

Rivers Parrett and Tone Dredging Project Part of the Somerset Levels and Moors Flood Action Plan

Progress over the last week

We continue to dredge downstream on both sides of the River Parrett. We have so far removed about 13,050m³ of silt over a 445 metre length. Land and Water Services continue to work long days from Monday to Friday and we are looking at the possibility of some weekend working as a further contingency.



We have been asked to share our dredging programme with you and this is now available on our website at the following link.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/somerset-levels-and-moors-reducing-the-risk-of-flooding/somerset-levels-and-moors-reducing-the-risk-of-flooding>

We have been meeting with residents on Stanmoor Bank along the River Tone to discuss concerns regarding seepage through the bank and the possible affect the dredging might have on this. We are investigating this further.

We held flood surgeries in North Newton and Kingsbury Episcopi for those residents living in the Northmoor, Chadmead, Thorney and Newton areas.

You will have seen us cutting the grass and vegetation around the river to prepare for dredging. Alongside this, we will be spraying areas containing invasive species such as Hemlock water dropwort and Himalayan balsam with a herbicide similar to Roundup. This will also help prevent the spread of invasive species if the dredged material needs to be removed off-site. The spray does not pose any danger to humans or animals and we are only specifically targeting areas of vegetation that will be removed as part of the dredging.

Forward Look

Over the next couple of weeks the following activities will take place:

- Dredging will continue downstream of Moorland House Farm on both banks of the River Parrett. We will have to work around a section of mature trees on the right bank of the river to minimise potential damage to them.
- We will be moving into our main compound at Gillards in Burrowbridge.
- We will be preparing to start work on the River Tone by the end of May.
- We will be holding our usual drop in session at the Old School Rooms in Burrowbridge on Tuesday afternoon (15:00 till 17:00) but **there will be no session on Thursday 22 May (9:00-11:00).**

How will we keep you updated on progress?

Weekly updates will be sent to our partners, District and County Councillors and Parish Councils for wider dissemination. We are also putting the latest weekly updates on the Environment Agency's website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/somerset-levels-and-moors-reducing-the-risk-of-flooding>

Information on the dredging project will also be shared at any flood surgery or public meeting. Please let us know if you want to receive these updates by email and feel free to disseminate wider.