

West Sedgemoor Favourable Condition Project

Autumn 2010

Issue 3

INTRODUCTION

This newsletter provides an update on the Parrett IDB water level management improvements project for West Sedgemoor.

PROJECT PROGRESS

August/September – North Drove Rhyne Culverts

J D Pope Ltd started work on replacing blocked and undersized drove and field access culverts on the North Drove Rhyne at the end of July 2010. All replacement culverts are of the pile and plank design with 900mm diameter twinwall plastic pipe, backfilled with stone. Most of the culverts are supported on timber pile foundations to reduce settlement. Several of the old access gateways along North Drove Rhyne were found not to have culverts and were therefore a complete obstruction to flow.



Construction of headwalls for replacement drove crossing

The contract also includes the improvement of over 2.5km of the North Drove, strengthened using a Tensar Geogrid under recycled concrete surfacing. Further improvements to the North Drove and Pincombe Drove are planned for 2011.

Gary Pope and his team are on schedule to complete the works within the planned timescale, with each culvert taking roughly one day to construct. The project team would like to thank farmers and landowners for their co-operation with the contractor during these works.



Timber pile and plank headwall culverts on North Drove

September/October – Tilting Weirs

The first two sheet pile tilting weir structures of the project will be installed in September by David Civil Engineering Ltd. The first tilting weir will be located at the eastern end of North Drove Rhyne, near to the Pumping Station, and will replace an ineffective stop-log structure. The second tilting weir will be on a Northside lateral rhyne (Huntham Farm block), and will be used to maintain levels between the North Drove and Middle Drain. The contract also includes the construction of a bund in the Back Ditch to prevent loss of penned water to the Main Drain. Further improvements to structures between the Back Ditch and the Main Drain are planned for next year, which will assist water management at the eastern end of the moor.



Example of a sheet pile tilting weir structure

Replacement of the failed culvert under Beercrowcombe Drove is also planned for this autumn and the remaining culverts on Southside Rhyne will be improved in 2011.

INVESTIGATION AND DESIGN WORK FOR 2011

The work programme for 2011 will include the replacement of the Black Smock, Owl Street and Helland penning structures and the construction of a number of smaller penning structures around the moor.

Culvert replacement through Wick Moor will be undertaken in 2011. The Parrett IDB will also continue its programme of silt removal and channel improvements in 2011, concentrating on Wick Moor and the Middle Drain.

ENQUIRIES

For enquiries relating to the West Sedgemoor Favourable Condition Project please call 01278 789906 and ask for:-

Nick Harrison, Giles Oliver Project Engineers
Philip Brewin Project Ecologist
Iain Sturdy Principal Engineer

Download the new WLMP for West Sedgemoor at:

http://www.somersetdrainageboards.gov.uk/html/approved_plans.html