



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Blue Boar Contracts acquire royal warranted land drainage specialists, the Fen Ditching Company**

Warwickshire, 23rd August 2006: Dredging and land restoration experts Blue Boar contracts announce acquisition of the Fen Ditching Company, the Fen-based land drainage specialists.

Formed in the late 1960s, the Fen Ditching Company is based in Wisbech and is an extremely well-respected regional business. The company offers land drainage, ditch clearance and maintenance, pond and reservoir excavation, plant hire, piling and earth moving, plus the creation of culverts, headwalls, road crossings and water control structures in the Fenland area, primarily within a 50 mile radius of Wisbech.

An established and quality business, the Fen Ditching Company has a royal warrant as land drainage contractors for Queen Elizabeth II's Sandringham residence and can also count the RSPB amongst its client list. Simon Potter, Managing Director for Blue Boar Contracts explains the decision which Blue Boar Contracts made:

*"We wanted to expand the business and our aim was to diversify into new and different, but closely related, business areas. If you are a water-related specialist then fens is really where you should be and our acquisition of the Fen Ditching Company was by far the best way to expand into this region. It is a chance for two companies to share their different expertise and to work together where relevant, but whilst still retaining the individual identity of each business."*

The Fen Ditching Company also have a strong consultancy arm and have already been providing consultancy services to Blue Boar Contracts, particularly in relation to their contract with British Waterways. Since the acquisition, Blue Boar Contracts has appointed existing Contracts Manager Paul Harvey as the new General Manager at the Fen Ditching Company. Paul continues the story:

*"This decision was part of a programme of continued expansion for Blue Boar. The Fen Ditching Company are experts at land drainage in the Fenland region and will bring, knowledge and skill which Blue Boar did not previously have. The two companies complement each other and are a logical fit both in terms of expertise and on the more practical side in terms of available machinery, location and so on. We are fully committed to running the Fen Ditching Company as a separate entity to ensure that the business continues to build upon its already excellent reputation and client base."*

Doug Gooch, outgoing owner and Managing Director, concludes:

*“For me, it was more important that the business was passed on to a company or an individual who would continue the traditions and quality of service which we have maintained for the last 40 years or so. This was far more important to me than the financial side of the transaction. I am delighted that a company with the reputation and experience of Blue Boar Contracts has seen the potential and the benefit of bringing the Fen Ditching Company into their business. I will be providing some freelance consultancy for the new organisation in the future and I look forward to seeing the relationship develop”.*

**Notes for Editors:**

Blue Boar Contracts is an experienced provider of fully-managed dredging and land restoration services. Having been established for nine years, the company is one of only two approved national UK contractors for British Waterways, giving it a wide range of skills and experience which other clients can also benefit from. Services offered include lake, canal, river and pond dredging, water edge redevelopment, bio-engineering, piling, towpath redevelopment, water-related civil engineering and consultancy. Blue Boar is also proud to be a UVDB registered supplier.

**Further information:**

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