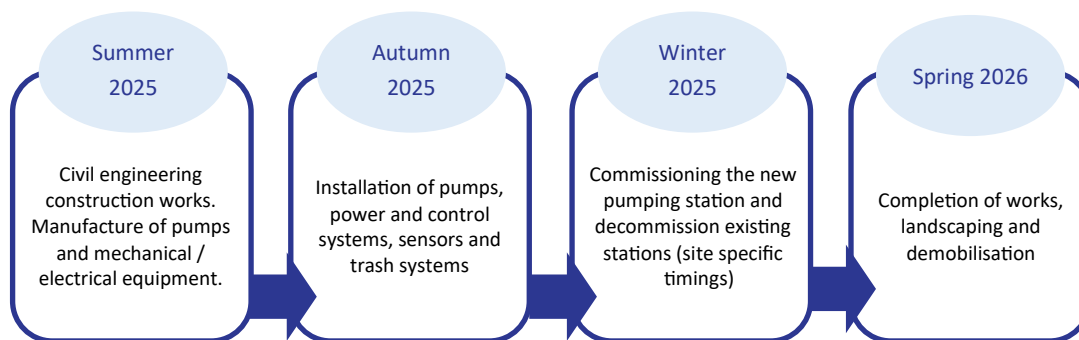


About the project

Construction of the first four pumping stations at Martham, Horsey, Potter Heigham and St Benets (Package 1) has commenced as part of the wider Upper Thurne Integrated Drainage Improvements Project. Over the next 4 years, subject to funding, the project will replace 11 pumping stations, within the River Thurne catchment including Brograve, Stubb, Catfield, Horse Fen, Repps Staithe, Somerton South, and Thurne.

Collectively the 13 pumping stations in the River Thurne catchment protect over 6300 hectares of low-lying land including nationally and internationally designated habitat, 708 properties, local communities, tourism and infrastructure.



Progress to date

Martham and Potter Heigham pumping stations

The enabling works phase was successfully completed in Spring 2025. The sites have been demobilised pending confirmation of funding to recommence construction in Spring 2026. The enabling works include the construction of temporary and permanent access tracks, temporary site compounds, replacing existing failing culverts, diversion of UK Power Networks apparatus and works associated with sensitive environmental mitigation such as drainage channel widening and desilting.

The completed works allow for the most efficient restart of construction reducing future construction durations, mitigation requirements and local disruption.



New access track constructed to Martham pumping station

View previous project publications
at www.wlma.org.uk/news

We produce regular project updates that are hosted on our website and you can sign up to receive project notifications direct to your inbox by emailing us at info@wlma.org.uk.

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Progress to date, continued...

Horsey and St Benets pumping stations

Following the Spring enabling works phase, construction of the new pumping stations has progressed at pace. The permanent sheet piles forming the new pumping station wet wells have been installed and the wet wells excavated. Construction of the reinforced concrete intake base slabs has commenced with the concrete wet well liners and dividing walls to follow once the base slab has achieved the required structural strength.

Steel H-piles (20m long at St Benets and 7m at Horsey) have been driven in to the crag to support the new outfall structures and control building bases, with reinforced concrete pile caps cast on top of the piles. These foundations are critical to ensure the outfall structures and control buildings do not settle in the poor ground conditions.

Factory testing of the pumps and new automatic trash systems for all four sites has been completed with the pumps exceeding the quoted performance figures across their broad operating ranges.

Visitors to Horsey will note the temporary footbridge over the staithe offering a unique view of the works and historic wind pump.



Factory testing of one of the new Horsey pumps & Horsey pumping station wet well in construction



St Benets pumping station wet well - temporary piling can be seen in the background

Looking ahead

Summer and early Autumn will continue to be a busy period at Horsey and St Benets with construction of the pumping station wet wells completed, including installation of the reinforced concrete pump support slabs, steel framing and decking, installation of the outfall structures and control building bases, discharge pipework, valves and site wide cable ducts and draw-pits.

Specialist suppliers are finalising the manufacture of the Motor Control Centres (MCC), which include the control panels and systems that will operate the new pumping stations. These key components will be housed in kiosks (control buildings) that have been designed to mimic black timber clad buildings common to the Broads.

Following the completion of the main pumping station “civils” this summer, the MCC, pumps, automatic trash systems, and site-wide wiring will be installed and the pumps commissioned in Autumn/ Winter 2025.

At times the works will result in some local disruption however the Board are taking all reasonable steps to reduce this where possible. We are working closely with the National Trust at Horsey to publicise any closures or restrictions to accessing the wind pump on their website.

How can you get involved or get in touch?

This information is to let you know about the vital work we are doing in your community. We are happy to come along to community groups and residential associations to explain more about the work.

Please contact us at projectdelivery@wlma.org.uk, if you would like to discuss in the project in more detail or you would like to be kept up to date with any further developments.