

**STANDON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**REPORT ON THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE CULVERT BENEATH**  
**STANDON VILLAGE HALL**



Introduction:

Standon Parish Council was advised by the Environment Agency in 2012 and again in 2016 that, as the riparian owner, it had a duty to ensure the culvert was maintained and the main river channel was free of debris. The Environment Agency provided a video which showed that the majority of the channel was blocked with debris, and the brickwork had deteriorated.

Standon Parish Council was under a duty of care to ensure that repairs were undertaken.

Report:

Standon Parish Council began its search for contractors willing and able to undertake clearance and repair of the culvert in 2021 under the dedicated supervision of Cllr Michael Marshall. A number of contractors and surveyors were approached but none were willing to take this complex work on. Marks Healey was the only organisation willing to consider the job.

Standon Parish Council had a duty of care to adjacent properties, and to any contractors charged with working on the culvert and was therefore fully aware of responsibilities when appointing contractors, ensuring that those appointed were qualified and complied with close working requirements.

An initial investigate into the method to be employed to clear the culvert and repair the brickwork highlighted the risks of raising the debris from the culvert to the highway safely, and the risks to contractors from enclosed working conditions in a main river environment.

Marks Healey was the only structural surveying company willing to enter into an agreement with the Parish Council to provide drawings and a work schedule. All other companies approached declined.

Marks Healey initially contracted to install a gravel trap to stop more debris build up. This work was completed in 2023.

The second phase was to clear and repair the culvert, which required a specialist team. A winch was installed to lift the debris as it was cleared. A full close working specification was developed and work was carried out by Jonathan Wilson contractors and overseen by Tony Finch Associates.

Works commenced in April 2023 and were completed in September 2024.

The quoted specification is shown below:

**Scope of works in accordance with Marks Heeley specification.**

*1.0 Set up site and implement necessary H&S welfare procedures, and control measures, TF acting as Principal Contractor for CDM.*

*2.0 Undertake phased removal of material and improvement works to culvert structure as follows;*

*3.0 Works to be undertaken in 6 phases as discussed.*

*4.0 Removal material form culvert and clear from site by approved means.*

*5.0 Clean inner surface of walls and soffit to culvert.*

*6.0 Fix stainless steel reinforcement mesh type 304 3mm gauge to walls/soffit of culvert.*

*7.0 Apply Ardex A46 repair mortar to walls/soffit, average thickness 40mm tk.*

*8.0 Prepare base to culvert, place C28/30 concrete 75mm tk. With A142 reinforcement layer.*

*Total cost of works £36,916.00*

- Availability to start works w/c 4th March.*
- Allowance made for periodic pumping as required.*
- Note works will need to be executed subject to prevailing weather conditions and in accordance with RAMS and safe system of work.*

Marks Healey and Tony Finch costs were in addition to the work cost.

Marks Healey Health & Safety document is DRA H16672-01

Marks Healey work specification is H17380-01-A

Tony Finch submitted an F10 Notification of Construction Project with the Health & Safety Executive. Tony Finch provided photographic reports throughout the process which were very useful when assessing progress made.

**Total Cost: £63,116.00**

Standon Village Hall has kindly donated £10,000.00 to help offset the cost.

This is a once in a generation operation as the culvert hasn't been cleared in 100 years!

Tony Finch has recommended that the culvert is inspected on an annual basis and all gravel removed from the trap.

Standon Parish Council would like to sincerely thank the neighbours for their assistance with allowing the contractors access across their land and being understanding given the length of time that the work has taken.

Standon Parish Council would like to formally thank Marks Healey, Tony Finch and Jonathan Wilson for their hard work and dedication – without these contractors the Parish Council could not have commissioned this excellent work to be carried out.

Standon Parish Council could not have completed this major project without the dedication and support of Cllr Michael Marshall - We are indebted to you for your determination to succeed in the face of adversity.

