



PARRETT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
part of the **SOMERSET DRAINAGE BOARDS CONSORTIUM**

Our ref: NWS/CLK

Your ref:

Date: March 2010

Information for all Internal Drainage Board Ratepayers

Dear Sir/Madam

LATE HARVESTED CROPS ADJACENT TO VIEWED RHYNES

In recent years the Board has noticed an increase in the planting of late harvested crops such as maize in the area. When these crops are planted within four metres of a viewed rhyne it is likely that some crop damage may occur when the Board undertakes its annual weed cutting programme.

The Board carries out its annual weed cutting work under its permissive powers within the Land Drainage Act 1991. Undertaking this work removes the need for the riparian owner to undertake his common law duty to maintain the watercourse at his own expense. It is therefore in the interest of the Board and the riparian owner that delays to the weed cutting programme are not introduced by landowners stipulating when maintenance work should be carried out.

Delays to the programme incurred by deferring the work or tracking around and returning at a later date causes additional cost and disruption to the Board and its contractors. For this reason the Board would like to inform all rate payers that it has decided to adopt the practice of tracking through late harvested crops to undertake maintenance work. If any landowner is concerned about these proposals and wishes to have alternative arrangements then they must contact the Board well in advance of this year's work to see if alternative arrangements can be put in place.

The Board has considered this approach in the light of the agri environment support arrangements that can be employed for buffer strips within Cross Compliance requirements for Single Farm Payments and Entry Level Stewardship management agreements.

Yours sincerely

N Stevens
Clerk to the Parrett Internal Drainage Board

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