



Established 1962

William Morfoot

Land & Water Project Management



Agricultural **LAND DRAINAGE** Specialists

Raising yields for tomorrow



Established
1962

Experience COUNTS

Draining your land since 1962

William Morfoot Ltd is a long-established agricultural land drainage and water management business, operating throughout the UK and beyond. The company provides a complete design and installation service, undertaken using its own equipment and dedicated team of staff. Attention to detail and outstanding customer service have helped the company become one of the leading land drainage specialists in the UK.

Your soils are precious. They are the foundation to any successful arable farming operation. Increasingly, the value of land itself has been spiralling to higher levels.

To maintain soils in peak condition requires considerable effort. Arable inputs are expensive and to work successfully, a uniform and consistent

soil structure is required. A soil which is aerobic and friable will allow root systems to quickly establish and develop within, to best source the valuable ingredients of oxygen, water and nutrients in a balanced way.

Achieving this balance isn't easy – especially on heavier soils. Professionally installed land drains

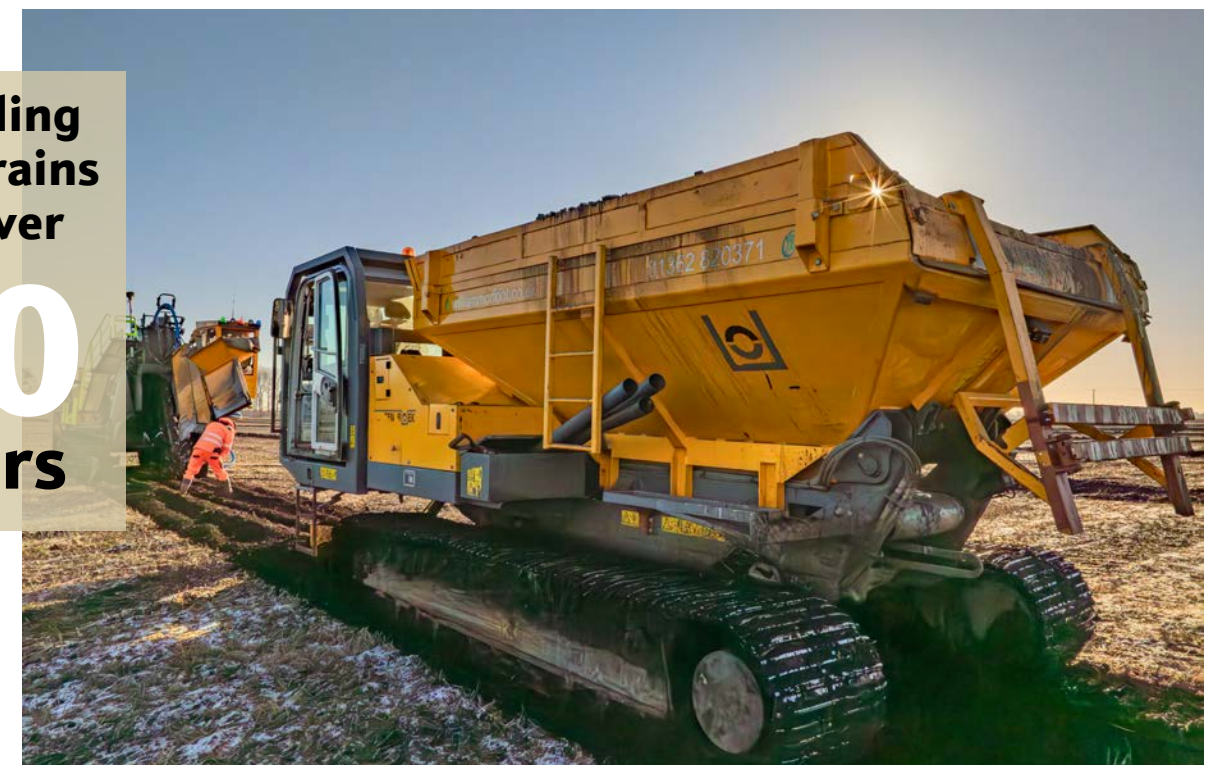
systematically helps to restore this balance, to allow your inputs to work to their full potential.

We've been installing land drains on farms across the UK for over 60 years. We work with some of the biggest names in British agriculture.

And we're proud of what we do.

Installing
land drains
for over

60
years



Increase YIELDS

More than just an investment

Yield Data provided by our clients has shown that comprehensively drained land is showing a typical average increase in yield of between 25-35%. Put another way, it's increasing yields from 8.5t/ha to 11t/ha.

This represents a big increase on the bottom line. And your investment in land drainage delivers year after year, for the lifetime of the scheme. Not a bad investment when you think of it that way...



William Morfoot Ltd has worked on the Estate for many years, delivering a range of land, water, and environmental solutions. Over this time, they have successfully completed several large-scale projects, including land drainage, trackway construction, and wetland development.

Their team has consistently demonstrated professionalism, technical expertise, and a strong understanding of agricultural needs. They have always been very accommodating with scheduling, ensuring minimal disruption to our farming operations.

We highly value our longstanding relationship with William Morfoot Ltd and would confidently recommend them to others seeking high-quality rural contracting services.

Adrian Howes,
Sennowe Estate.



Back to BASICS

Unlock your land's potential

Land drainage – why?

Predictability. It's an important concept for most agribusinesses, at a time when there are many unknowns. Commodity prices, spiralling input costs and the UK's volatile climate mean that it isn't always easy to produce consistent returns in agriculture.

Which is precisely why many growers are looking to manage risks where possible. Advances in technology have assisted in this greatly, with ever-bigger machines offering greater outputs and improved timeliness of arable operations. Scientific advances have also played a big role in recent years.

However, the basic raw ingredient that allows all of these improvements to go on working is often forgotten about – the **soils** in which our crops need to be nurtured and respected, to go on delivering in the years ahead.

Drainage grants finished over 30 years ago in the UK, and many existing land drainage schemes are fast becoming obsolete and ineffective.

How can investing in land drainage help your farm?

■ **Improved timeliness of operations:** Land drainage helps to dry the land out more quickly post rainfall, allowing arable work to resume in shorter timescales.

■ **Aerobic soils with consistent properties:** Allowing for an even response to spray and fertiliser applications, and other nutrients and trace elements vital for your crop's development. Land drainage is a fundamental ingredient towards building a better soil structure.

■ **Lower your fuel bills:** Wet soils are more difficult to work and commonly can dry out and 'set' in the summer, resulting in them being hard and difficult to cultivate. Land drainage actively assists in developing better horizons within your soil.

■ **Improve land values:** Well-drained land is worth more than wet land. Fact.

■ **Improve yields:** Land drainage typically leads to yield improvements of an average of 25-35%.

William Morfoot Ltd have worked with Salle Farms over many years. Owning well-drained land has undoubtedly allowed us to achieve a combination of improved yields and efficiency.

P. Hovesen, Norfolk (Farmers Weekly Farmer of the Year Award Winner)

25-35%
Typical yield increase

Complete SOLUTIONS

From concept to completion

Preliminary meeting

Our specialist drainage consultants meet our customers in the field to talk through the projects we take on.

The survey

Detailed surveys are undertaken by our own consultants, using the very latest in GPS technology and advanced mapping software, to collect the topographical information and other field data we need.

Proposal plan and report

A detailed proposal plan, supported by our topographical data, is provided to our clients. This sets out the precise facts relating to the field and ensures our clients are fully informed ahead of any work starting.

Confirmation and delivery

At order confirmation, we agree timings with our clients. We stick to those timings. We know that arable timings are key for busy farms and waiting for contractors is frustrating. If we can't meet your timescales, we'll tell you – and we won't keep you waiting for weeks on end.

Practical installation

Drainage proposals are implemented by our specialist teams on the ground to get the projects completed. Finally, we supply true records on completion, providing a detailed final plan of the works undertaken.

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At William Morfoot Ltd, we believe service matters. Attention to detail and listening to what our customers want, whilst considering each project we undertake on an individual basis, are essential pre-requisites. Coupling these details with our long-standing experience and in-built knowledge within this specialist sector is the next stage.

Justin Morfoot, Operations and Technical Director,
William Morfoot Ltd

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Preliminary MEETING



Site-led insight for confident project planning

For many decades, our company has worked with farm businesses across the UK with many of our clients being repeat customers – who have worked with our business many times before. We believe that the relationship we have with our clients is very important and as a result, we look forward to our site meetings for each and every project we deliver.

A preliminary meeting built around your land and your priorities

- Understanding Requirements
- Local Drainage Knowledge
- Existing Utilities and Constraints
- Existing Drainage Information
- Soil Types and Behaviour
- Access and Site Practicalities

By the end of the site meeting, our consultant will have a clear grasp of your brief, which we'll then incorporate directly into our proposal.



SURVEYING

Clear data to support confident decisions

Accuracy, insight, and accountability from the very start. For many years, our survey and design expertise has set us apart from other drainage companies. We have consistently raised the standard for land drainage scheme design, ensuring that every project is built on accuracy, insight, and long-term performance.



Surveying insight that underpins every successful scheme

Our surveys collect essential information from each field, including:

Topographical Data

Accurate ground levels highlighting high and low points, as well as the natural direction of fall.

Soil Assessment

Analysis of soil types to determine appropriate pipe spacing and identify any need for wrapped pipe.

Critical Site Features

Recording the location of key infrastructure such as buried gas mains, electricity poles, and other elements that must be reflected in our plans.

Ditch and Watercourse Evaluation

Assessing ditch flow direction, culvert condition and size, and available freeboard to ensure successful outfall design.

Site Access and Logistics

Identifying suitable access points and areas for stockpiling stone and materials.

Wider Site-Specific Considerations

Understanding existing systems, such as carrier drains already handling high volumes of water, and any other factors that could influence scheme design.



How We Survey

We use the latest GPS technology and gather data both on foot and via quad bikes to ensure thorough, accurate, and efficient topographical coverage across the site.



Land drainage IN ACTION

Ensuring consistent delivery

“Time after time, works have been carried out within a strict time frame, to exacting standards.”

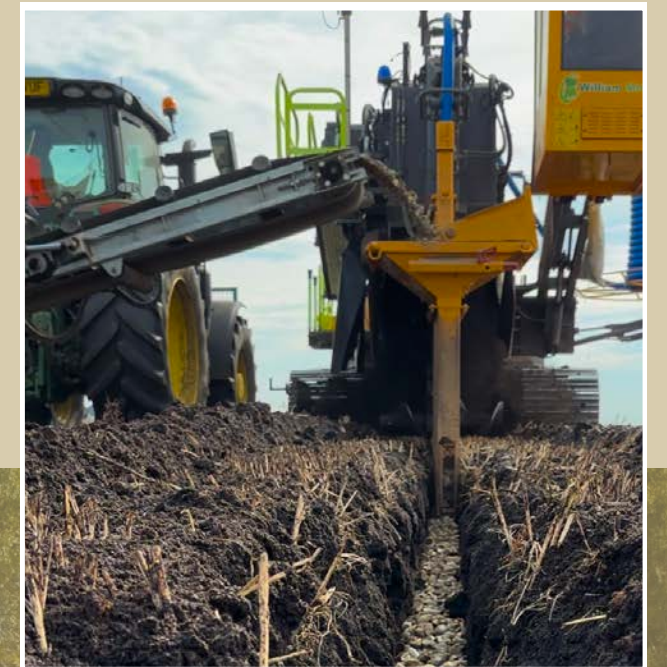
D Mathews, Velcourt

In order to make sure we can consistently deliver to our clients in a timely way, we run a number of drainage trenching machines, complete with the associated ancillary equipment. We have an ongoing replacement policy, ensuring that our clients are benefiting from the very latest in drainage technology.

We have introduced GPS technology to our machines in recent years, which has transformed the way in which land drainage work is undertaken.

All of our equipment runs on either tracks, or low ground pressure tyres, ensuring that our equipment can keep moving on a year-round basis – whatever the conditions.

Most importantly, we have a competent, highly skilled and exceptionally experienced team of staff on the ground delivering our projects. This fact alone impresses many of our clients, who are pleased to find a knowledgeable workforce to answer any queries that may arise over the course of our projects.



SCHEME DESIGN

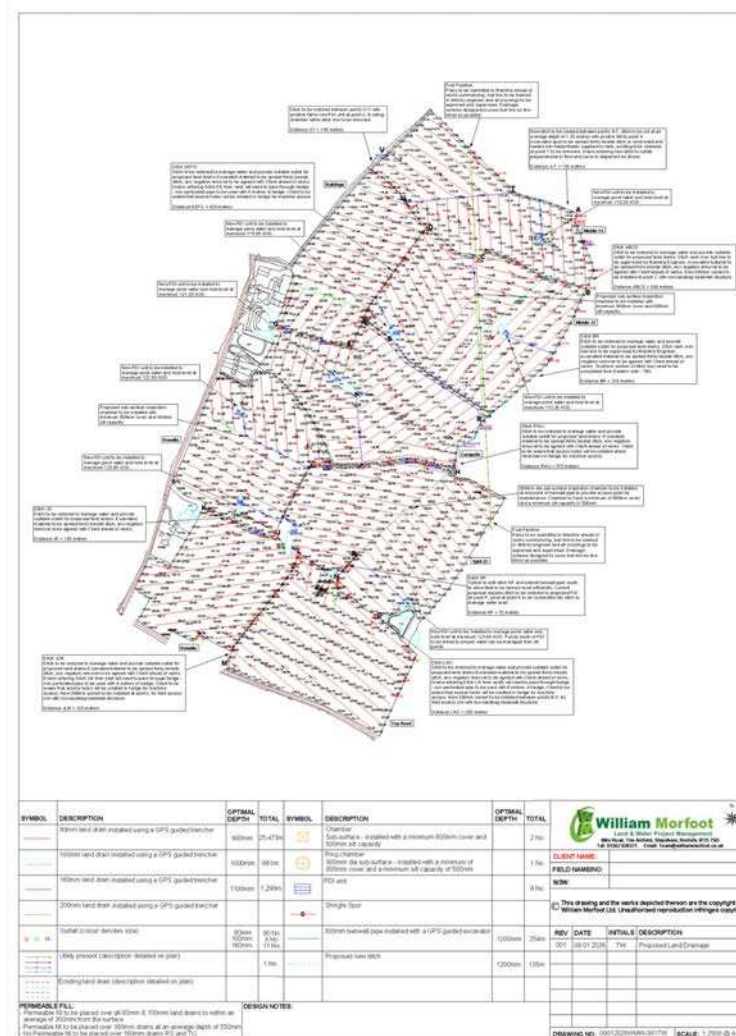
Invaluable information

Invaluable information

Comprehensive analysis before design begins

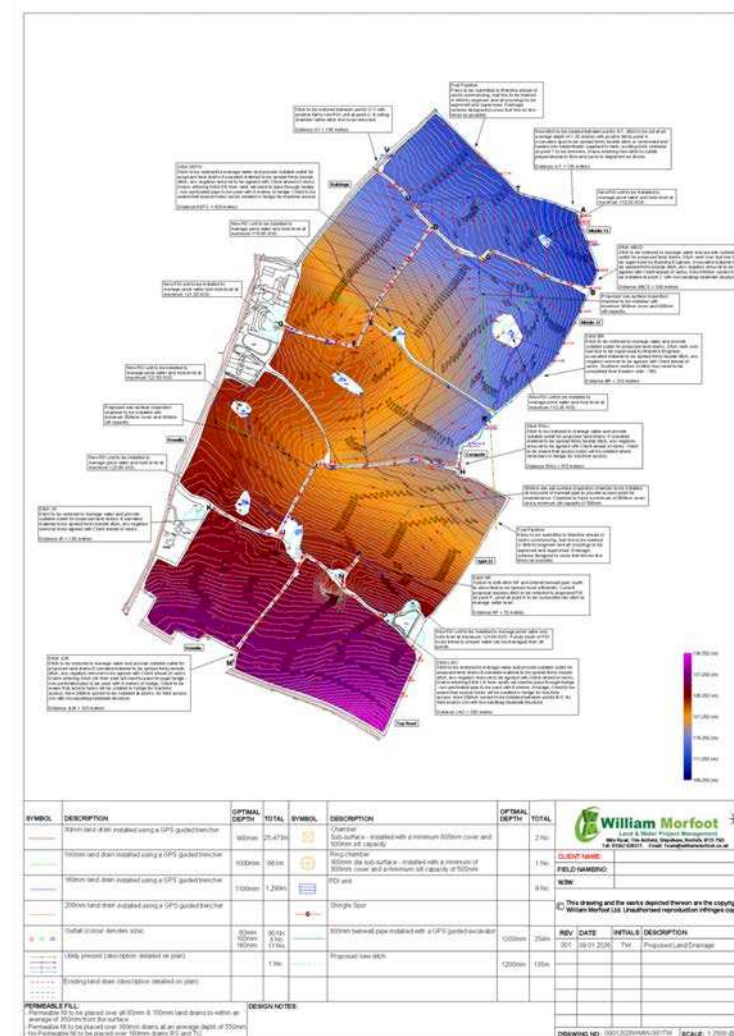
Following the site survey undertaken in the field, our design team carefully processes all collected data before developing a tailored drainage scheme for your land. This design stage brings together the key survey findings into a single, clear drawing—ensuring every important detail from the site is presented for your review. Our aim is to share our findings openly and transparently so you fully understand what to expect at the delivery stage. We also want you to have complete confidence that we have thoroughly assessed all relevant site information before proposing a solution.

To accompany these drawings, we typically include a quotation for the works along with a concise report summarising key findings and observations from the site. Our goal is to provide a comprehensive understanding of your field, demonstrating that every detail has been carefully considered in the creation of your drainage scheme design.



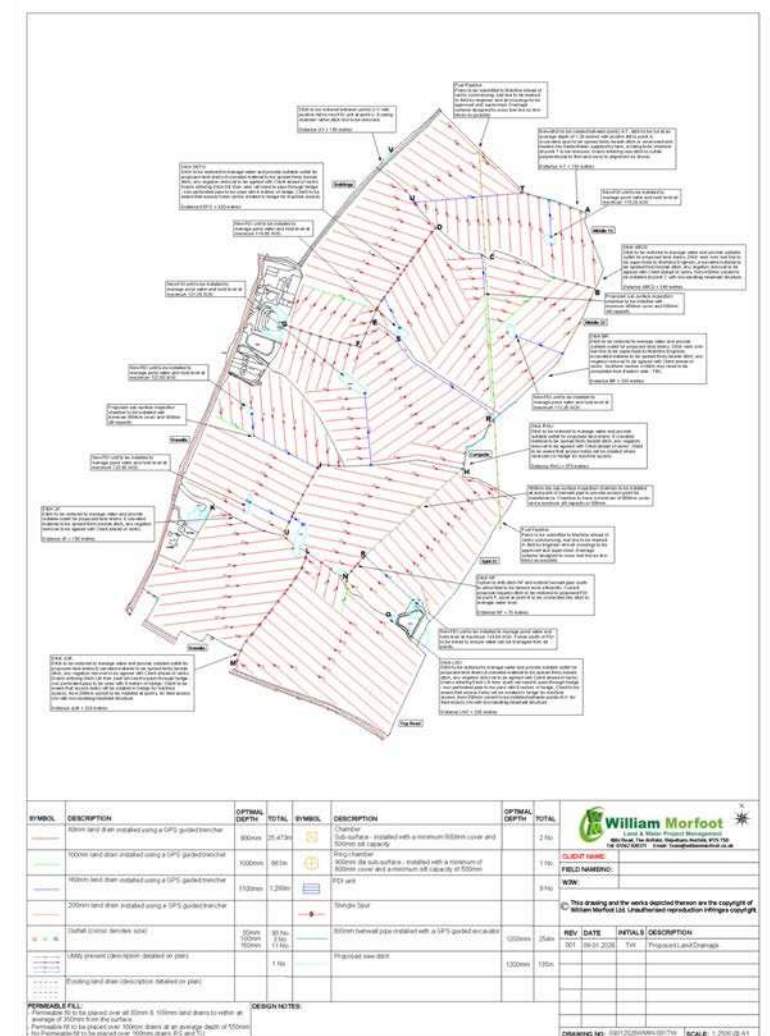
1. Spot Level Plan

A full record of all individual TOPO levels captured during the survey—both ground levels within the field and levels from the surrounding watercourses.



2. Contour Map

A colour-coded representation of high and low areas, derived from the spot level data. This plan also illustrates the prevailing direction of fall (where present), giving clarity around the reasoning behind our drainage layout and orientation.



3. Clean Proposal Plan

A simplified drawing showing only the proposed positions of new drains, without any topographical information.

Practical DELIVERY

From approved schemes to precise delivery

Organisation, control and accountability from the moment work is scheduled

Once a scheme is agreed, the focus shifts from design and intent to practical delivery on the ground. This stage is where planning, logistics and experience must come together to ensure work is carried out efficiently, safely and in line with agreed expectations. Every project is approached with a clear delivery structure, ensuring resources, materials and people are coordinated to suit the site, the timescale and the conditions encountered.

How we work

Structured planning before work begins

Following project confirmation, a delivery programme is agreed and scheduled to match the required timeframe. This allows work to be planned around crop cycles, access requirements and seasonal conditions, providing clarity for everyone involved. Materials are ordered in advance, and site checks are carried out to prepare for installation. These early steps reduce risk, avoid delays and ensure that work can proceed smoothly once teams arrive on site.



“Strong delivery is not simply about getting work done – it is about planning, coordination and execution that protect outcomes long after the machinery leaves site.”

Aidan Brand, Logistics Manager, William Morfoot Ltd



All work delivered in-house

Projects are delivered entirely by in-house teams, with no reliance on subcontractors for individual elements. This approach allows standards to be controlled consistently and decisions to be made quickly as work progresses.

Logistics that support progress

A dedicated logistics function coordinates plant, materials and personnel to match the scale and complexity of each project. Machinery and crew sizes are selected to suit the work being undertaken, allowing delivery to remain efficient without over- or under-resourcing sites. Specialist trenching equipment is supported by a wide range of ancillary machinery, including tracked and wheeled gravel carts and excavators of various sizes. Both tracked and wheeled plant are used throughout the year to suit changing soil and ground conditions, helping to maintain productivity while minimising ground disturbance.

Adaptable delivery at any scale

Delivery capability is structured to support projects of varying size and complexity, from small, targeted works through to large, multi-field schemes. Equipment and team structures are adapted to suit each site, ensuring efficiency without compromising quality. Work is carried out with care and consideration for environmental constraints, helping to deliver practical improvements that perform over the long term. For clients looking for a delivery partner who understands the realities of working across agricultural and environmental sites, a clear, well-managed approach makes all the difference.

Experience proven by results

Successful delivery is built on experienced site teams, reliable equipment and strong coordination behind the scenes. This combination ensures that planning translates into results on the ground, with projects completed to a high standard and within agreed parameters. For clients looking for a delivery partner who understands the realities of working across agricultural and environmental sites, a clear, well-managed approach makes all the difference.

Managing WATER COURSES

Delivering quality projects



As well as the practical installation of new land drainage schemes, we also offer a complete array of water course management services. These include:

- New ditch creation
- Ditch maintenance/restoration
- Culvert installation/replacement
- Ditch infilling/ditch piping/field amalgamation
- Water level control facilities installation, including sluices and other water control devices

Our ditch restoration and water course management services are provided by our own team of experienced professionals, who commonly undertake these works in conjunction with our land drainage projects.

Our consultancy team is able to offer you clear advice on precisely what options are available, ahead of the works starting.

Our excavators are equipped with laser technology, to ensure accurate grading of ditch beds. We have an array of specialist excavator attachments, including V-buckets, hydraulic saws and flails.

The standard of our work speaks for itself. We recognise that ditch systems are often all that is visible once a new land drainage scheme is installed, and we take great pride in delivering quality projects to our clients – many of whom have been long-standing customers over several decades.

Ditch restoration and water course management, including culvert construction, ditch removal and field amalgamation

Land drainage: THE OUTCOME

Results and management

Following the installation of a new land drainage scheme, what can you expect?



Watch the water flow

Typical flow rates from standard 80mm land drains, with stone laid over a 400-metre length drain run, have recorded flow rates of 12 litres per minute. On a 20m spaced standard scheme, this will be drawing water from 0.8 of a hectare. This equates to 720 litres per hour, or 17,280 litres per day, out of just one single drain. So, on a 10ha field, over an 11-day period, the drains will be draining the equivalent of 2,500,000 litres – enough to fill an Olympic swimming pool!

See your crops respond

Land drainage typically provides rapid improvements, alleviating visible standing water. For the best results, we always suggest that it takes time to return soil structures to optimum condition. This involves good husbandry techniques being employed, such as subsoiling and undertaking of arable operations in the correct conditions. Long-term, improved crop establishment and consistent yields should all be routinely witnessed across drained land.

Life expectancy

The life expectancy of a drain will vary depending on a wide variety of external factors, all of which can influence how long the scheme may operate. However, on a typical scheme, with good management techniques being employed by landowners, we suggest a typical 20–25-year life expectancy period. Not many investments go on delivering a return for this long. This longevity makes effective drainage a practical, long-term asset rather than a short-term fix.



Drain maintenance

Following installation of a new land drainage system, we strongly urge our clients to look after their investment. This involves ensuring that ditch systems are kept clear and drain outfalls remain free from obstructions. We recommend routine jetting of land drains, to flush away any build up of material on the walls of the pipes. This is particularly true on soils with high ochre contents. At William Morfoot Ltd, our teams can provide drain jetting and ditch maintenance works as needed.



Fenland Land DRAINAGE

FC Palmer & Sons, Cambridgeshire

Introduction of new land drainage and watercourse improvements across a 150-hectare area within the fens.

Project background and aims:

This project was delivered within a fenland environment characterised by fragile peat soils used to grow high-value vegetable and salad crops. The primary aim was to introduce a modern land drainage system to manage excess water during periods of high rainfall, while also enabling controlled reintroduction of water during hotter summer months. This dual-purpose approach allows crops to be irrigated directly through the soil profile beneath the growing plants, supporting consistency and resilience across changing seasonal conditions.



Scope of work carried out:

Extensive surveying and scheme design were undertaken at the outset, with the design team working very closely with the client to ensure the correct scheme design was agreed before any practical work commenced. This approach ensured land drains were installed at the optimal depth, while also allowing water levels within surrounding ditch systems to be accurately controlled and held at the required depths. Installation works were then delivered using GPS-guided excavators and specialist trenching equipment, ensuring accuracy and consistency across the site.

Challenges or considerations:

Works were carried out during the winter months when soils were at field capacity, making low ground pressure and tracked machinery essential to avoid soil damage. In addition, many new drainage runs had to be installed alongside existing drainage and irrigation infrastructure. Detailed site investigations were therefore required to identify existing assets and successfully integrate them into the new scheme design.



Outcome and results:

The project was completed on time and to budget, with the new drainage systems functioning immediately upon installation. This phase of works forms part of a wider, ongoing investment strategy by the landowner to reduce risk and improve long-term yield potential across the holding.



Project FEEDBACK

William Morfoot Ltd have worked with us for many years, delivering high-quality land drainage, ditching and water management solutions across our farm. Farming low-lying land in the Fens means effective water management is absolutely critical to our infrastructure, and the expertise they provide us with has been invaluable. From the outset, William Morfoot Ltd focus heavily on both surveying and design – helping us determine the most effective and practical approach for each scheme. Their knowledgeable, pragmatic and friendly team then work closely with us to deliver those solutions on the ground, using some of the best drainage machinery currently available. We have always found them reliable, professional and a pleasure to work with and wouldn't hesitate to recommend them to anyone else considering drainage investment on their farm.

Luke Palmer, FC Palmer & Sons

What WE DO

Agricultural Land Drainage

Managing water in farmland to improve yields and soil structures through drainage.

Civils Projects

Providing drainage solutions to assist project delivery. Ultimately returning land back to agriculture.

Habitat Creation and Restoration

Creating and enhancing habitats via wetland creation, water quality improvement, & specialist contracting.

Farm Tracks and Access Roads

Improving farm accessibility with expertly constructed footpaths, tracks, and access roads.

Equestrian Facilities

Constructing professional horse manèges to provide ideal training environments for equestrian needs.

Utilities Installation

Improving farm accessibility with expertly constructed footpaths, tracks, and access roads.

Get in TOUCH...

If you would like to find out more about our land drainage and water management services, you can reach us at:

team@williammorfoot.co.uk
01362 820371

William Morfoot Ltd
Shipdham, Thetford, Norfolk IP25 7SD

Follow us on social media:



www.williammorfoot.co.uk

Complete SOLUTIONS

We deliver agricultural land drainage schemes of every scale, from small field improvements through to whole-farm systems covering hundreds of hectares. Working entirely in-house, we provide a single, joined-up service from initial survey and design through to installation and project delivery, ensuring consistency, accuracy, and accountability at every stage.

