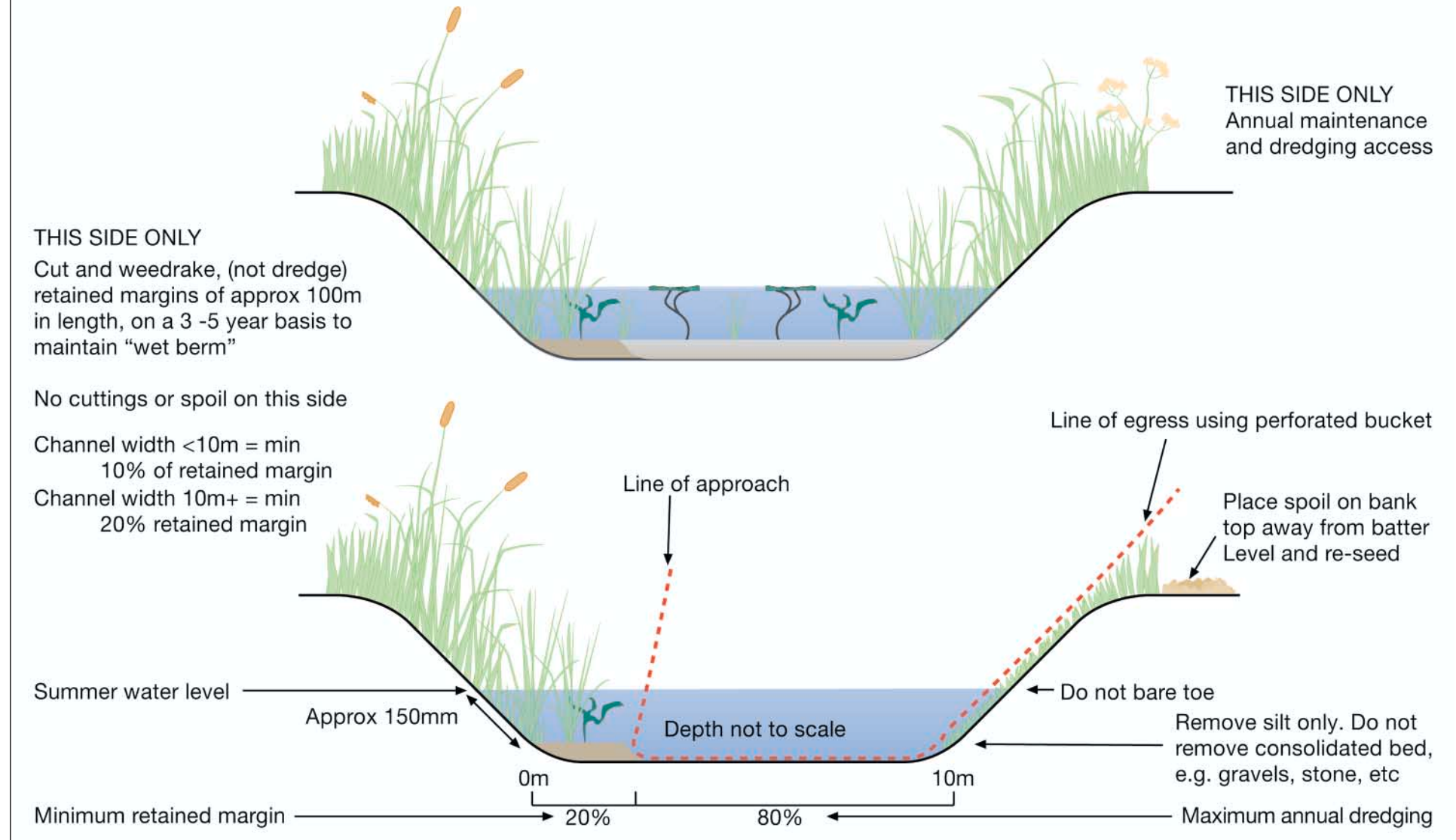
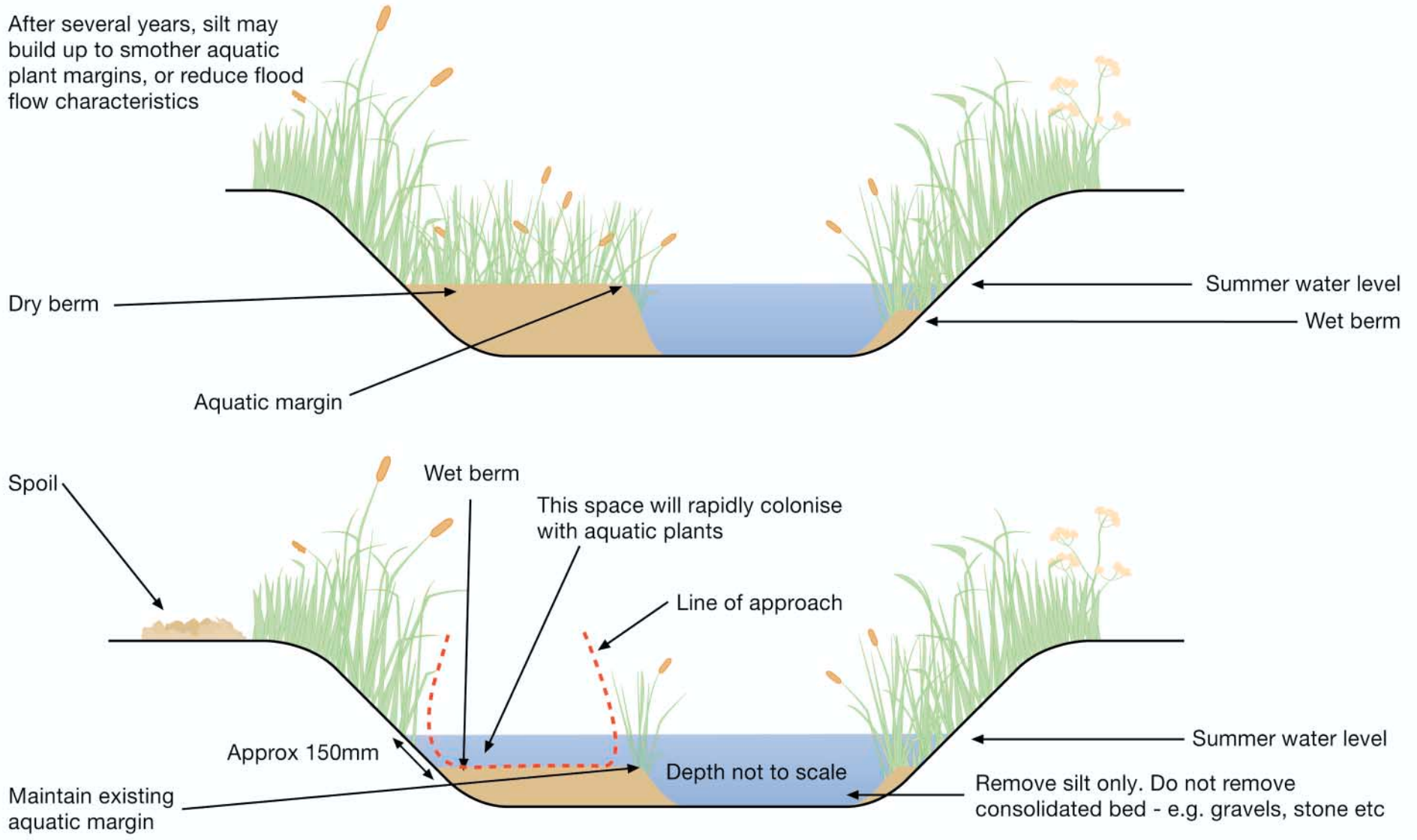


**ALL DESILTING OPTIONS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A DETAILED ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIFICATION**

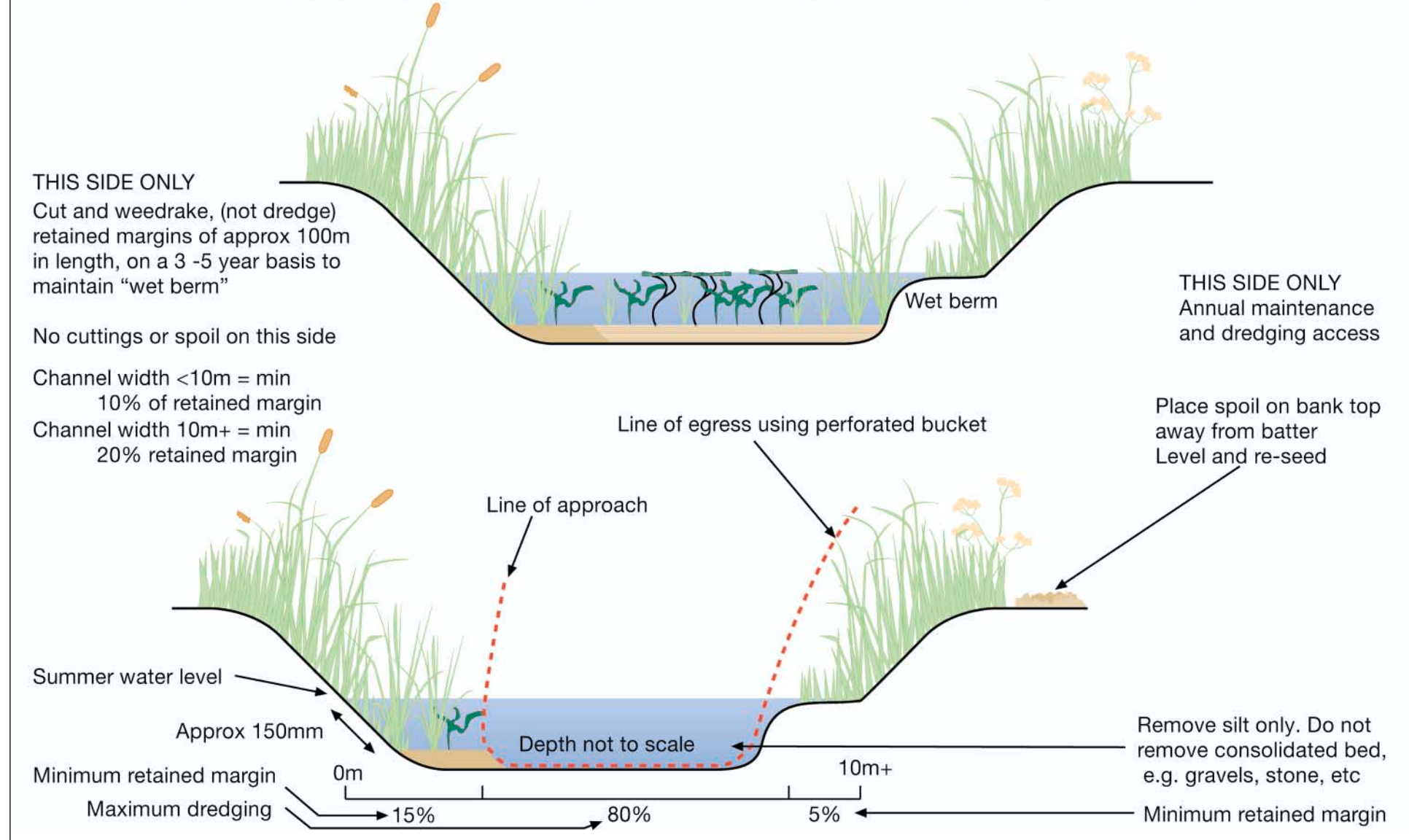


**ALL DESILTING OPTIONS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A DETAILED ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIFICATION**

After several years, silt may build up to smother aquatic plant margins, or reduce flood flow characteristics



**ALL DESILTING OPTIONS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A DETAILED ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIFICATION**



**D4** Desilting

**ALL DESILTING OPTIONS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A DETAILED ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIFICATION**

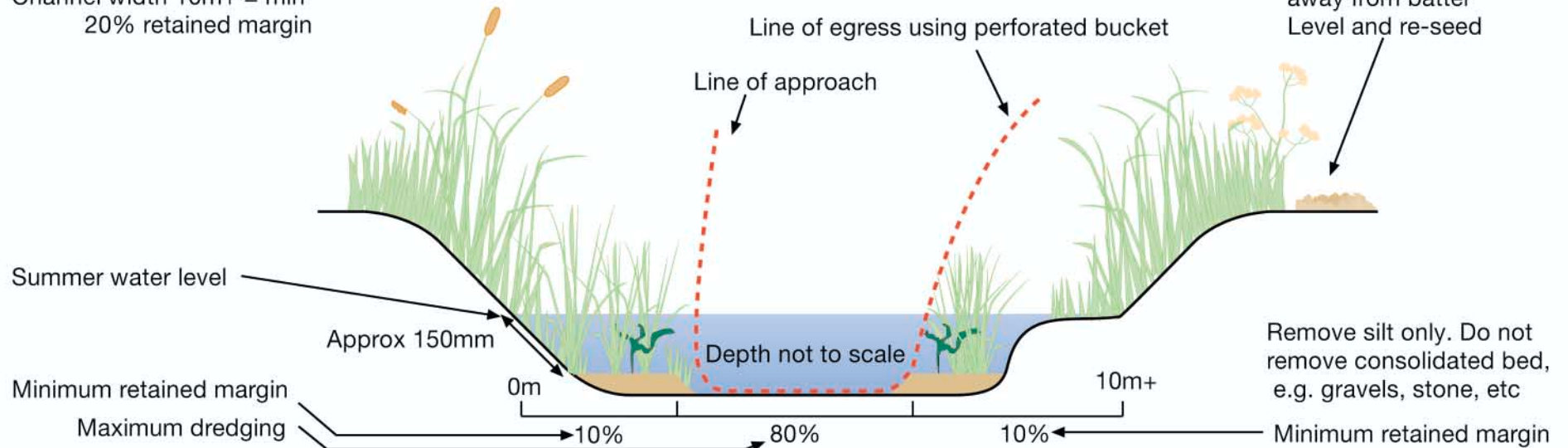
**THIS SIDE ONLY**  
Cut and weedrake, (not dredge)  
retained margins of approx 100m  
in length, on a 3 -5 year basis to  
maintain "wet berm"

No cuttings or spoil on this side

Channel width <10m = min  
10% of retained margin  
Channel width 10m+ = min  
20% retained margin

**THIS SIDE ONLY**  
Annual maintenance  
and dredging access

Place spoil on bank top  
away from batter  
Level and re-seed



# Appendix

## New H&S Grasscutting Procedures for Flood Defence Embankments

### Guidance for EWF Tractor Drivers

These procedures are designed so that tractor drivers working on embankment crests do not have their view obscured by excessively long vegetation.

They are also intended to reduce the risk of damaging nesting birds as far as it is reasonable to do so. Nesting birds are protected from damage by law, and some special species are further protected from disturbance. These procedures have been agreed between The Agency, English Nature and RSPB as being a reasonable way to carry out our flood defence work while protecting your safety and minimising risk of damage to nesting birds.

It is very important that you follow them carefully and stop immediately if you see, or are told about any nesting birds that you may damage.

### Where Should This Procedure Be Used

This procedure only applies to embankments where you need to operate the tractor on the crest or berm to grasscut the embankment, and it is safe to do so.

It currently only applies to floodbanks which are outside statutory designated sites i.e. Special Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA). SPA and SAC may also be called "Habitats Directive" or "European" Sites. Only work in these sites where you have been given direct instructions to do so.

### Where Should The Procedure NOT Be Used

DO NOT use it where excessive rutting, narrow crest widths, or any other factor makes it unsafe to operate the tractor on the crest.

**DO NOT** use it where embankments are cut from ground level either in front or behind the embankment.

**DO NOT** use it in statutory sites (SSSI, SAC, SPA) unless you have been given direct instructions to do so.

### What Is The New Cutting Procedure (See Mowing-Health & Safety Option)

The crest and edges of the crests (and berms where they are used for machine access), as shown in the Mowing- Health & Safety Option should be cut starting in March, with all first cuts completed by the end of March as far as reasonably practicable. Cuts will be repeated at approximately monthly intervals through the cutting season. The slopes and other areas should only be cut after the end of June and according to the Environmental Option or Minimum Environmental Standard that has been specified.

### When You Should STOP Cutting Using This Procedure

You must stop cutting if the length of vegetation on the embankment makes it unsafe for you to continue. Other safe systems of work must be put in place and you should not continue until it is safe to do so.

You must stop and inform your supervisor if you become aware of any nesting birds that you will damage by your cutting. This applies if you see nests or nesting birds themselves, or if someone tells you that there are some.

If it is before the end of June you must stop and inform your supervisor

- (i) if the vegetation you are cutting is more than (Further guidance is being sought and will be provided when it is available) mm high or
- (ii) it is more than 6 weeks since the last cut was made.

This is to reduce the risk that nesting birds will be damaged.

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