

## Boston Barrier project update

The multi-million pound Boston Barrier will provide better protection to over 14,000 properties in the area against tidal flooding.



### Final preparations for barrier gate delivery

A large amount of work has been completed inside the cofferdam (pictured above) which provides the watertight working space for the construction of the barrier structure. The 5m wide barrier walls which will support the Barrier gate continue to be poured and are now near completion. The hydraulic rams that will operate the barrier and pivots that support the barrier, have now been installed on the north and south walls.

A temporary bridge spanning the river from the left quay to the cofferdam has now been installed. This carries all of the hydraulics and electrics that are required to operate the Boston Barrier over the bypass channel until the temporary bypass channel is filled in next year.



The 25m long 'rising sector gate' (pictured left) is due to be delivered at the beginning of November. In Ipswich, a similar but smaller gate was installed by lifting the structure into place, but in Boston the banks are not wide enough to accommodate the size of crane needed to lift the barrier gate in, so it will be driven in to place.

Hollandia, based in Rotterdam, will transport the gate across the North Sea and up the River Haven to Boston, on a large barge. When they reach the cofferdam, the piles on the East side will be cut down and a temporary bridge will be installed. Then, the gate will be driven off the barge, and over the installation bridge by remotely controlled vehicles.

The Barrier gate is due to be delivered in November but installation will be a very intricate process relying on a number of external factors including the need for shipment on a neap tide (when the difference in height between high tide and low tide is at its lowest).

## Hydraulic ram arm installation

Final preparations are now being made inside the cofferdam before the arrival of the gate. The hydraulic rams were delivered to site from Hunger in Germany in mid-October and the team on site fitted brass and graphite bearings to the ram gimbals before installation could go ahead.

The rams are 12m long and make up part of the hydraulic system that will power the barrier gate once it's operational. The system as a whole will contain 16,000 litres of biodegradable oil.

Both the north and south pier hydraulic rams (pictured right) have now been installed and the holding structure is near completion, ready for the gate delivery.

Some people on site have likened installing the components inside the cofferdam to putting a complex Lego model together- just on a much larger scale!



## Work begins on the north bank

Once the barrier is installed, downstream components of the scheme will then become the focus for the team.

Preliminary works downstream of the barrier cofferdam on the North side, including piling works against the river banks and tubular piling (pictured left) are progressing well.

Once complete, the new flood walls will protect properties on the north bank of the river downstream of the barrier site.

We are using tubular piles to provide a stronger and more robust foundation for the concrete crane platform which will sit above it.

These preliminary works are planned to be completed prior to the installation of a cofferdam at the dock entrance to the Port of Boston where complex work will be undertaken to install a more flood resilient gate.

## Barrier viewing platform

If you would like to view the ongoing work to the Boston Barrier, there is a viewing platform on London Road, opposite Black Sluice Pumping Station.

We politely ask parents and guardians to remind children that although construction sites look like exciting places to explore, they are dangerous and not play areas. The viewing platform is a safe place and a great vantage point from where you can watch the progress on site.

If you have any queries or concerns about the construction Stakeholder Liaison Manager, Gordon Hounslow, can be contacted on **07939474682** or by sending an email to [Boston.Barrier@bamnuttall.co.uk](mailto:Boston.Barrier@bamnuttall.co.uk).

## Keep in touch

If you have any questions regarding the Boston Barrier project, our team will be at the Boston Barrier Hub on Marsh Lane every Wednesday from 12noon - 7pm. Alternatively, you can contact us via:

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