# Environmental Standard Operating Procedure 3

Bankside Sediment Disposal

The Sediment Management Strategy outlines the principles of reuse, recycling and reduction of sediment within the Broads. It is inevitable that some material will need to be disposed of on the land, where this occurs it should seek to have minimal ecological impact.

## Aim

Where sediment disposal is unavoidable, ensure it is carried out with consideration to the terrestrial habitat and associated species to ensure minimal ecological impact. Setback areas should be prioritised while disposal on reed habitat should aim to be temporary to allow dewatering of sediment with plans to re-profile/re-use drawn-up before disposal commences.

## Environmental Risk

| Impact | Likelihood | Mitigation |
|---|---|---|
| Destruction/loss of habitat and disturbance/death of protected species | High | Pre-works protected species and bird surveys; appropriate mitigation to displace protected species; reinstatement of habitat following works |
| Loss of terrestrial habitat | High | Produce restoration plan and consider compensatory habitat creation |
| Raising nutrient levels | High | Do not dispose on areas high in plant species diversity |
| Raising levels, drying land & promoting tree and scrub growth | High | Site level recorded pre-works; agree final level; survey during works; restore site according to habitat requirements |
| Elevated contaminant levels | Low | Pre-dredge sediment survey |
| Colonisation of invasive species | Low | Preventative restoration plan; follow-up control actions |

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## Standard Procedure

- Strategic site selection process to be carried out to identify preferred disposal areas and their general ecological features; from these sites, select those with lowest expected ecological impact
- See Rond Disposal & Re-use ESOP (No 26) for specific guidance regarding rond habitat
- Carry out ecological assessment of disposal site to identify specific habitat and species requirements
- Ecological requirements to be incorporated within disposal plans
- Test contaminant and nutrient content of sediment prior to dredging
- Work with landowner to generate suitable restoration plan
- Work in conjunction with EA/BESL, where possible, to fill in old soke dykes or strengthen flood walls as part of their program
- Work in conjunction with landowners to use material to create or restore habitats
- Disposal should occur in the most economical and sustainable way e.g. deposit sediment near to where removed, where possible

## Consultation Required

- Broads Authority internal – Planning
- **Natural England** – for any works on or within 100m of designated sites.
- **Environment Agency** – for disposal on ronds, floodbanks or in old soke dykes

## Delivery Method

- Dredging disposal site feasibility to be developed by the Environment & Design Team
- Environment Officers to carry out ecological assessment, considering habitats, protected species, breeding birds and advise on mitigation required (refer to ESOPs 10-14)
- Chemically analyse dredgings to assess the level of potential contaminants in the spoil
- Work with Environment team and landowner to devise a relevant restoration plan
- Dispose of sediment in a manner with the least impact/disturbance to terrestrial habitat
- Monitor vegetation establishment and treat any invasive species that colonise (refer to ESOPs 16-22)

## Further Information

Sediment Management Strategy:
www.broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after/managing-land-and-water/Dredging/sediment-management-strategy