

# Dales Water Services



# CRY FREEDOM WITH A BOREHOLE



At the sharp end – the borehole can give farmers freedom from the need to pay water charges.

**T**he mention of drought this summer has raised many people's emotions to fever pitch. For arable farmers the chronic water shortage has had a direct effect on crops – their quality and yield – and for livestock farmers it has been essential to ensure a constant supply. For Dales Water Services, one of the country's leading borehole drillers and suppliers of water treatment equipment based in Witherick Lane, Melmerby, near Ripon, the long hot summer has brought numerous inquiries about their services. But Managing Director Chris

Dodds said that although the company was only too willing to help farmers find a source of water during such arid conditions the desperate plight of people with dried up springs or wells played only a small part in their business. **BENEFIT** The real benefit to farmers willing to commit capital to such a project was based on profitable commercial practice. "The reason we do most of our work in the farming industry is that when they are taking mains water from Yorkshire Water they are paying 62p a cubic metre so if they are a large water user and most farms tend to fall into that

category they will recoup the capital cost of installation very quickly, especially at those prices." This straight forward financial equation has been paying dividends for people since Dales Water was set up by Chris and his partner Eric Dalton 15 years ago and 1995 has proved a bumper year for the company with a record number of orders in the book. Such has been the recent success of the company with the annual turnover now topping the £1m mark that a major investment has been made in a new drilling rig which has been ordered from Howdens on the Clyde in

Tim Zillessen visits a company which can provide farmers with the answer to the vagaries of the weather.

Glasgow which will have a capacity to drill to 2,500ft. Chris said: "We are constantly investing in new machinery and plan to achieve even greater capacity and this latest investment, which is considerable, will substantially boost the rate at which we can construct boreholes which will help to ease our heavy workload. At the moment we have 48 boreholes to start but, of course, we have all the servicing and maintenance work to carry out on previous installations and modifications to systems that does not include the construction of a new borehole."



Eric Dalton puts the finishing touches to a new system installed on Lord Ingleby's Ripley Estate.

Cont Pg 76...

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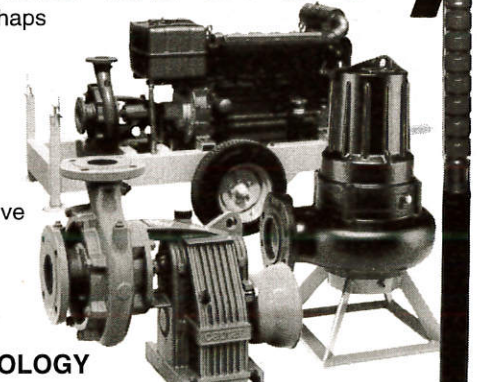
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# Howden Drilling Equipment

## Dales Water Services

# FARMERS DRILL FOR HIGHER PROFITS NOT FOR THE DROUGHT

...From Pg 75.

Having received an initial inquiry from someone who thinks they may benefit from an independent water supply a personal visit is arranged and an independent system designed to suit individual requirements and which incorporates as much as possible of the present distribution system to ensure a highly cost effective system. The design is composed with reference to the published geology of the area and through the British Geological Survey to specify the likely depth required for a particular borehole.

amount of water required combine to determine the depth and diameter of the borehole and the amount of casing required to make it stable and to seal it from any surface pollution. Chris also stated: "There have been times when we have had to recommend to clients not to consider the job because there is no reasonable structure below the surface although they are few and far between." Chris is confident that some farmers could recoup their capital outlay on a borehole within a year but believed the majority would certainly

drought conditions had the power to stop abstraction from rivers and streams. "Provided farmers stay within the requirements of their licence they are not bound by things like drought orders from the local water company." Dales Water covers an area from the Scottish Borders down to the Midlands and from Coast to Coast although they have worked as far afield as Guernsey. With a staff of 15, all specifically trained by the company, all the work is carried out on a personal basis and a full back-up and maintenance service is offered. Ironically Dales Water carries out a lot of refurbishment work and pump maintenance for Yorkshire Water. But as Chris says: "They are under pressure to provide a supply so in a sense we are taking some of the pressure off them by providing people with an independent supply. "The drought has concentrated people's minds but most of our work is essentially cost driven rather than through the lack of water. Many farmers are not aware of the opportunities and cost benefits. It is clear that once the capital costs have been



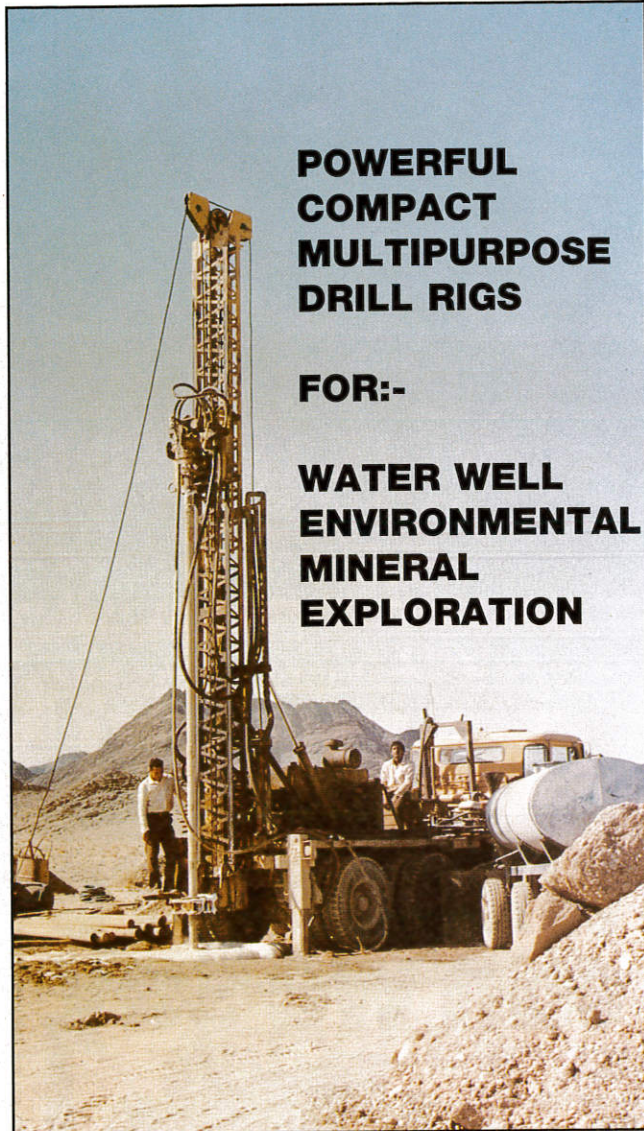
At work on a borehole at Ilkley Golf Club.

recouped margins and profitability will be greatly improved because they are not paying Yorkshire Water 62p a cubic metre." Dales Water is not limited in its applications and has installed systems for a wide variety of industries including textiles and brewing and in a Bradford mosque where the monthly bill was running at £1,000. For further information contact Chris Dodds on (01765) 603043.

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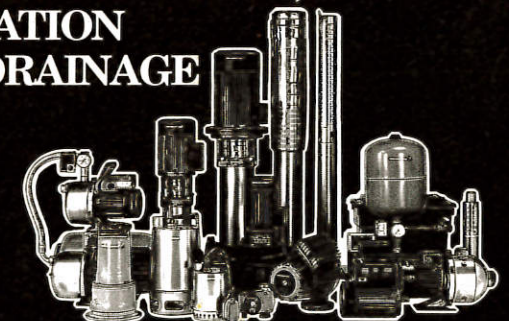
*"It is clear that once the capital costs have been recouped margins and profitability will be greatly improved because they are not paying Yorkshire Water 62pence a cubic metre."*  
- Chris Dodds

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In most cases it will be necessary to obtain planning to drill and test. In addition it is necessary to obtain a licence from the National Rivers Authority (NRA) to abstract the water for use on the farm. Furthermore Dales Water can also specify what water treatment is required if for whatever reason the water obtained from the borehole is not suitable for a particular application or, indeed, for human consumption. The rock strata and the

achieve it in a three-year period. He said the average cost of a borehole for a typical dairy farm would be around £7,000 but with most paying an average of between £600-£700 on their quarterly water bill it was clear how quickly the capital cost would be recouped. In recent years a major bonus for the company had been the interest in borehole irrigation systems for it gave farmers total independence from the NRA which could in severe

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