

## Boston Barrier project update

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



### Boston Barrier gate arrival marks pivotal project milestone

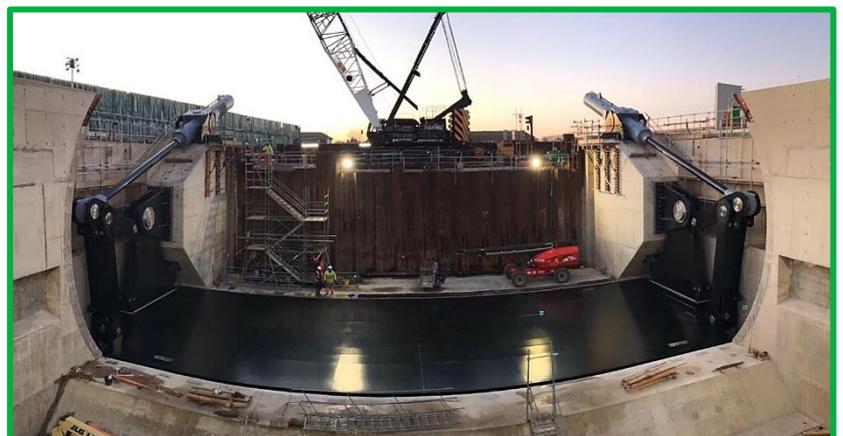
As the tide hit its peak height on a bright and clear morning in early November last year, onlookers received their first glimpse of the Boston Barrier tidal flood defence gate as it turned the last corner before reaching the construction site.

The barrier gate was shipped by barge from Rotterdam in The Netherlands, arriving in Boston on Sunday 3rd November 2019. Over the course of the next few days it was successfully installed and connected to its two hydraulic operational ram arms.

Moving the barrier gate into position was a highly technical process. Firstly, the barrier gate was raised and turned 90 degrees on its axis. Then, steel sheet piles in the downstream cell of the cofferdam were cut down in preparation for the barrier gate to be driven off the barge using remotely controlled vehicles, over a temporary bridge and into place.

After its initial installation and checks, the gate was connected to its hydraulic system and lowered into the open position (*picture right*) ready for the first phase of testing.

Once testing is complete, the barrier will be opened before the next stage of construction: closing and filling the current navigation bypass channel. When this is achieved the barrier gate will be fully effective, with the navigation channel diverted permanently through the new barrier. The work on the barrier gate is expected to be complete by summer 2020.





## Barrier testing and future works

The barrier gate is currently being rigorously tested in both wet and dry conditions. In January 2020 the gate was raised into its full defence position for the first time (*pictured left*) in preparation for leak testing.

It successfully passed initial tests, allowing the construction team to understand what additional adjustments need to be made before the next phase. The next tests include the gate being filled with 375 tonnes of ballast water which acts to stabilise the gate and helps it resist flotation.

As works near completion at the barrier gate site on the south bank, there will be an increase in activity on the north bank and the quay raising defences up to the Maud Foster. Piling works are set to continue this year.

## Visit the barrier in March 2020

A date has been set for the next Boston Barrier visitors' day, after last year's successful event (*pictured right*) saw over 120 people visit the barrier site in one day.

**The next opportunity to visit the Boston Barrier site will be on Sunday 15th March between 9am and 3.30pm.**

The construction area has changed dramatically since the previous event in April last year. The barrier gate and its components are all now in place with only minor works left before the new navigation channel is opened to vessels. This will be the last chance to see the site before the cofferdam walls are removed and the barrier gate is fully commissioned.

All visitors are required to pre-book a half an hour slot. Each place is offered on a first-come-first-served basis. Under 16 year olds must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

For more information, or to book a place, please email [boston.barrier@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:boston.barrier@environment-agency.gov.uk)



## Barrier viewing platform

If you are unable to attend on the upcoming visitors' day but would still 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.

If you have any questions or concerns about the ongoing construction works, please contact Gordon Hounslow via mobile on 07939 474 682 or by emailing [gordon.hounslow@bamnutall.co.uk](mailto:gordon.hounslow@bamnutall.co.uk).

## Keep in touch

Our team are at the Boston Barrier Hub on Marsh Lane every Wednesday from 12noon - 7pm or you can follow updates on [bostonbarrier.wordpress.com](http://bostonbarrier.wordpress.com). Alternatively, you can contact us via:

**Email:** [boston.barrier@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:boston.barrier@environment-agency.gov.uk)

**Telephone:** 07747 640 663

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/BostonBarrier](http://www.facebook.com/BostonBarrier)

**Twitter:** @BostonBarrierEA