Waterway Detective

Instructions for Teachers & Task Leaders

Scene Setting:
The Fens are a unique landscape shaped by water. Rivers, drains, wetlands and pumping systems help protect communities, support farming and create homes for wildlife. Environment Officers help manage these waterways, monitor habitats and find ways to improve biodiversity while balancing the needs of people and the environment.

Activity:
Waterway Detective Give pupils the Fenland map template and explain that heavy rainfall has increased the risk of flooding in some areas. Challenge pupils to investigate the map and decide how they can help both people and wildlife. On their map, they should:

- Identify areas that could provide homes for wildlife.
- Identify places that could be affected by high water levels.
- Choose locations for up to three improvements, such as a wetland, reedbed, flood storage area, pumping station or wildlife corridor.
- Label their choices and explain how each improvement would help.

Extra Challenge:
Pupils can only choose three improvements. Ask them to explain why they selected those options instead of the others.

Careers Spotlight Environment Officer

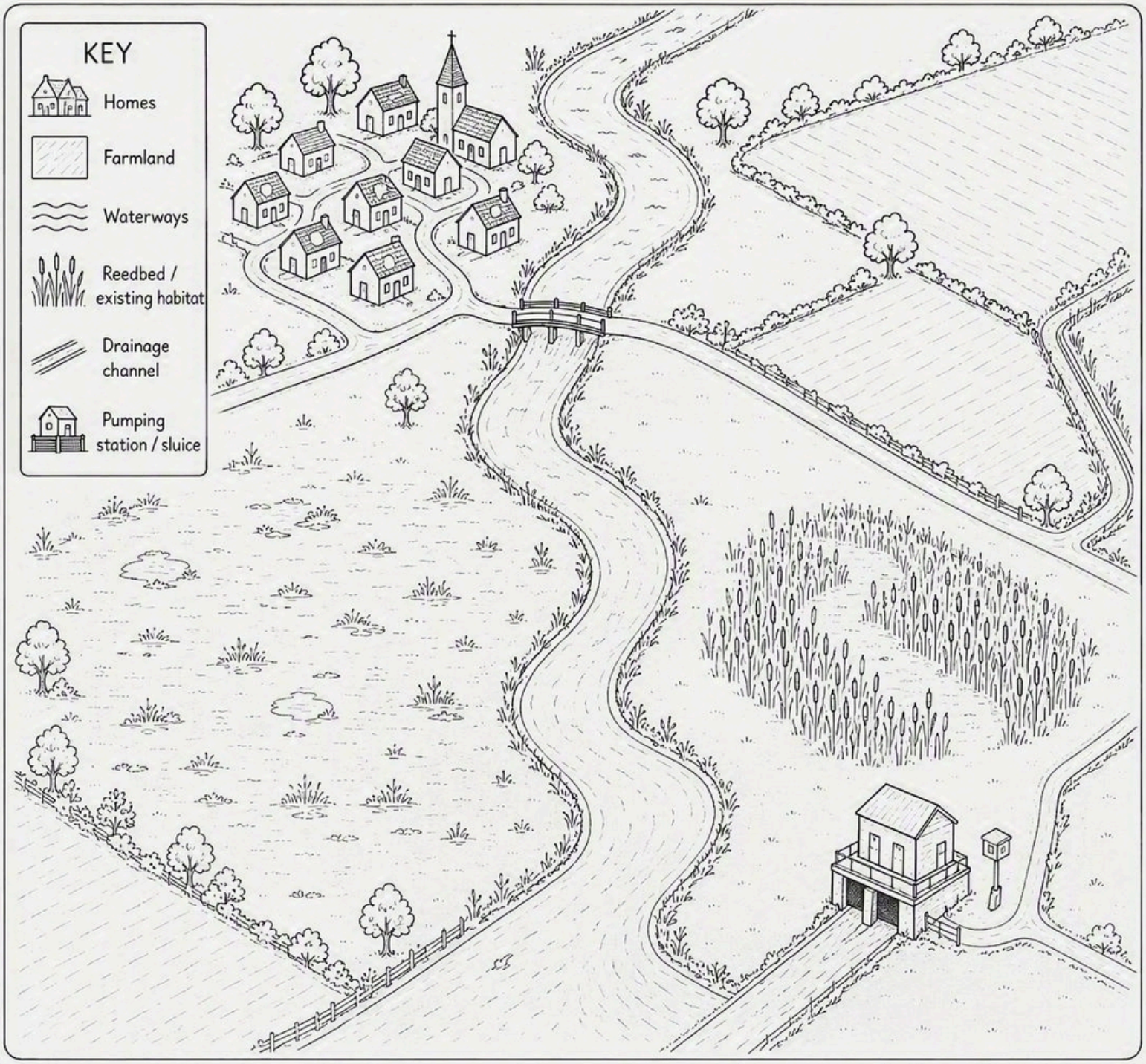
- Monitors habitats, wildlife and water levels.
- Helps manage rivers, drains and wetlands.
- Uses maps and environmental data to make decisions.
- Balances the needs of people, farming and nature.

Curriculum Links

- Science: Habitats, biodiversity, ecosystems.
- Geography: Rivers, flooding, water management, land use.
- PSHE: Communities, sustainability, decision-making.

Reflection:
Which improvement would have the biggest positive impact on both people and wildlife, and why?

Green Jobs for Nature



WATERWAY DETECTIVE

You are the Environment Officer.

Heavy rain has caused flooding in this Fenland landscape, but the area is also important for wildlife and farming.

YOUR CHALLENGE

Look carefully at the map.

1. Where would wildlife be most likely to live?
   Mark your answer with a ★.
2. Where would flooding be most likely to happen?
   Mark your answer with a 💧.
3. What would you do to help people, wildlife and the landscape?
   Draw your ideas on the map. You could:
   - create a new wetland
   - plant more reeds
   - reintroduce beavers
   - change how water is managed
   - create more space for water
   - protete important wildlife areas
   - come up with your own idea!
4. Explain your solution.
   Why do you think it would work?

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REFLECTION

What was the most difficult decision you had to make?

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