

## Benacre & Kessingland Flood Risk Management Project



The Benacre & Kessingland Flood Risk Management Project is a major scheme designed to reduce flood risk to Kessingland village and the Lothingland Valley, while delivering long-term environmental benefits.

Following the completion of ecological enabling works, construction began in 2025 (See an aerial image of the Lothingland Valley left).

The scheme will protect homes, businesses, farmland and vital infrastructure, including the A12, from tidal, fluvial (river) and surface water flooding.

Key elements include new embankments, modern pumping stations to manage water levels more effectively and the decommissioning of the ageing Environment Agency pumping station.

Beyond flood protection, this project will create new intertidal habitat, enhance river environments and safeguard valuable freshwater resources.

For more on this project, visit:

[www.wlma.org.uk/projects/benacre-kessingland](http://www.wlma.org.uk/projects/benacre-kessingland)



## Starston Beck Project Complete

Work to restore sections of Starston Beck was completed in Summer 2025. Delivered by the Board, in partnership with the Environment Agency, the project has re-naturalised sections of the beck, improved fish passage and enhanced Glebe Meadow for visitors.

For more on this project, visit:

[www.wlma.org.uk/projects/starston](http://www.wlma.org.uk/projects/starston)



## Embankment Works at Geldeston

Important embankment repairs and crest level maintenance works have recently been completed at Geldeston. The works were delivered by the Internal Drainage Board (IDB) in close collaboration with the Broads Authority, on behalf of the Environment Agency. The project forms part of ongoing efforts to maintain and strengthen flood defences in this sensitive area of the Broads.



To minimise environmental impact and ensure efficient delivery, the Broads Authority transported essential repair

materials to the site by barge (see image above). This approach reduced disruption to the local landscape and avoided unnecessary vehicle movements along narrow rural roads. The materials were supplied under the Public Sector Cooperation Agreement (PSCA), demonstrating effective partnership working between the organisations.

Working in this way the IDB successfully delivered the works on time and with some cost savings. The project highlights the value of collaboration in delivering sustainable infrastructure solutions within protected landscapes.

## Modern Telemetry Upgrade Strengthens Flood Resilience

Funded by the IDB Storm Recovery and Asset Improvement Grant Scheme, the installation of modern telemetry systems across 18 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.



## 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.

## Online Maps

Explore the Waveney, Lower Yare & Lothingland 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/waveney-lower-yare/mapping](http://www.wlma.org.uk/waveney-lower-yare/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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