



# PARRETT DRAINAGE BOARD

Part of the SOMERSET DRAINAGE BOARDS CONSORTIUM  
Protecting property, land and the environment

## West Sedgemoor Favourable Condition Project

Spring 2010

Issue 2

### INTRODUCTION

This is the second newsletter from the Parrett Drainage Board, which has been produced and circulated to all drainage ratepayers in West Sedgemoor to keep you up to date on the progress of the water level management improvements project.

### DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROJECT

Work has continued on the development of the project to enable contracts to be let for this year's work. Additional bore holes and sampling have been undertaken to determine the depth of peat and other soft deposits along North Drove. The samples are being analysed for strength, water content, consolidation, etc.



Replacement of road culvert at Helland

During March/April a new road culvert at Helland was completed which will improve the flow of flood waters away from properties at Helland and into the moor. The IDB has also commissioned a load test on a timber pile near Short Drove, which was completed in March this year. This test has provided useful design information on the safe working load and possible settlement of short timber piles in the moor. This information will be used in the design of minor structures within the moor.



Timber pile load test

Work has also started on the three trial culverts at the upper end of North Drove Rhyne. Practical information from this trial will feed into the design and specification for the contract works due to be implemented later this year.

The preferred culvert design is now being finalised and contracts are being prepared for the replacement of remaining culverts on North Drove Rhyne, which do not currently meet the required specifications for water management on West Sedgemoor.



Concrete block head wall under construction

### Contact Details:

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**Timber post headwall under construction**



**Timber pile and plank headwall - completed**

## **PROPOSED WORKS IN 2010**

### ***Summer***

The main work this summer will be the replacement of blocked or unserviceable culverts on North Drove Rhyne and the improvement of the poorest sections of North Drove.

In addition, it is planned to replace the unserviceable culverts on Southside Rhyne. These works are planned to be undertaken during the summer and early autumn when ground conditions are suitable and minimise disturbance to wildlife.

Due to the limited and sometimes difficult access along North Drove co-operation with the farming community will be essential to achieve minimum disruption during these works.

### ***Autumn***

The Board is planning to construct the first of the new tilting weirs on the Northside of the moor. These structures will be vital to the management of water levels across the moor in both summer and winter.



**Washed out headwall Back Ditch structure – due for replacement 2010**

Design work will also be commissioned for the replacement Black Smock and Owl Street structures, which are due for replacement during 2011.

## **WORKS IN 2011**

Contracts for silt removal and replacement of culverts on Sedgemoor Old Rhyne, Middle Drain and the connecting rhyne will be undertaken in 2011.

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

## **ENQUIRIES**

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

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

The new West Sedgemoor WLMP is available for download from the IDB website or by contacting the IDB office in Highbridge.

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