

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.



The Boston Barrier primary gate is now fully operational and working to give an enhanced level of flood protection to over 13,000 homes and businesses in the town.

As the centrepiece of the flood scheme, the barrier gate can be raised in just 20 minutes, responding quickly to threats of North Sea tidal surges.

Now it's fully operational, the tidal flood barrier better protects 13,731 homes in Boston.

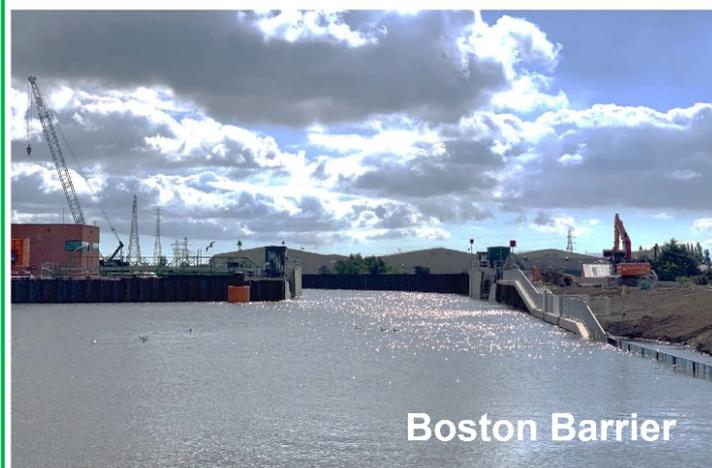
With the whole of the £100m Environment Agency scheme now two-thirds complete, the project will provide Boston with one of the best standards of flood defence outside of London. Once the scheme is fully completed in 2022, flood risk to over 14,000 homes and 800 businesses will be greatly reduced and allows for the effects of climate change over the next 100 years.

This barrier is part of the government's long term investment in flood and coastal defences. Since 2015 it has invested £2.6bn to better protect the country from flooding and coastal erosion and is on course to have better protected 300,000 homes by March 2021. Last year, the government announced a record £5.2 billion investment in flood and coastal defences which will help to build a better prepared and more resilient nation.

This project milestone marks a huge leap forward for the scheme and there is now a significant reduction to the risk from tidal flooding in Boston. The majority of properties covered by the scheme are now better protected for a similar event to that of December 2013.

Work on the scheme, which has been identified by government as critical infrastructure, continues in line with the government's coronavirus advice with measures in place to ensure safe working procedures on site.

Now, work is focused downstream of the primary barrier, with the project as a whole expected to be fully completed in 2022.



Boston Barrier

Top: Before works (2017), Middle: During barrier delivery (2019), Bottom: Barrier open (2020)

North bank works near finish line

Downstream of the primary barrier gate, work continues at a pace on the North bank of the river and adjacent to the Port of Boston.

Works have progressed well since before Christmas, including extensive works along the new riverside quay wall and construction of new reinforced concrete flood walls.

At the Port of Boston 'Knuckle' (right) contractors BMMJV are currently forming the new sheet piled radius for the wet dock entrance. They're completing as much work as possible ahead of when we need to close the Wet Dock entrance, to minimise impact on the Port's operations.



Wet dock gates coming to life

The Boston wet dock entrance vertical sector gates are starting to come together.

Hollandia Infra has fixed the radial arms to the face (left), making them look more like gates and less like part of an enormous barrel! These gates will ensure continuity of defence height for the next 100 years.

The hinges also form part of the vertical sector gates, which will be installed at the Port of Boston wet dock entrance. The hinges are anchored to the concrete and support the gates as they open and close. Hollandia Infra are due to ship the finished gates across to the Boston Barrier site in May.

Barrier viewing platform

If you would like to view the primary Boston Barrier gate and find out more about the project, there is a viewing platform and information board 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 vantage point from where you can see some of the completed works on site.

If you have any questions or concerns about the ongoing construction works, please contact Craig on Craig.Bloodworth@BAMNuttall.co.uk or Steve on Steve.Lowder@bamnuttall.co.uk

Keep in touch

The Boston Barrier Hub on Marsh Lane is currently closed due to the Covid-19 restrictions, however our team are still working remotely. If you have any questions about the project you can contact us via:

Email: boston.barrier@environment-agency.gov.uk

Telephone: 07747 640 663

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BostonBarrier

Twitter: @BostonBarrierEA

Blog: bostonbarrier.wordpress.com

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88