

ITEM 12di

Somerset Rivers Authority Board Paper (for information)

Quarterly Key Project Update – River Parrett Dredging – Oath to Burrowbridge Pioneer Dredging

Purpose of the item

This paper summarises the current status of the Oath to Burrowbridge pioneer dredging project on the River Parrett.

Background and context

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

Over 21,500m³ of silt was removed from a 2.2km reach of the River Parrett between Beazley's Spillway and the River Tone confluence during autumn 2019, close to 10m³/metre run. This has resulted in increased conveyance capability of the river of up to 4m³/second or 345,000m³/day.

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 and raised bank levels across a five-meter width of crest at identified low spots and replaced 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, it was agreed that re-seeding and final adjustment of the bank crest should be deferred until later in the year.

Current status

Bank re-seeding and crest adjustment works have now been completed with only re-instatement of the temporary spillway and fenceline to follow in spring 2021. Monitoring to determine off-site mitigation requirements as a result of the dredge is continuing. Additional telemetry is to be installed at up to five sites to inform the monitoring, and future water level management. A project underspend of £150k at 31 March 2021 is expected.

Date: 27 November 2020

Author: Rob Kidson, Somerset Drainage Boards Consortium