completion of an extended programme of works during the 2024 season, the offer to complete similar works again during the last season was accepted. The majority of the programmed work has been completed to date. There remains a couple of days of in channel weed cutting which requires machine access onto Mare Fen when conditions are more suitable, and a couple of days work for a smaller rubber tracked machine fitted with a forestry flail to undertake vegetation maintenance works along a length of flood defence embankment. Again, this work will be completed when weather/ground conditions have improved.

All works undertaken under the PSCA have been completed at cost, on a fully rechargeable basis.

2. Weed Control and Drain Maintenance

The maintenance works carried out last year generally accorded with the recommendations approved by the Board at its last Annual Meeting.

As with previous years, there was little evidence of aquatic vegetation growth within the Board's drains to justify machine cleansing was required.

To maintain the current high standard of maintenance and in agreement with the Chairman, a late season herbicide application was carried out on the affected drains.

A sum has been included within the estimated costs to undertake herbicide applications throughout the district again this year.

The Board's flail mowing requirements were undertaken by Lattenbury Services Ltd, and, at the Chairman's/District Superintendent's request, it is anticipated that Lattenbury will be approached to undertake the flail mowing of Board's drains again this year. A sum has been included within the estimated costs to cover this work.

Provisional sums based on previous year's machine cleansing expenditure and culvert cleansing/piling works, have been allocated within this report.

3. Estimated Costs of Anticipated Drain Maintenance and Weed Control Programme

The estimated cost of this year's anticipated drain maintenance and weed control programme is as follows (see previous plan for locations):

			£
1)	Roundup applications to control emergent aquatic vegetation in District drains	Item Sum	1500.00
2)	Provisional Item Allow sum for machine cleansing work to Board's drains as required	Item Sum	2500.00
3)	Provisional Item Allow sum for emergency works including bank piling or culvert headwall repair works	Item Sum	1000.00
4)	Allow sum for flail mowing of District drains and hedge cutting	Item Sum	4500.00
5)	Fees for preparation and submission of report to the Board, arrangement and supervision of herbicide applications and maintenance works. (Subject to change due to WMA handover)	Item Sum	<u>750.00</u>
		TOTAL	<u>£10,250.00</u>

Orders for the application of herbicides by the Middle Level Commissioners are accepted on condition that they will not be held responsible for the efficacy of any treatment.

Author Name: Morgan Lakey
Role: Assistant Operations Engineer

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	8
Meeting:	SWAVESEY IDB	Subject:	CONSULTING ENGINEERS REPORT: MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL
Date:	Tuesday 10 February 2026	Officer Responsible:	Dave Bantoft

1. M&E key messages and advice

Other than the matters previously reported or described below, only routine maintenance has been carried out since the last meeting and the pumping plant at the station is mechanically and electrically in a satisfactory condition. The station and pumps are at an age where reliability is a concern and a plan should be put in place to overhaul or replace items as necessary to ensure ongoing reliability.

The Board is strongly advised to consider the development of an investment plan for asset refurbishment/replacement. The Board is asked to instruct the Consulting Engineer accordingly.

1.1 M&E Equipment Key Health Indicators

Over the past 2 years we have been compiling and verifying Pumping Station Key Date to allow easier identification of equipment age and the need for refurbishment to assist in developing an investment plan for asset refurbishment or replacement. The details below include any works already scheduled and funded to be completed this year. For example, the Bosker Weed Screen Cleaner Trolley & Grab Overhaul and Replacement Pump Control Panel. To ensure reliability, resilience and longevity of the pumping equipment it needs to be refurbished or replaced at suitable intervals. We have experienced examples lately of pumps being left too long and failing, or when they are removed for overhaul the condition is very poor and the pump overall lifetime has been reduced significantly, which is not cost-effective use of the asset. The same is true for control panels, component failures often damage other components incurring costly repairs and machine downtime. Overall, it is more cost effective to run well maintained equipment.

The pictures below are of pump bolts that have been in situ for 20 years and have corroded to the point of failure as shown by the gap between the flanges. Although now rebuilt with stainless steel bolts they were not in the past. The pump tubes are also heavily corroded which reduces pump life considerably. Ideally pumps should be refurbished every 10 years because by the time they reach 15 to 20 years it is likely the corrosion will heavily impact their overall residual life.

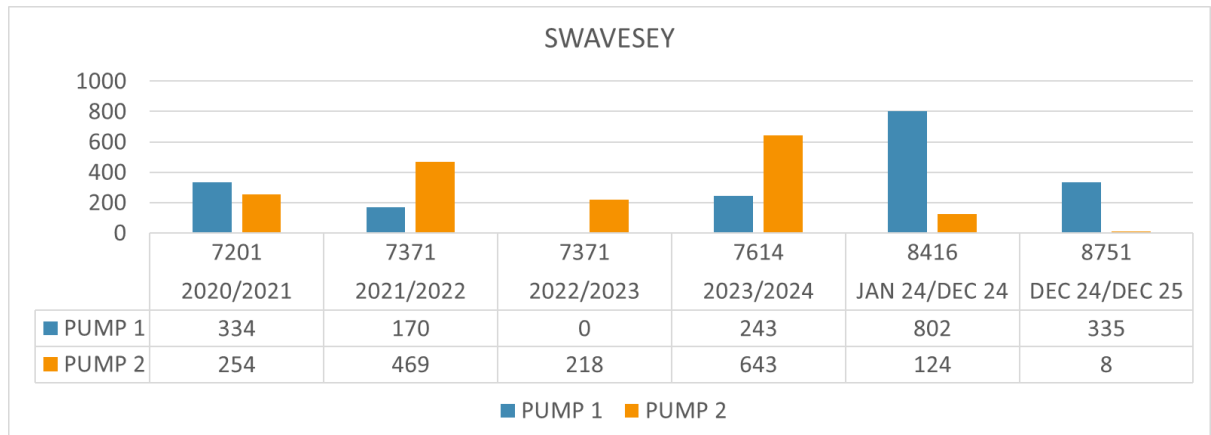


Key Health Indicators

Built	Pump 1	Pump 2	Pump 1 O/H	Pump 2 O/H	Control Panel	Weedscreen Bars	WSC	WSC O/H	WSC Controls
1985	1985	1985	2010	2011	2025	1998	1998	2025	2025

As shown above the next area for investment at the station is the pumps. The Pump control panel was replaced with new this year and the weedscreen cleaner overhauled including new control Panel.

2. Pumping summary



PUMP 1 HISTORY		
DATE	HOURS	
1985	0	NEW
1995	2800	PUMP MAJOR OVERHAUL
2004	5271	PUMP REMOVED AS BLOCKED - SEALS REPLACED
2010	5806	PUMP MAJOR OVERHAUL BY BEDFORD PUMPS
2023	7371	RUN HOURS AT JAN 2023
2024	7614	RUN HOURS AT JAN 2024
2024	8416	RUN HOURS AT DEC 2024
17/11/2025	8749	FINAL READ FROM OLD CONTROL PANEL
30/11/2025	4.2	FIRST READ FROM NEW CONTROL PANEL (elec meter read 54737)

PUMP 2 HISTORY		
DATE	HOURS	
1985	0	NEW
1996	1785	PUMP MAJOR OVERHAUL
2001	2857	PUMP REMOVED AS BLOCKED - SEALS REPLACED
2011	5162	PUMP MAJOR OVERHAUL BY BEDFORD PUMPS
2023	8427	RUN HOURS AT JAN 2023
2024	9070	RUN HOURS AT JAN 2024
2024	9194	RUN HOURS AT DEC 2024
17/11/2025	9205	FINAL READ FROM OLD CONTROL PANEL
30/11/2025	0.17	FIRST READ FROM NEW CONTROL PANEL (elec meter read 54737)

3. Inspections

- 3.1 HSB Engineering annual inspections for insurance was last carried out during September 2024. No HSB inspection was carried out September 2025 as the Weedscreen Cleaner was away for Overhaul.
- 3.2 EICR Test completed in March 2024.

Board	EICR Pass Date	EICR Due
Swavesey	29-Mar-2024	29-Mar-2029

Author Name: Dave Bantoft

Role: M&E Engineer