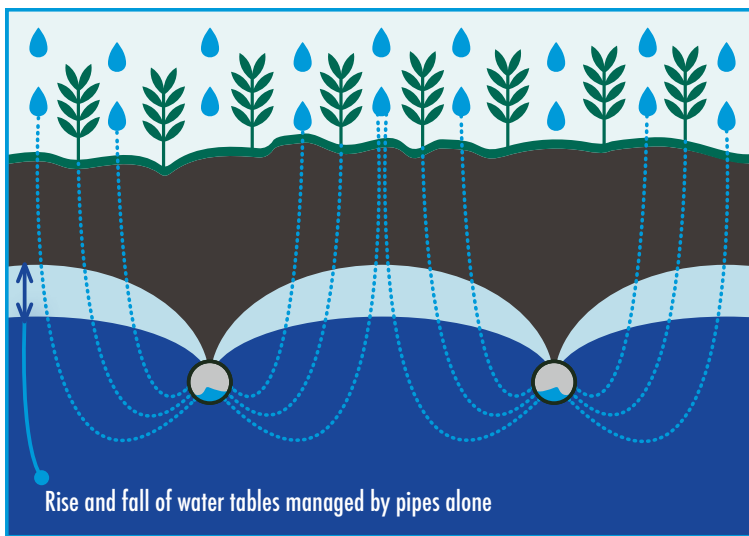


LAND DRAINAGE & TRENCHING SOLUTIONS

OUR EXPERT GUIDE TO LAND DRAINAGE

HISTORY OF LAND DRAINAGE

Inning was a process used to reclaim and drain marshland, transforming previously unusable areas into productive farmland. Romney Marsh, located in our region, remains a clear example of this practice, characterised by its network of open-cut waterways, often referred to as dykes and sewers. During and following the Second World War, there was a drive in the UK to prioritise increasing domestic food production. This required expanding access to reliable, high-quality agricultural land. Land drainage became vital and was widely supported through government subsidies until the early 1980s.



SECTOR CHALLENGES AND MARKET OUTLOOK

The number of contractors offering land drainage services has declined, largely due to rising installation costs for landowners and the capital investment required for specialist equipment. Additionally, the seasonal nature of this work poses further challenges for firms absorbing the cost of expensive machinery throughout the year.

Despite these pressures, FGS Pilcher continues to support the sector with trusted experience, industry-leading equipment, and a proven track record of successful delivery.

THE BENEFITS OF EFFECTIVE LAND DRAINAGE



Enhanced Plant Performance

Drainage enables soils to warm earlier in spring, promoting better germination and stronger early growth. Roots benefit from improved oxygen and water access, and nutrient uptake, especially nitrogen, is more efficient. These conditions contribute to better crop health, yield, and quality.



Improved Land Accessibility

Proper drainage reduces waterlogging, allowing fields to recover more rapidly after rainfall. This improves access for machinery and workers, minimising disruption to planting, fertilising, or harvesting schedules. A longer growing and grazing season offers increased land productivity.



Operational Efficiency

Better field conditions mean improved traction, reduced passes with equipment, and less fuel consumption. Drainage also helps avoid persistent wet patches, limiting downtime and unnecessary machinery wear.



Soil and Environmental Protection

Effective drainage maintains soil structure, increases water infiltration, and reduces surface run-off and erosion. This helps protect local watercourses from phosphorus and pesticide leaching, while also reducing the potential for slug activity and reproduction.



Healthier Conditions for Livestock

Drained pastures are less susceptible to disease. The risk of parasite larvae survival and carriers of liver fluke such as snails is reduced, while common issues like footrot and udder contamination are less frequent. Healthier grazing environments also reduce soil contamination during silage work.

TRENCHING IN INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONSTRUCTION

To maximise plant utilisation, FGS Pilcher applies trenching technology to a wide range of non-agricultural settings, including:

- Water mains and irrigation systems
- Temporary drainage for site compounds and haul roads (prolonging the useable life of surfaces over un-drained ground)
- Service cable and communications pipes
- Statutory and private utility work
- Sports turf and pitch drainage

Our trenchers deliver notable advantages over traditional excavation:

- Up to 2,500 metres of trenching per day
- Trench widths as narrow as 100mm
- Reduced environmental impact and lower reinstatement costs

Particularly in complex or interrupted sites like solar farms and vineyards, trenchers provide unmatched speed, precision, and efficiency.



OUR EQUIPMENT AND EXPERTISE

FGS Pilcher has completed numerous land drainage projects throughout the South East for farmers and landowners. Our fleet includes:

- Mastenbrook 30/20 – laser and GPS guidance for precision levelling
- Mastenbrook 10/12 – compact design with laser levelling and soil displacement conveyor, ideal for gardens and sports fields

Both trenchers are supported by two Mastenbrook GT8 gravel hoppers with adjustable discharge conveyors, towed by tractors. This configuration ensures clean, precise trench backfilling and efficient site progress.

Our operations are delivered by trained and knowledgeable professionals. Notably, Chris Scott, one of our most experienced operators, reflects our commitment to excellence. His meticulous approach ensures each project is both technically sound and precisely delivered - elevating land drainage to a specialist art.



EXPERT SUPPORT AND BESPOKE SOLUTIONS

Whether you're looking to enhance agricultural performance, optimise on-site drainage, or install essential services, FGS Pilcher can provide tailored guidance, precise costings, and reliable, professional delivery.

We're here to help you transform your land, efficiently, sustainably, with trusted expertise you can count on.

For further information or to discuss your specific project requirements, please contact our team:

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