

HPR Drainage November 2018

After the successful trial installation of the land drains on rows 32-35 October 2016, the site managers on HPR decided to lobby the committee to extend the scheme to cover rows 24-31. This was because we received several complaints last winter/spring about severe flooding within those rows, (rows 32-35 remained flood free).

Approval for the scheme was given and we had to ask for volunteers to help with the installation, mainly because help was needed to install **24 tonnes** of gravel. Needless to say that help was given and the planning of the installation could go ahead.

But first we had to check with the long range weather forecast of the “drainage god” as to conditions for the week commencing 12th November. At this time of the year we feared the worst and hoped for the best! We couldn't have had better weather!



The pictures below show you some of the installation.

The installation consisted of digging 4 trenches about 2ft deep, 75 mtrs long, between rows 24-31, lining them, installing 80mm perforated polypipe land drain with 6 tonnes of gravel per trench and piping to the ditch along Hunts Pond Road.



Row 30-31. The first 6 tonnes of gravel being unloaded.



Row 28-29. Trench has been dug and lined.



Row 26-27. Land drain installed and plot holders have started to back fill the trench.



Row 24-25. Last one, but it was very hard going, it took Alastair about 4 hours of digging to get from the gate to this point!



Last 6 tonnes of gravel being delivered.

Pete, the driver, delivered all 24 tonnes for us in 2 deliveries was very helpful, but I couldn't persuade him to help wheelbarrow some of it!



Duncan (nearest to text box) is supervising levelling out the gravel.



Gareth getting the pipe in a tangle and Steph is having a laugh!

The installation was started on Monday morning 12th November and was completed on Friday 16th about midday. Plot holders have made a great start back filling the trenches, see photo's below.

About half the trench between rows 26-27 has already been filled to a stage where it almost looks as we haven't put any drainage in!



Rows 30-31. Plot holders have made a great start in back filling the trench



Rows 28-29. Again, plot holders have done a great job back filling the trench



Rows 26-27. I couldn't believe it when I saw how this path has been put back together to such a high degree, in such a short time!

None of this installation would have been possible without the volunteers involved.

Hopefully, we can now look forward to plots between rows 24-31 being much drier during times of heavy prolonged rains in the future?