

## **ITEM 14c**

### **Somerset Rivers Authority Board Paper**

#### **River Parrett Dredging – Oath to Burrowbridge Contract Work**

##### **Purpose of the item**

This paper summarises the current status of the Oath to Burrowbridge Dredging Project.

##### **Background and context**

As previously reported, dredging of the River Parrett between Stathe and Burrowbridge was completed in November 2019 with approximately 21,500m<sup>3</sup> of sediment being removed between Stathe and Burrowbridge. Whilst the dredging itself was completed, the contractor was withdrawn from site before bank reinstatement work was finished due to poor site conditions and high river levels. However, the required bank height was achieved along the full length of the work prior to demobilisation. In response to continuing and prolonged wet weather and high river levels, further temporary work was undertaken to the right bank in December 2019 to ensure the bank remained robust and to reduce the risk of overtopping and damage to the newly-formed rear slope.

The Environment Agency and Parrett Internal Drainage Board (IDB) continue to monitor the condition of the bank and Environment Agency have resources available should further temporary work be required.

The IDB's contractors will be brought back to site to complete the permanent bank work as soon as river levels and site conditions are suitable. This is likely to be April 2020 at the earliest.

The project remains within budget although contractor costs have increased slightly due to the difficulties described.

Preparation to undertake the required actions to mitigate the environmental impact of the dredging across the wider catchment is behind schedule, however having had such a prolonged wet autumn and winter it is very unlikely there will be any immediate adverse environmental impact across the wider catchment.

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