

Environmental Practice

Bird boxes

2018/19 was a successful year for the Board's owl boxes, the results from the checks in June 2018 are as follows:

Witham First: 5 barn owls, 2 barn owl eggs, 9 kestrels, 1 tawny owl

Witham Third: 2 barn owls, 2 barn owl eggs, 2 kestrels, 5 little owls

Upper Witham: 17 barn owls, 2 barn owl eggs, 19 kestrels and 9 kestrel eggs

North East Lindsey: 27 barn owls, 18 barn owl eggs and 4 kestrels



Two garden bird boxes have also been introduced to each Board (8 in total). Natural nesting sites for birds are in decline and since 1997, the BTO have been encouraging nest box installation to provide extra nesting opportunities for

Wildflowers

The Boards use a 100% UK Wildflower mix on all meadows that are planted. In 2018/19, we planted wildflower meadows on land at Chapel Hill Pumping Station, Digby Pumping Station and Mawmbridge Pumping Station, totally 985m². If successful, these meadows should have their first full flowering year in 2020.

Soil is being prepared at Rosper Road Pits Nature Reserve, owned and managed by North East Lindsey IDB for a new wildflower meadow which will introduce another 757m² into the Board's meadow portfolio.



A wildflower meadow planted in 2015 at Metheringham Pumping Station had its first full flowering season in 2017

Biosecurity

2018/19 saw the Boards introduce a biosecurity policy for the first time. The policy covers activities undertaken by the IDB daily in order to reduce the spread and damage from invasive non-native species. Remember: **Check, Clean, Dry.**

Environmental Training

Every year, the Board undertakes environmental training for their Operatives. In November 2018, the Operatives were given training on working around badgers and the correct protocols to follow. Another environmental training morning is planned for May 2019 which will provide a general overview and update of the Board's environmental practices.