

Creating Bittern Friendly DRAINS & WATERWAYS

Connect waterways to ensure fish passage

- check culverts allow fish passage
- track your waterways back to the sea or your fish breeding habitat

Time your improvements for late Summer

- to avoid disturbing bittern feeding
- to help fish spawning in Autumn and which return to mature in Spring

Remove over steep banks- they are sources for erosion

DID YOU KNOW?

Waterways provide food and safe passage for bittern chicks who aren't capable flyers, they need to walk to find their food!

Create gradual sloped sides

- gives Bittern foraging access to 15-25cm water at all times
- provides ideal conditions for spawning whitebait
- reduces maintenance

Plant the right mix of plants

1-3m

3-5m

>5m

Plant slopes into the water and edges to at least 5m if you can

- 1-3m on slopes - grasses, sedges, reeds or rushes up to 80cm tall
- 3-5m from edge flaxes and shrubs to 2m tall
- >5m from edge, trees like cabbage trees that let some light through!

Flooded paddocks make great foraging grounds

- keep grass long for cover
- consider returning boggy pasture to wetland.

Check out 2-tier drains!!

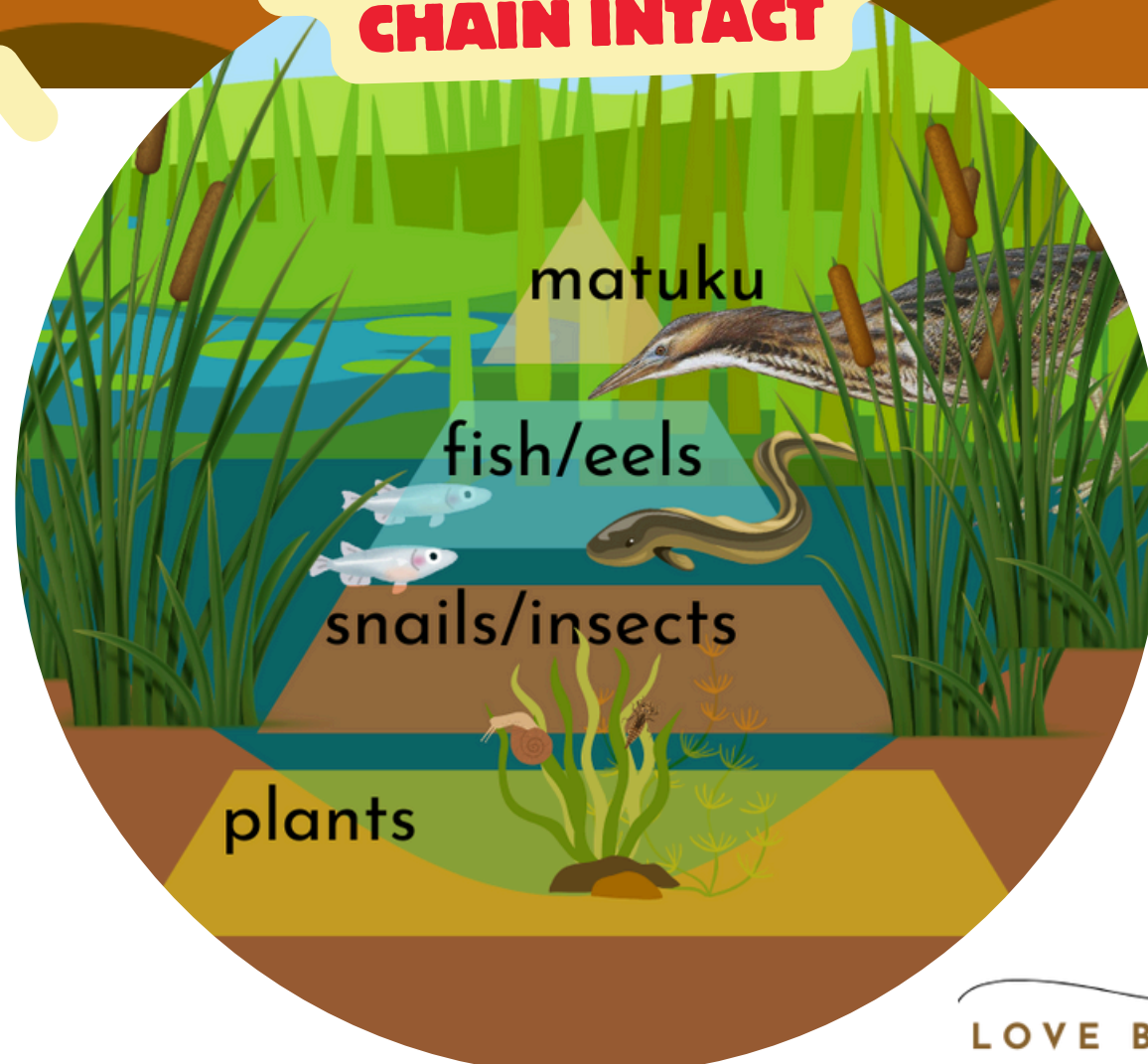
KEEP YOUR FOOD CHAIN INTACT

Bittern are visual hunters, they need to see their prey to strike!

Grasses, sedges, reeds & rushes in shallow water as well as bacteria help filter water - keeping it clean & clear!

KEEP WATER CLEAR

15-25cm



Meandering waterways provide more diverse fish habitat- and create more edges for foraging.



MAKE MORE EDGES!



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