Appendix B

RIVER MEDWAY (FLOOD RELIEF) ACT 1976
SCHEME FOR THE OPERATION OF SLUICE GATES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 17 OF THE ACT

1 Pursuant to Section 17 of the River Medway (Flood Relief) Act 1976 the Southern Water Authority constructed a flood retention embankment near Tonbridge, Kent. This incorporates a control structure with sluice gates to control the flow of the River Medway downstream of the said control structure. The Southern Water Authority, and now the Environment Agency (as statutory successor to the Southern Water Authority) operate the sluice gates to prevent or alleviate or otherwise control floods or inundations caused by the overflow of the river downstream of the control structure or in any other case of emergency. The operation of the sluice gates for these purposes shall be in accordance with the following provisions which the Authority intend to submit to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as a Scheme in accordance with subsection 3 of Section 17 of the said Act.

2 (a) For the purposes of Section 17(1)(a) the sluice gates may be operated at any time when the rate of flow in the river at the inlet to the control structure at Ref. 55639.14610 rises above 35 cubic metres per second.

2 (b) For the purposes of Section 17(1)(b) the sluice gates may be operated at any time regardless of the rate of flow in the river when an emergency arises upstream of the control structure.

3 The level at which water may be retained in the storage area by operation of the sluice gates shall not exceed 28.6 m above Ordnance Datum (Newlyn) measured immediately upstream of the flood retention embankment at Ref. 55640.14630.

4 The rate of flow which may from time to time be discharged into the River Medway downstream of the control structure shall not exceed the maximum rate of flow which will occur naturally in the river upstream of the control structure.

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