

# Lower Waveney Water Level Management Improvements Project

March 2025

## About the Project

In 2024 we completed the outline design plans and business case for the Lower Waveney Water Level Management Improvements Project. The project is looking to construct five replacement pumping stations within the Waveney catchment:

- **Barsham** – Pumping station and culvert replacement
- **Short Dam** – Pumping station replacement
- **Beccles** – Consolidation of Worlingham and Beccles catchments with a new replacement pumping station
- **Belton** – Consolidation of Caldecott and Belton catchments with a new replacement pumping station
- **Wheatacre** – Consolidation of Burgh St Peter and Wheatacre catchments with a new replacement pumping station



Culvert beneath Barsham Brook



Short Dam Pumping Station Inlet

The project is funded by the government. The main source of funding for the construction phase is Environmental Statutory Allowance (ESA) funding. The ESA funding was introduced as part of the current £5.2billion 6-year FCERM capital programme (2021-26). To date we have secured funding, which includes a share from ESA, for Norton and Raveningham Pumping Station Replacement and Upper Thurne Integrated Drainage Improvement project (delivered by Broads IDB).

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The Environment Agency administer this funding on behalf of Defra and have informed us that this source of funding has been fully utilised with no more funding available within the current programme. Because of the uncertainty surrounding the future funding beyond 2026 the business case did not receive a recommendation for financial approval.

We understand this is disappointing news and we are actively engaging with Defra to highlight the need for continued ESA funding and to explore alternative funding routes available to Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) to deliver these vital projects. We are working with legal specialists to confirm the statutory obligations to undertake these works.



Barsham Beck



Watercourse  
at Belton



River Waveney Barsham

## How can you get involved or get in touch?

This information is to let you know about the vital work we are doing in your community. We are happy to come along to community groups and residential associations to explain more about the work.

Please contact us at [info@wlma.org.uk](mailto:info@wlma.org.uk) if you would like to discuss the project in more detail or you would like to be kept up to date with any further developments.



Wheatacre



Burgh St  
Peter

## FOLLOW US



## CONTACT US

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