

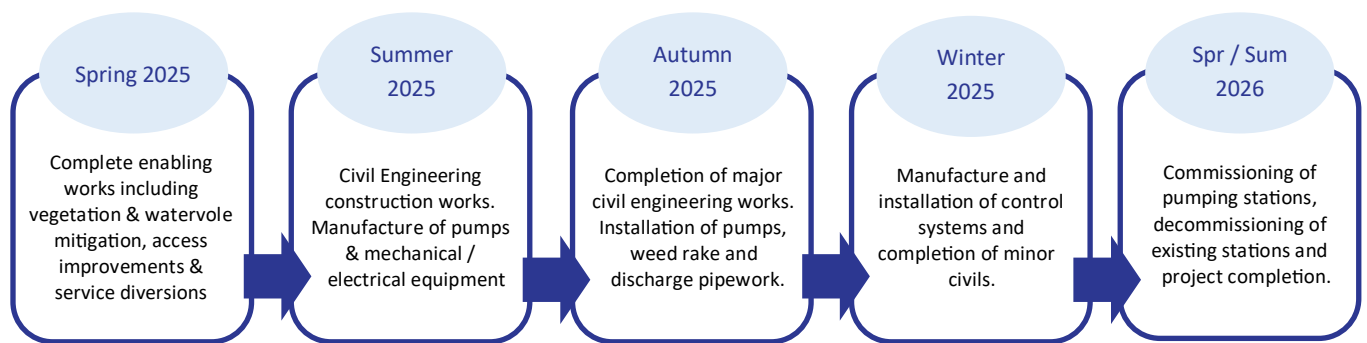
December 2025

About the project

Construction of the first four pumping stations at Martham, Horsey, Potter Heigham and St Benets 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 in total 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



Horsey and St Benets pumping stations

Progress at both Horsey and St Benets are closely aligned. The construction of the pump wet wells (intakes), including concrete liner and central dividing / support walls, installation of the precast concrete pump support slabs, pumps, weed rake installation (at St Benets) and steel deck support beams are now complete.

The precast concrete outfall structures and control building base units are installed on top of the piled foundations at both sites, with the discharge pipework connecting the wet well and outfalls installed at St Benets. The non return valves have been installed within both the wet wells and outfall structures. Drop board slots have been fitted to allow dewatering of the outfall structures and wet wells for maintenance.

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



Energy dissipation outfall chambers installed at Horsey



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Progress to date, continued...

Martham and Potter Heigham pumping stations

The Broads IDB are currently tendering for the construction contract to deliver the remaining works at Martham and Potter Heigham alongside delivery of Brograve pumping station as a single package of works in 2026. We hope to be able to announce further details on this including an outline programme of works early 2026.

Left: St Benets pumping station intake showing automatic weed rake installed



Above: St Benets wet well showing installed pumps, drop board slots, pump support slabs and steelwork



Above: Discharge pipework installed at St Benets undergoing leak tests

Looking ahead

Winter will see construction of the wet wells completed, including installation of the decking system, sheet pile copings and site wide fencing. Completion of the discharge pipework at both sites will allow the flood banks to be reinstated and site wide cable ducting and draw pits to be installed. Final landscaping will follow shortly after.

The black horizontal board timber effect GRP control buildings will be placed on their bases in late winter / early spring, allowing for the installation of the electrical control equipment and systems.

Both sites are due to be commissioned Spring / Summer 2026.

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:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/norfolk/horsey-windpump>



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 project.delivery@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 by subscribing to the project newsletter.

