



Falkenham Culvert Replacement Project Strengthens Flood Resilience

A programme of culvert replacements has been completed by East Suffolk WMB at Falkenham, funded through the IDB Storm Recovery & Asset Improvement Grant Scheme. In total, 11 ageing steel culverts have been replaced with more durable modern plastic pipes (see images below left), safeguarding effective surface water drainage across 742 hectares of low-lying land.

The new culverts play a critical role in water level management and ensuring continued access for the Environment Agency to the Deben Estuary sea defences. This access is essential for routine grass cutting, maintenance works and emergency repairs, helping to reduce the risk of tidal overtopping and wider flood impacts along the estuary.



Beyond flood risk management, the project delivers wider benefits, including protection of fresh water resources for local irrigation and the Felixstowe Hydrocycle scheme, improved access across public rights of way and enhanced habitats for water voles and bird species protected under the Deben Estuary's SSSI, SPA and RAMSAR designations.

Looking forward into 2026 the East Suffolk WMB plan to replace pipework at the Gedgrave and Falkenham Pumping Stations, through the same funding grant scheme.



Modern Telemetry Upgrade Strengthens Flood Resilience

Funded by the IDB Storm Recovery and Asset Improvement Grant Scheme, the installation of modern telemetry systems across 10 pumping stations is 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The upgrade replaces outdated technology with real-time monitoring via cloud-based systems, enabling remote control and improved oversight.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.



Partnership Works Across East Suffolk

East Suffolk WMB continues to deliver partnership works through the Public Sector Cooperation Agreement (PSCA), enabling the Board to contribute to Natural Flood Management (NFM) projects across our wider catchments and allowing us to help manage peak flows during high rainfall events.

In Boxford, East Suffolk WMB has installed four leaky dams within the upper surface water catchment on behalf of Suffolk County Council. These structures help reduce flood risk downstream, hold water for longer during dry summers, and create diverse habitats that support wildlife such as craneflies and dragonflies. Reclaim The Rain, alongside Suffolk County Council's Flood & Water Team, will monitor the project to demonstrate its positive catchment-wide impacts.

As part of several NFM schemes around Debenham, East Suffolk WMB has designed and constructed a temporary flood storage area along with several ponds at Winston Green. This will provide over 9000 m³ of flood water storage to slow the flow and better protect properties in Debenham village, as well as providing improved ecological habitats.

In addition, the East Suffolk WMB Coastal Team continue to carry out works on behalf of East Suffolk Council. In 2025, projects included: new beach access steps at Kessingland, replacement concrete coping stones along the Felixstowe sea wall and improved, safer access steps and handrails at Southwold. We're proud that these projects all enhance safety and accessibility for residents and visitors alike.

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.

Board Member Vacancies

Could you get involved and become a Board member?

The East Suffolk WMB has an elected member vacancy.

If you are interested in finding out more, or becoming a Board member, please get in touch to register your interest or contact the Chairman of the relevant Board.

Our contact details can be found at the bottom of this newsletter. and you can find out more at:

www.wlma.org.uk/east-suffolk-idb/members



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.



Contact Us

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