

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 the River Parrett. We have removed approximately 15,000m³ of silt over a 790 metre length. We have completed the work package at Moorland House Farm and are on schedule on the Parrett.

Many of you have been asking how the operatives of the excavators know how much silt to remove from the river and to what level. The screen shot below shows the computerised systems which Land and Water Services have in each of their machines. The profiles to be dredged from the drawings are entered into the system which projects a screen image of each profile.



Road and Footpath closures and diversions

In order to complete our dredging work we will have to divert or close footpaths and roads as we progress. We will try and provide as much notice as possible ahead of these closures and diversions.

In most instances any road closures will be defined as 'rolling' which means that the dredging equipment and area will be fenced off but as the dredge progresses the point at which the road is closed will move too.

The first road closure will be on Riverside in Burrowbridge on the right bank of the River Parrett between the A361 and Meadow View. This will come into effect from the 17 June.

We have closed the footpath on the left bank of the River Parrett from Coates Farm to the junction downstream. This is because we need a larger reach excavator to remove silt located nearer to the middle of the channel. We will also be transporting silt in tracker dumpers along the path.

We have diverted the footpath from the left bank of the River Tone which runs between Cuts Road and Creeds Farm across on to the right bank and down Stanmoor Road.

Forward Look

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

- We will start dredging with a long arm excavator on the River Tone this week (week commencing 26 May). We will start on the left bank between Cuts Road and Creeds Farm.
- Dredging will continue downstream of Moorland House Farm on both banks of the River Parrett.
- We will be moving into our main compound at Gillards in Burrowbridge.
- We will be holding a flood surgery on Tuesday 27 May at Aller village hall for communities at Aller, Aller Drove, Pathe and Combe from 16:00 until 19:00. On Thursday 29 May we will be at the Willow and Wetlands Centre, Stoke St Gregory from 16:00 until 19:00 to cover the Stathe, Oath, West Wick and West Sedgemoor areas. We are also attending a public meeting in Muchelney on Wednesday 28 May at 19:30 at St Peter and St Paul. If you have been affected by, or have concerns about the recent flooding, please come along.
- We will continue to hold drop in sessions at the Old School Rooms in Burrowbridge on a Tuesday afternoon (15:00 till 17:00) and Thursday morning (9:00-11:00). We will be moving to the site compound at Gillards in Burrowbridge for the week commencing 2 June.

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>