



## Culvert Replacements Strengthen Flood Resilience

With funding from the IDB Storm Recovery & Asset Improvement Grant Scheme, Norfolk Rivers IDB successfully completed vital riverbank stabilisation works on the River Nar in early 2025.

The project addressed an overwhelmed culvert that had caused significant bank erosion and instability. Left unresolved, this posed a serious risk of bank collapse and sediment pollution, threatening both a nearby lake and the River Nar itself.

Works focused on restoring and stabilising the affected riverbank and improving water flow through the culvert. These improvements have strengthened flood resilience in the area while helping to protect water quality and support biodiversity within the River Nar Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Building on the success of this scheme, further culvert improvement works are planned at Billingford and East Raynham in 2026.

Right: New culvert and re-profiled banks (March 25)



## Saham Toney Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS)

The Saham Toney FAS demonstrates the power of partnership working and the effective use of the Public Sector Cooperation Agreement. Delivered by the Norfolk Rivers IDB Operations Team, in collaboration with Norfolk County Council's Flood and Water Management Team, the scheme was designed and built using in-house expertise and close engagement with local landowners.

The project involved the creation of a 21,000m<sup>3</sup> offline attenuation basin upstream of Saham Toney, designed to hold back floodwater during heavy rainfall events. Using clay from on site to construct raised embankments, reduced costs and minimised the project's carbon footprint by eliminating the need for imported materials.



The scheme now reduces flood risk to around 30 properties downstream that were affected by flooding in 2020. In addition, permanent ponds have created a new wetland habitat, enhancing biodiversity and delivering long-term environmental benefits.

For more on this project, visit:  
[www.wlma.org.uk/projects/saham-toney](http://www.wlma.org.uk/projects/saham-toney)



## Maintenance Programme

The Norfolk Rivers IDB Operations Teams are on track to complete the maintenance programme on time and in budget, with much of the high priority work completed ahead of the wetter winter months ensuring our watercourses perform at their optimum capacity.

A programme of works is underway to inspect high risk culverts, ensuring that these assets 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/norfolk-idb/work-programmes](http://www.wlma.org.uk/norfolk-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](http://www.wlma.org.uk/development-consent)



# VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE

[www.wlma.org.uk](http://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](http://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](mailto:rating@wlma.org.uk) or telephone us on 01553 819611.

## Board Member Elections

Could you get involved and become a Board member?

The Norfolk Rivers IDB has an election later this year.

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 Board.

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

[www.wlma.org.uk/norfolk-idb/elections](http://www.wlma.org.uk/norfolk-idb/elections)



## 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

Pierpoint House, Horsley's Fields, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 5DD  
t: 01553 819600 | e: [info@wlma.org.uk](mailto:info@wlma.org.uk)

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

