

Drockmill Pumping Station Project

The Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board (WLMB) is delivering a new pumping station at



Drockmill Hill Gut, where it flows into the Glynleigh Main River, north of Polegate and Stone Cross. The project will replace the existing pumping station (see images, left), which has reached the end of its design life and presents health and safety challenges.

The new design features fish-friendly screw pumps and efficient building methods, including pre-cast elements which aim to reduce construction time. The pump facilitates the creation of new wetland.

Funded through the IDB Storm Recovery & Asset Improvement Grant Scheme the project will improve water level management, protect homes and businesses, support protected species and enable wetland habitats. Completion is expected in late Spring 2026.

For more on this project, visit: www.wlma.org.uk/projects/drockmill



Spaghetti Junction Project

The Pevensey and Cuckmere WLMB is delivering a major infrastructure upgrade at a key drainage junction east of Hailsham, known locally as the Spaghetti Junction.

Funded through the IDB Storm Recovery & Asset Improvement Grant Scheme, the project is located on the Pevensey Levels, an internationally important wetland designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Area of Conservation and Ramsar site.

The junction is where the Horse Eye Sewer, White Dyke Sewer and Rickney Sewer meet, playing a vital role in managing water levels and flood risk across a large part of east Hailsham. Ageing culverts and eroded embankments at this location present a significant flood risk if left unaddressed.

The project involves replacing three culverts, installing modern tilting weirs and repairing embankments to improve water level control and future resilience.

Once complete, the scheme will reduce flood risk to homes, farmland and infrastructure while protecting the unique environment of the Pevensey Levels.

For more on this project, visit: www.wlma.org.uk/projects/spaghetti-junction-pevensey



New Tilting Weirs Boost Water Management on the Pevensey Levels

Despite one of the driest springs and early summers on record, water levels on the Pevensey Levels were improved in 2025 thanks to the installation of five new tilting weirs.

Funded through the IDB Storm Recovery & Asset Improvement Grant Scheme, the weirs replaced ageing structures and allow smarter, more flexible water management. They play a vital role in reducing flood risk to surrounding communities, farmland and new housing growth near Hailsham, while also maintaining the water levels required to protect internationally important grazing marshes.

For more on this project, visit:



www.wlma.org.uk/projects/tilting-weirs-pevensey



Hankham Gut Structures

Work has started to upgrade the Hankham Gut structures on the Pevensey Levels, with further improvement work planned in 2026 for the nearby Martins Ditch structures. The project will replace a deteriorating culvert and install modern penstocks, improving public safety, supporting nature conservation and ensuring effective water level management to reduce flood risk for farmland and local 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



Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board and East Sussex County Council continue to work together to advise planning authorities on the impact of development on local flood risk within the Board's area.



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 Elections

Could you get involved and become a Board member?

The Pevensey and Cuckmere WLMB 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/pevensey-cuckmere/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

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

