

## Changes to Operational Practices

The challenging weather conditions of 2019 have led the Board to review their operational practices. The Board annually complete a programme of watercourse maintenance on designated I.D.B. maintained waterways and this work is designed to remove the vegetation from the channel. This is to facilitate the efficient conveyance of water to one of the Board's Pumping Stations.

Historically the Board have always endeavoured to wait for crops to be cleared before this work is undertaken. However, in recent years, completing the work in this way has become very challenging. Farming practices have changed and the window of opportunity to complete this work has got smaller and smaller.

This has resulted in the Board's machinery spending more down time being transported around the District to make sure all the watercourses are maintained. As consequence, it has meant that our completion date has been pushed further and further back.

We are also seeing more extremes in weather with rain events becoming more frequent and more intense. The Board felt the review needed to consider this to improve standards of protection where possible.

The review highlighted two main points:

1. The need to increase the amount of early summer channel maintenance, flail-mowing and weed cutting completed between May and July. This work is designed to increase standards of protection to those most susceptible to summer flooding from summer rain events like June 2019.
2. The need to increase the efficiency of the Board's plant and equipment carrying out flail-mowing and weed cutting operations in order to complete the late summer/autumn channel maintenance earlier. This change will provide increased standards of protection from heavy winter rain events like those experienced through the Autumn of 2019.

Therefore, to increase the efficiency of our operations and achieve the objectives above, from April 2020, the Board's maintenance equipment will access the land adjacent to all Board maintained watercourses, whether it is cropped or uncropped.

The following details an example of the machinery that will be used to carry out this work;





**A statutory notice of intended entry has been sent out to all rate payers. However, please note you are only affected by this change in working practice if you have land adjacent to a Board maintained watercourse.**

We hope the information provided clearly sets out the Board's intentions and the terms of entry onto the land. We make these changes and complete these works to provide continued and increased protection from flooding to your land and the wider District.

We intend to carry out these works in the best possible manner, cooperating and working with you where possible. Should you have any questions please contact the office on 01205 310099.