

ITEM 11e

Somerset Rivers Authority Board Paper to note

Quarterly Key Project Update: River Parrett Dredging – Northmoor to M5

Purpose of the item

This paper summarises the current status of the Northmoor to M5 Dredging Project.

Background and context

The Somerset Levels & Moors Flood Action Plan proposed a programme of dredging to reduce flood risk. The subsequent October 2016 report by HR Wallingford – *Opportunities for further dredging in Somerset* – recommended five locations for dredging relating to the River Parrett catchment. Four of these reaches have been dredged: Northmoor to confluence; Parrett up-river of confluence (Oath to Burrowbridge) and the Tone; and - the subject of this paper - channel enlargement of the Parrett downriver from Northmoor to M5. The Environment Agency will be undertaking works on the River Soway (Parrett Flood Relief Channel) imminently. The River Soway was the fifth location recommended by HR Wallingford.

The Northmoor to M5 project has been designed and developed for Somerset Rivers Authority by the Parrett Internal Drainage Board (IDB) under a Public Sector Cooperation Agreement with the Environment Agency, using Growth Deal funding from the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership.

Current status

Van Oord's Water Injection Dredging vessel Borr was mobilised at Dunball Wharf on Saturday 16 January and commenced dredging on Sunday. High river levels and consistent seaward flows enabled work to continue for an average 10-hour dredging time each day for fourteen days, mostly in daylight.

The dredge covered a 2.2km reach of the river, downstream from the 750m reach dredged by the Environment Agency for the SRA in 2016, aiming to achieve channel capacity commensurate with the 2016 dredge by removing 22,000m³ of consolidated silt deposits.

The vessel was demobilised on Sunday 31 January and a post-works bathymetric survey carried out on 1 February. Results from the survey will soon be available and are expected to demonstrate that the dredging has achieved the design objectives.

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