

## Commons Coordinator Report

Andrew Colchester

October 2015

The capital works on the Marsh scheduled for this year have been completed. The contractor did a very good job in difficult wet conditions.

On further investigation into the problem of flooding on the road near the low railway bridge it has become evident that water is backing up from a dyke on the marsh (marked with a broken line in area1079 on the map). This has been caused by the dyke being bunded in the past to raise the water level. As the water has backed up it has caused culverts under the road (marked orange on the map) and under the railway embankment (marked purple on the map) to become restricted by silt. As a result the water is being held up on the road near the low railway bridge and on the adjoining farm land. We are obliged by law not to restrict the flow of water from neighbouring land, it is therefore necessary for the Parish council to have the ditches (marked with a broken line on the map) cleaned out and arrange for the culverts under the road and the railway embankment to be cleared. I have acquired 3 quotes for the ditching work and all 3 contractors have agreed to clear some of the blackthorn bushes from along the roadside of area 2080 on the map within their quotes. Goff, Jerry and I would need to clear the overhanging branches from along the ditch to allow easy access for the digger driver. We would also need to clear the cut blackthorn into a heap for wildlife overwinter and remove it from the site at a later date. By doing some of the preparation and clearing up work ourselves we can keep the cost of the work to a minimum.

The Parish Council has £300.00 allocated for tree planting to improve the area around the railway embankment. I believe we are all agreed that it is not practical to plant on the embankment side of the road so the best thing to do would be plant along the hedge line on the marsh side of the

road with native trees which can be kept to a manageable size and will offer fruit, flowers and good autumn colour. Sharon has sent a list of Trees, that we think would fit the bill, to all the Parish Councillors.

Wild Cherry

Wild Pear

Wild Service Tree

Whitebeam

Hornbeam

Spindle

Crab Apple

Wild Plum

Field Maple

We now need to find out how many trees with stakes, guards and ties we can get for our budget. After discussing this subject at the last Parish Council meeting, some parishioners kindly volunteered to help with tree planting.



KEY FOR DYKE  
CLEARANCE.  
FOR THRANDESTON PARISH  
COUNCIL.

