

## Introducing the Magdalen Fen Strategy Project

The Magdalen Fen Strategy Project is a vital initiative aimed at safeguarding communities, properties, and agricultural land in the Magdalen Fen catchment, within the King's Lynn Internal Drainage Board (IDB).

The project involves replacing aging infrastructure and upgrading water management assets to ensure resilience against future flooding. The works will enhance drainage efficiency while considering ecological impacts.

The King's Lynn IDB is collaborating with contractors and consultants to deliver this essential undertaking, with funding provided by an Environment Agency Grant-in-Aid and contributions from the Board.



*Aerial Image of the Crabbs Abbey Pumping Station. Photo Credit WMA*

## Planned Upgrades

The project focuses on upgrading key flood management systems to improve drainage and resilience.

- **Pumping Station Upgrades:** At Crabbs Abbey, two 1.125 cumec fish-friendly pumps with modern motor control centres will be installed. At Waltham Farm, a 0.213 cumec Archimedes screw pump, weedscreen, discharge pipe with flap valve, and headwall will replace outdated equipment.
- **Culvert Installation:** A 30-meter culvert with inlet and outlet structures with flap valves, will be installed along Magdalen High Road. A water vole survey in spring ensures ecological compliance.
- **Decommissioning and Landscaping:** The old Crabbs Abbey Pump Station will be demolished, the intake infilled, and the area landscaped.
- **Electrical Upgrades:** Potential upgrades from UK Power Networks may be required to support the new systems.

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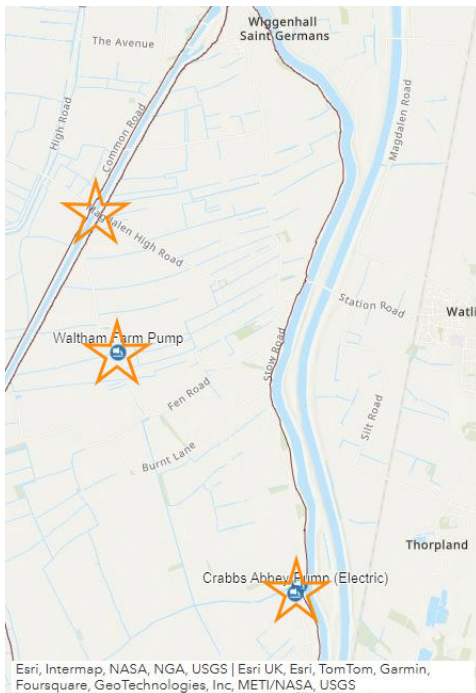
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*Map showing the locations of the pumping stations and outfall*

## Where and When?

Work will be carried out at three key sites:

### **Crabbs Abbey Pump Station:**

Stow Road, Stowbridge

### **Waltham Farm Pump Station:**

Fen Road, near Stowbridge village

### **Magdalen Bridge Outfall:**

Magdalen High Road, King's Lynn

Construction is planned between April and October 2025, following pre-construction ecological surveys.



## Key contracts awarded

Significant progress has been made with contracts secured for key project components.

Bedford Pumps Ltd will deliver the Crabbs Abbey pump replacement, featuring two new fish-friendly pumps, motors and control panels.

The contract for Waltham Farm pump has been awarded to Engineering Services Ltd (ECS).

The Magdalen Bridge Outfall culvert and outfall replacement has been awarded to Breheny Civil Engineers.

## Advanced Techniques and Community Benefits

### Why the project matters

The project reduces flood risks for 64 households currently at significant risk and ensures continued protection for 55 homes at moderate risk.

By upgrading infrastructure nearing the end of its service life, the project secures land, homes, and livelihoods, while supporting our mission to solve local water management needs.

Specialist MEICA contractors will manage pump installations, while civil contractors focus on structural improvements.

The use of fish-friendly pumps demonstrates an eco-conscious approach. Beyond flood protection, the project promotes habitat enhancement and safeguards agricultural productivity, offering long-term benefits for both the community and the environment.