

Keeping you informed

August 2026

Stanstead Sluice Replacement

What we have done

We have replaced and improved the gates and operating equipment at Stanstead Sluice as the existing one had reached the end of its working life after 45 years of service. A failure of Stanstead Sluice would have resulted in increased flood risk and loss of control of upstream water levels for navigation, water supply, amenity and environmental needs. The previous single sluice gate has been replaced with two smaller gates to give greater flexibility in operating and maintaining them and to create space to install fish and eel passes through the structure as the previous sluice acted as a barrier to the free passage of fish and eels.

The main works started in Spring 2024 and were taken over from the contractor in mid-July 2026, having been substantially operational since before Christmas last year, including through the succession of storms during January and February.

The new sluice

The finished replacement works include two new tilting weir gates, a new bridge with the gate drive mechanisms on it, a new maintenance access bridge at the upstream end, a fish pass, a pumped eel pass, new stoplogs to be able to isolate each gate for maintenance, supporting control equipment, remote monitoring of the gate operation and new access surfaces around the site to current standards.



An overview of the finished works

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88



The drives for the new sluice on the central bridge, new pedestrian bridge for enabling isolation of the sluices for maintenance with stoplogs.

The route of the fish pass follows the grey covers beside the channel, and of the eel pass the line of black covers in the concrete surface.



The new sluice gates, both fully raised during the current dry weather when river flows are low.

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The entrance to the in-channel fish pass, with debris deflector plate, with eel pass discharge (green pipe).

Stoplogs for isolating each sluice gate for maintenance stored on the bank underneath the gantries for moving them into place.



The entrance to the eel pass beside its maintenance access steps.



With the previous gate at Stanstead Sluice water flowed underneath it generating strong underwater currents. The new tilting weir gates have water flowing over them reducing the underwater currents and allowing small debris to be washed over. All sluices are hazardous and the water around them should not be entered. All the sluice equipment is behind locked gates with suitable warning signage in place.

Project background

The waterways in the Lower Lee valley include the River Lee Navigation, Old River Lea, and the Lee Flood Relief Channel (LFRC). The LFRC was built between 1949 and 1977 and is designed to carry flood water to reduce the likelihood of flooding in the Lower Lee valley. A system of weirs, gates and sluices control water levels in the LFRC. These maintain water levels for water supply, navigation, amenity and environmental purposes while allowing flood flows to pass during storm events.

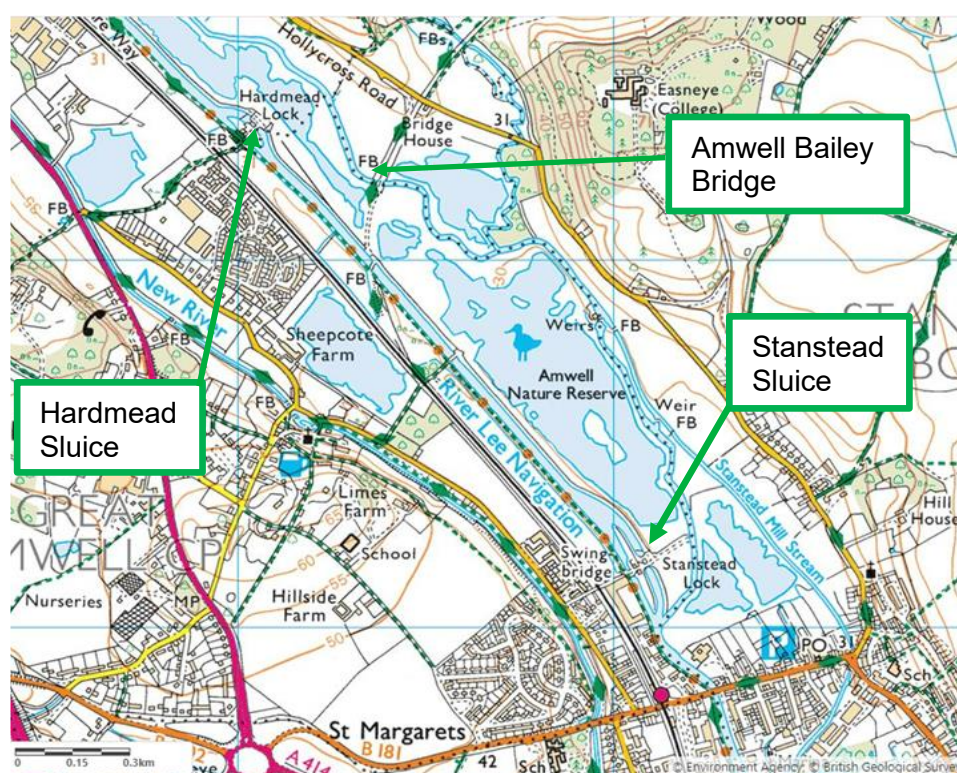
Stanstead Sluice is a major flood control structure within the LFRC and is located close to the villages of Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets. It directly reduces the flood risk to 104 residential properties and 26 non-residential properties in the villages and contributes benefitting many more as part of the LFRC system. As well as managing flood risk the sluice maintains water levels in the River Lee Navigation.

How will the sluice operation affect me?

With the major construction works at Stanstead Sluice complete the site compound has been removed. The level of future access to the site will be for operational and maintenance checks at a similar level to the previous sluice.

We thank our neighbours and the public for their patience and tolerance during these essential works.

This now completes our major works at Hardmead Sluice, started in 2022, and Stanstead Sluice, started in 2024, following on from the replacement of the Amwell Bailey Bridge in 2019 for the necessary access. All the new works are expected to have a service life of over thirty years.



Location of Stanstead Sluice, Hardmead Sluice and Amwell Bailey Bridge

Our partners

The works have been delivered in partnership with AECOM, BAM, Hunton Engineering, Paktronic, Smiths Electrical, Jacobs, Arcadis and Stantec.

Contact us

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