STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2026 No. 61

LAND DRAINAGE, ENGLAND

The Upper Ouse Water Management Board Order 2026

Made - - - -	*27th January 2026*
Coming into force - -	*1st April 2026*

Under section 3(1)(a) of the Land Drainage Act 1991 ("the 1991 Act")(**a**), the Environment Agency has prepared a Scheme making provision for the matters specified in section 3(2)(b), (d), (f) and (i)(**b**) of the 1991 Act and submitted the Scheme to the Secretary of State for confirmation.

The Secretary of State has published a notice of intent to make this Order confirming the Scheme in accordance with paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 3(**c**) to the 1991 Act and has sent this notice to the relevant local authorities and other bodies specified in paragraph 2(2) of that Schedule.

No objection has been made to the draft Order.

Accordingly, the Secretary of State makes this Order in exercise of the powers conferred by section 3(5) of the 1991 Act(**d**).

Citation, commencement, extent and application

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Upper Ouse Water Management Board Order 2026 and comes into force on 1st April 2026.

(2) This Order extends to England and Wales, and applies to England only.

Confirmation of the Scheme

2.—(1) The Scheme submitted by the Environment Agency is confirmed with modifications.

(2) The Scheme, as modified by the Secretary of State, is set out in the Schedule to this Order.

(**a**) 1991 c. 59 ("the 1991 Act"). Section 3(1) of the 1991 Act was amended by S.I. 2013/755 (W. 90). The definitions of "the relevant Minister" and "the appropriate supervisory body" are contained in section 72(1) of the 1991 Act.
(**b**) Section 3(2) of the 1991 Act was amended by S.I. 2013/755 (W. 90).
(**c**) The definition of "the appropriate Minister" is contained in paragraph 1(3) of Schedule 3 to the 1991 Act.
(**d**) The functions of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food were transferred to the Secretary of State by virtue of article 2 of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Dissolution) Order 2002 (S.I. 2002/794).

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State

William Harrington
Head of Rural Flood Risk
27th January 2026 Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

SCHEDULE

Article 2(2)

Scheme submitted by the Environment Agency as modified by the Secretary of State

1. This Scheme comes into force on 1st April 2026.

2. In this Scheme—

"the abolished boards" means the Alconbury and Ellington Internal Drainage Board, the Bedfordshire and River Ivel Internal Drainage Board and the Buckingham and River Ouzel Internal Drainage Board;

"the Alconbury and Ellington Internal Drainage Board" means the internal drainage board constituted by the Scheme confirmed by the Great Ouse River Board (Alconbury and Ellington Internal Drainage District) Order 1961 ("the 1961 Order")(**a**);

"the Alconbury and Ellington Internal Drainage District" means the internal drainage district constituted by the Scheme confirmed by the 1961 Order;

"the Bedfordshire and River Ivel Internal Drainage Board" means the internal drainage board constituted by the Scheme confirmed by the Anglian Water Authority (Bedfordshire and River Ivel Internal Drainage District) Order 1978 ("the 1978 Order")(**b**) as amended by the Scheme confirmed by the Reconstitution of the Bedfordshire and River Ivel Internal Drainage Board Order 1993(**c**);

"the Bedfordshire and River Ivel Internal Drainage District" means the internal drainage district constituted by the Scheme confirmed by the 1978 Order;

"the Buckingham and River Ouzel Internal Drainage Board" means the internal drainage board constituted by the Scheme confirmed by the Amalgamation of the Buckingham and River Ouzel Internal Drainage Districts Order 2001(**d**) ("the 2001 Order");

"the Buckingham and River Ouzel Internal Drainage District" means the internal drainage district constituted by the Scheme confirmed by the 2001 Order;

"the commencement date" means the date on which this Scheme comes into force;

"elected members" means those members of the Upper Ouse Water Management Board who are appointed by the Secretary of State pursuant to this Scheme or elected in accordance with the provisions made by or under Schedule 1 to the Land Drainage Act 1991;

"the new Board" means the internal drainage board constituted by virtue of paragraph 3(3) of this Scheme;

"property" means, in relation to any of the abolished boards, any property which is vested in that abolished board immediately before the commencement date and includes books of account, other books, deeds, maps, papers and other documents, in whatever medium held, and computer and other electronic records;

(**a**) S.I. 1965/837.
(**b**) S.I. 1978/1588.
(**c**) S.I. 1993/1041.
(**d**) S.I. 2001/2886.

"rights and obligations" means, in relation to any of the abolished boards, all rights, powers, duties, obligations and liabilities which are vested in or which fall to be discharged by that abolished board immediately before the commencement date.

3.—(1) The Alconbury and Ellington Internal Drainage Board, the Bedfordshire and River Ivel Internal Drainage Board and the Buckingham and River Ouzel Internal Drainage Board are abolished.

(2) The Alconbury and Ellington Internal Drainage District, the Bedfordshire and River Ivel Internal Drainage District and the Buckingham and River Ouzel Internal Drainage District are amalgamated into, and are constituted as, one internal drainage district to be known as "the Upper Ouse Internal Drainage District".

(3) A new internal drainage board to be known as "the Upper Ouse Water Management Board" is constituted for the Upper Ouse Internal Drainage District.

4.—(1) On the commencement date the new Board is constituted to comprise 14 elected members(**a**).

(2) The first elected members of the new Board are to be appointed by the Secretary of State and are to hold office until the expiry of one year from the first occurrence of 1st November following the day on which they are appointed.

5. From the commencement date, the Upper Ouse Internal Drainage District comprises one electoral division and accordingly paragraph (2) of the Scheme confirmed by the 1961 Order which divides the Alconbury and Ellington Internal Drainage District into three electoral districts ceases to have effect.

6. On the commencement date, all property and rights and obligations of the abolished boards are transferred to and vested in, or fall to be discharged by, the new Board.

7. All arrears of rates levied by the abolished boards before the commencement date in respect of any period ending before the commencement date may be recovered by the new Board, in the same manner as if they had been rates levied by the new Board.

8. This Scheme operates as conclusive evidence of any thing transferred under this Scheme without the necessity of further assignments, conveyance or deed of transfer.

9. The accounts of each of the abolished boards must be made up to the day before the commencement date by the new Board and audited as if this Scheme had not come into force.

(**a**) Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the 1991 Act makes provision in relation to the appointment of members by charging authorities, including as to their number.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order confirms, with modifications, a Scheme submitted by the Environment Agency for the amalgamation of the Alconbury and Ellington Internal Drainage District, the Bedfordshire and River Ivel Internal Drainage District and the Buckingham and River Ouzel Internal Drainage District into one new internal drainage district ("the Upper Ouse Internal Drainage District"). The Alconbury and Ellington Internal Drainage Board, the Bedfordshire and River Ivel Internal Drainage Board and the Buckingham and River Ouzel Internal Drainage Board are abolished and a new internal drainage board ("the Upper Ouse Water Management Board") is constituted for the new internal drainage district.

A full impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as no, or no significant, impact on the private, voluntary or public sector is foreseen.

© Crown Copyright 2026

Printed and published in the UK by The Stationery Office Limited under the authority and superintendence of Saul Nassé, Controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office and King's Printer of Acts of Parliament.

ISBN 978-0-34-827887-3

£6.40

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/uksi/2026/61

9 780348 278873