

News Update

News from King's Lynn IDB & the WMA
Spring 2026



Magdalen Fen Strategy Project

The Magdalen Fen Strategy Project focuses on upgrading key water management infrastructure to improve flood resilience across the catchments.

At the Magdalen Bridge Outfall, a new 30-metre culvert and flap valves (one-way valves) have been successfully installed. This element of the project is complete and already strengthening local flood resilience.

In October 2025, work began at Waltham Farm Pumping Station, where outdated equipment has been replaced with an Archimedes screw pump, along with a new weedscreen, discharge pipe, flap valve and headwall.

The final phase of the project, planned for 2026, will see the installation of two fish-friendly pumps at Crabbs Abbey Pumping Station.

The decommissioning and demolition of the old Crabbs Abbey Diesel Pumping Station, will complete this major investment in long-term flood resilience for the Magdalen Fen catchment.

For more on this project, visit:
www.wlma.org.uk/projects/magdalen-fen



Crabbs Abbey Pumping Station 2025

Below left: Magdalen Bridge Outfall (Aug 25) | Below right: Waltham Farm's new screw pump being craned in (Oct 25)



Upgrade to Tidal Outfall Structure

In early 2026 King's Lynn IDB will be carrying out works to replace the sluice doors at Eau Brink Tidal Outfall, as the existing doors are reaching the end of their serviceable life.

The outfall also includes a water retention penstock (mechanical gate system) that does not currently provide effective protection to the upstream fen, if the pointing doors (tidal doors) fail or become obstructed by debris. To improve resilience, the penstock will be replaced with a full-height structure capable of retaining the tide should the need arise.



Eau Brink Outfall 2025

To follow the progress of this project, visit:
www.wlma.org.uk/projects/eau-brink



Maintenance Programme

The King's Lynn IDB Operations Team completed the maintenance programme in late 2025, ahead of the wetter winter months ensuring our watercourses perform at their optimum capacity.

A programme of works is underway to ensure that culverts and weedscreens are kept clear of debris through the winter period to reduce blockages and minimise flood risk.

Report any network issues to us (details overleaf) and find out more about our maintenance programme at

www.wlma.org.uk/kings-lynn-idb/work-programmes



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 King's Lynn 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/kings-lynn-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.



Contact Us

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Follow us on **social media**, for the latest updates and news from across the WMA Member Boards

