

# SCHEME FOR THE PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF INTERNAL DRAINAGE DISTRICTS

## in the LOWER AXE DISTRICT DRAINAGE BOARD UPPER AXE DISTRICT DRAINAGE BOARD LOWER BRUE DISTRICT DRAINAGE BOARD UPPER BRUE DISTRICT DRAINAGE BOARD

### LAND DRAINAGE ACT 1991 Section 3

#### Introduction

The four District Drainage Boards of the Axe and Brue catchments in Somerset wish to submit a scheme to the Minister of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) for the reorganisation of their four districts into one amalgamated board to be called the Axe Brue Internal Drainage Board.

All four boards were originally constituted under the 1877 Somersetshire Drainage Act and subsequently amended and extended by later orders in the 1930s.

#### Proposed Scheme of Amalgamation

The proposed amalgamated board will occupy substantially the same geographic area as the combined area of the existing boards. There is no proposal to alter the external boundaries of the new amalgamated Board at this time.

The Board will comprise 28 elected members in 12 electoral districts as set out below and shown on Plan 1.

Internal Districts	Parishes	Area ** (ha)	Number of members
Meare to Street	Shapwick, Ashcott, Walton, Street, Sharpham, Meare, and Godney.	4033	4
Cheddar and Axbridge	Badgworth, Chapel Allerton, Weare, Axbridge, Cheddar, and Rodney Stoke.	2748	3
Glastonbury	Glastonbury, West Pennard, Butleigh, Baltonsborough, Barton St David, Lydford on Fosse, and Lovington.	2464	3
Huntspill	West Huntspill, East Huntspill, Puriton, and Woolavington	2615	3
Wookey	Westbury, Wookey, Wells, St Cuthbert Out, North Wooton, and Pilton.	2408	3
Brent Knoll, East Brent and Lympsham	Brent Knoll, Lympsham, and East Brent	3159	3
Mark	Mark	1739	2
Burtle and the Poldens	Cossington, Chilton Polden, Edington, Catcott, and Burtle	1712	2
Wedmore	Wedmore	2172	2
Brean and Berrow	Brean and Berrow	876	1
Highbridge and Burnham	Burnham on Sea/	1046	1

	Highbridge and Burnham Without		
North of Axe	Weston Super Mare, Bleadon, Loxton, Banwell, Compton Bishop, and Winscombe & Sandford.	994	1

Area \*\* - The areas quoted are the totals of the agriculturally rated land in the parish group on which rates are levied and electoral rights exist.

In addition there could be 29 Appointed Members when calculated in accordance with Schedule 1: Part 2: Section 6 of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

### Area of the new amalgamated Axe Brue Board

The total areas of the existing four Boards as measured at the time of constitution or in the 1980s from paper documents are set out below

• Lower Axe District Drainage Board	7,314 hectares
• Upper Axe District Drainage Board	3,276 hectares
• Lower Brue District Drainage Board	9,622 hectares
• Upper Brue District Drainage Board	9,117 hectares
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TOTAL	29,329 hectares

The area of the new Axe Brue Board as measured electronically in December 2009 with unchanged external boundaries is 30,335 hectares. The common or internal existing boundaries will cease upon amalgamation.

This discrepancy is considered to be as a result of greater accuracy available from the use of new technology. (See note 1 below).

Drawings of the new Board boundary and area are set out on Plan 2.

### Review

The new Board will review its Board size, structure, and management after 3 years. A representative of the Environment Agency and RFCC will be asked to sit on the review panel.

### Note 1

The area of the new Axe Brue Internal Drainage Board was assessed electronically using an ESRI ArcMap GIS (geographic information system). The digital boundary was created from the original 'definitive' district maps drawn circa 1877. The area was calculated using the Graphic Coordinate System OSGB\_1936 as used in Ordnance Survey's 'MasterMap' digital data set.'

'The Somersetshire Drainage Act 1877 states that the total area of the Lower Brue Drainage Board is 9,218 hectares (22,778 acres). When measured using our GIS the total area is 9,636 hectares (23,811 acres) meaning the district is 418 hectares larger than the 1877 Act states. The measurement is made using the Ordnance Survey GB\_1936 Geographic Coordinate System as used by the OS Mastermap electronic data set.

The digital boundary is an accurate reproduction of the boundary shown on the map entitled 'The District Map' supplied to the Clerks of the Commissioners under the Somersetshire Drainage Act 1877 therefore the most likely explanation for the discrepancy is that modern technology allows area to be measured more accurately. In addition to this, Appendix (A) Section 4 of the 1877 Act states that the acreage described in Schedule B column 2 is 'approximate' and the lands to be included are 'particularly described' in the map.'

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**Amendments to the areas of the Boards following their constitution in  
1877:**

**Order of December 1931**

Upper Axe – Wookey District – 1025ac – 415ha

Upper Brue – Wells District – 600ac – 243ha  
Pilton District – 385ac – 156ha

Lower Axe – Lox Yeo District – 75ac – 30.4ha

**Proposed Clerk to the new amalgamated Board**

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