



Upper Thurne Integrated Drainage Project

The project will replace 11 pumping stations, helping to protect more than 6,300 hectares of low-lying land, local communities, infrastructure and internationally important habitats.

Construction of the first two pumping stations at St Benets and Horsey is well underway and enabling works at Martham and Potter Heigham was successfully completed in spring 2025, allowing construction at these sites to restart quickly in spring 2026.

Construction has progressed at pace. The majority of civil engineering works to form the pumping station wet wells, outfalls and control building foundations are now complete with the pumps, automatic weed systems and discharge pipework installed by the close of 2025. The new pumping stations will be commissioned in early 2026,



allowing attention to turn to the projects planned at Brograve, Martham and Potter Heigham which are currently out to tender.

Find out more at:

www.wlma.org.uk/projects/upper-thurne

Brograve Embankment Improvements

In early 2025, vital flood defence improvements were completed at the Brograve embankment, funded by the IDB Storm Recovery & Asset Improvement Grant Scheme. Over time, erosion and settlement along the 450-metre Environment Agency embankment had reduced crest levels, leading to frequent overtopping and an increased risk of flooding. To restore resilience, the embankment crest was rebuilt using locally sourced material, improving both its structural integrity and performance (see image below).

These works have significantly reduced local flood risk and help safeguard key infrastructure, including the Brograve Pumping Station. By improving water management and reducing the need to pump additional overtopping floodwaters, the scheme also lowers energy demand at the pumping station, delivering long-term environmental and operational benefits.



Alongside this scheme, we continue to work in close partnership with the Environment Agency through the Public Sector Cooperation Agreement (PSCA) to deliver wider flood defence improvements across the district. This includes embankment repairs at Whiteslea, Hickling and Potter Heigham. By working collaboratively, these projects are making a positive difference, reducing flood risk and strengthening long-term flood resilience across the district.



Above: St Benets Pumping Station (Dec 25)

Modern Telemetry Upgrade Strengthens Flood Resilience

Funded by the IDB Storm Recovery and Asset Improvement Grant Scheme, the installation of modern telemetry systems across 27 pumping stations and a water control structure are nearing completion.

The upgrade replaces outdated technology with real-time monitoring via cloud-based systems, enabling

remote control and improved oversight. This allows teams to respond more quickly and efficiently to changing conditions, helping to better protect communities, wildlife, and vital infrastructure.



New Development and Consent Information Now Live

We've updated our website with dedicated Development and Consent pages to make it easier for applicants, agents and landowners to understand when approval is required and how to apply. These pages set out the role of Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) in regulating works that may affect watercourses within their Drainage Districts, alongside links to relevant policies and guidance.

Land Drainage Consent is required for certain works under the Land Drainage Act 1991 and each Board's Byelaws. Written consent must be obtained before works begin.

Works most likely to require consent include:

- Works near an arterial watercourse (within 9 metres or 7 metres depending on the IDB).
- Works that introduce additional water to a watercourse, such as surface water discharges or treatment plant outfalls.
- Works that alter a watercourse or water control structure, including new or modified culverts.

Full details, including consent policies and how to apply, are available on our website at: www.wlma.org.uk/development-consent



VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE

www.wlma.org.uk



Supporting Nature Through Responsible Water Management

Our Environment Team works across all of the WMA Member Boards to ensure water management is delivered responsibly and sustainably.

They provide ecological advice that supports both routine maintenance and major projects, helping to make sure all activities comply with environmental legislation.

By working closely with engineers, operational teams, statutory bodies and partners, the team promotes

biodiversity, delivers conservation initiatives and helps protect important habitats and species.

To find out more about our environmental work, visit: www.wlma.org.uk/environment



Pay your rates online

Did you know you are able to access your own drainage rating account online via the Drainage Rating System (DRS). This system allows you to change your personal details, pay your drainage rates and much more. Full details can be seen within the enclosed letter or at:

<https://drs.wlma.org.uk/login>



or, for further assistance, please email rating@wlma.org.uk or telephone us on 01553 819611.

Online Maps

Explore the Broads IDB's interactive board maps to view catchment boundaries, drainage districts and key water management features.

Access supporting information to understand the Board's role in protecting land, people and the environment at:

www.wlma.org.uk/broads-idb/mapping



WMA Chief Executive

The WMA is pleased to announce the appointment of Marcus Coleman as its new Chief Executive. Marcus brings extensive leadership experience from across the public sector and has been in post since the New Year.

Marcus succeeds Phil Camamile, who is retiring after more than 30 years of outstanding service. Phil leaves a lasting legacy, having led the modernisation of IDB administration, finance and collaborative working; playing a pivotal role in developing the WMA's shared-services model.

The WMA thanks Phil for his exceptional contribution and looks forward to the next chapter under Marcus's leadership.



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