

ITEM 6a

Somerset Rivers Authority Board Paper

River Parrett Dredging – Oath to Burrowbridge pioneer dredging

RECOMMENDATIONS

The SRA Board is asked to:

1. Note that grass seeding and mitigation works on Southlake will commence in September.
2. Note that monitoring is ongoing to determine whether any further environmental mitigations are required.

Purpose of the item

This paper summarises the current status of the Oath to Burrowbridge dredging project.

Background and context

The contract to undertake the works was let to WM Longreach and contracts were signed and exchanged on 14 August 2019.

Due to a prolonged period of wet weather, with higher than average levels of rainfall causing deteriorating ground conditions, the contractor had to vacate the site before some of the planned works were completed. The contractor returned to site on 26 May 2020 to raise bank levels across a five-metre width of crest at identified low spots and to replace gates and fence lines removed during the works. Ground conditions were very dry at the time of these works and, as it was considered unviable to irrigate the bank throughout the summer, re-seeding and final adjustment of the bank crest were deferred until later in the year.

Current status

The project team is liaising with the Environment Agency over timing of the grass seeding and crest adjustment in order to avoid conflicting with Environment Agency reservoir bank safety works in the locality that commenced on 17 August 2020.

A further small contract is being let to restore a ditch on Southlake Moor as mitigation for watercourses filled with dredged material during construction of the extended flood bank, as agreed with the landowner, Natural England. This work is also expected to take place in September.

Work continues to monitor the effects of the dredge to determine whether any further environmental mitigations are required

Recommendations

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Date: 14 August 2020

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