



Lutton Leam Outfall Sluice Refurbishment



modernising the sluice and improving reliability, control and flood resilience.

The project was delivered by Breheny Civil Engineering, with Aquatic Control Engineering designing and installing the penstocks and tidal flaps.

For more on the project, visit:
www.wlma.org.uk/projects/lutton-learn



In 2025 we successfully completed the £2.6 million refurbishment of the Lutton Leam Outfall Sluice.

Originally built in 1959 and last refurbished in 2006, the structure now provides enhanced protection for over 2,500 homes, 200 businesses and 4,700 hectares of productive farmland, while supporting the wider drainage network and Environment Agency tidal defences.

Fully funded through government Grant-in-Aid, the upgrade included the installation of new tidal flaps, automated freshwater penstocks and reinforced wing walls,



Lutton Leam - Penstocks - July & October 2025

Holbeach Bank Pumping Station Moves into Next Phase of Refurbishment

Work is progressing on the Holbeach Bank Pumping Station Refurbishment Project, a key investment in flood risk management for the Holbeach Marsh area. The pumping station plays a vital role in managing water levels across a catchment of approximately 809 hectares, helping to protect agricultural land, local infrastructure and the wider community. Funding for the project has been secured through the National Storm Recovery Fund.

The civil engineering works are complete, with repairs to the upstream steel sheet piling and associated structures finished to ensure the long-term integrity of the site.

Installation of the new mechanical and electrical equipment, including modern fish-friendly pumps and upgraded switchgear within the existing Motor Control Centre building, is taking place throughout early 2026. These upgrades will maintain the station's full pumping capacity while improving reliability, resilience and environmental performance.

For more on the project, visit:
www.wlma.org.uk/projects/holbeach-bank



Reducing Flood Risk in Spalding

Work is underway on the Exeter Drain Improvement Project, an important scheme to reduce the risk of surface water flooding across the eastern side of Spalding.

The drain is a key part of the local drainage network, carrying surface water safely away from homes, businesses and roads to Clay Lake pumping station.

Inspections have shown that sections of the drain, including several culverts and an open channel, now require repair or replacement to ensure the system continues to operate effectively.

The improvement works will help protect hundreds of properties and support the long-term operation of Spalding's wider flood alleviation system.

For more on the project, visit:
www.wlma.org.uk/projects/exeter-drain



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.

Strengthening Flood Protection

Sutton Bridge Sluice is the terminal outfall for the catchment and it's reliable operation is essential.

The motor control panel had reached the end of its design life, with repeated failures resulting in multiple emergency visits and the need to operate the sluice gates manually.

Funded through the National Storm Recovery Fund, the replacement of the switchgear was completed in March 2025. The upgrade ensures the sluice can continue to operate efficiently at its current design capacity.



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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