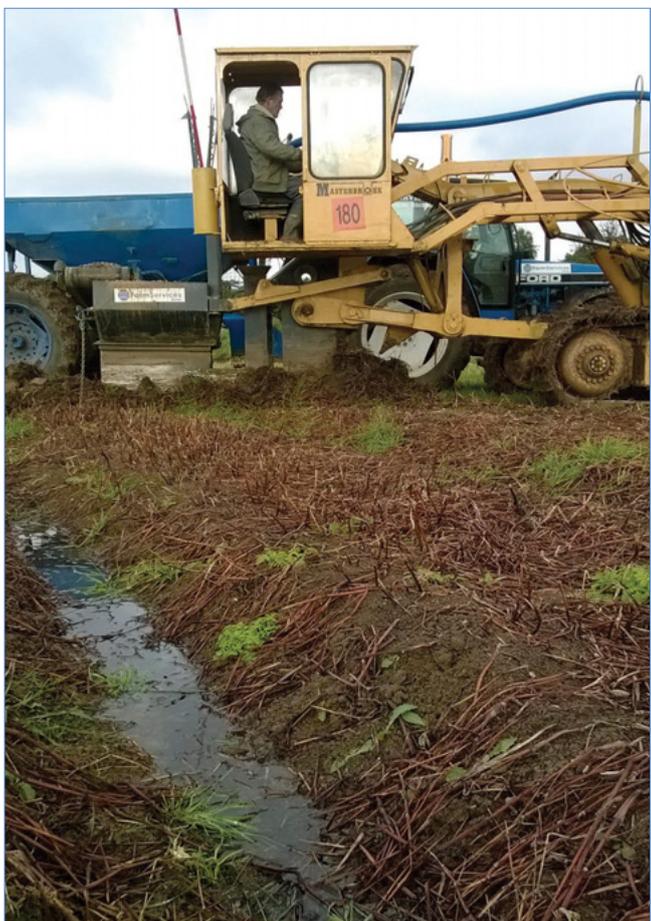


ON GOING DRAINAGE

Three generations of the Lucas family have farmed and lived at Pleasance Farm and over that time Farm Services and three generations of the Burtonshaw family have laid drains in their fields. This term long relationship continues today as Ian Lucas is committed to improving his soils. For him this means cover crops, less tillage and more drainage. Over the years many of the farm's fields have been drained but there still remains some areas which need attention and which benefit considerable from improved drainage. In 2016 an entire 12 acre field was drained but often these wet areas form in just part of a field. In both 2015 and 2017 two sections of the field were drained.



This approach has the considerable benefit of putting the drains where they need to be and minimising the costs. It is however dependent upon accurately planning the area in need of draining in winter when the majority of problems occur and then storing the information so that the same area can be identified and drained after harvest when the crop is off and ground conditions are better. Here the use of GPS planning and super accurate CAD drawings are vital. When stood in a 100 acre field it can be very difficult to plot on a plan with any degree of accuracy, GPS solves this problem and provides surveying accuracy to within 50mm.

The plans and an itemised estimate (all provided free of charge) are produced in the winter months and we returned after harvest to install the required drainage before drilling in the Autumn. On all these systems 100mm diameter main drains were installed with lateral drains at 20 metre spacings. A permeable fill was installed to within 300mm of the surface with the main drains being installed to a depth of 1.0m and the laterals at a depth of 0.84m.

Farm Services operates both open trench drainage machines and trenchless drainage ploughs giving great flexibility in the choice of installation method something which was utilised on the most recent job, where the main drains were installed open trench, allowing us to see any existing drainage, whilst the laterals were installed using our 25/20 drainage plough taken advantage of the cost savings that machine offers.

