

Boston Barrier – Case Study

Background

The Boston Barrier is a £100 million flood defence scheme constructed by BAM Nuttall and Mott MacDonald Joint Venture on behalf of the Environment Agency, which will increase protection from tidal flooding over the next 100 years for more than 14,000 homes and businesses in Boston, Lincolnshire. Prior to the construction of the Boston Barrier, Boston was identified as one of the areas at highest risk from flooding in the UK, and more than 800 properties had been flooded by a tidal surge in December 2013.

The construction and operation of the Boston Barrier was authorised by the Boston Barrier Order 2017 – an Order made by the Secretary of State for Environment, Fisheries and Food under the Transport and Works Act 1992. Construction commenced in January 2018 and the primary Boston Barrier became operational in December 2020, significantly reducing the risk from tidal flooding in Boston. The project as a whole is scheduled to be completed in 2022. The scheme has won multiple awards, including the Climate Resilience Project of the Year at the British Construction Industry Awards in October 2021.

Building better

BDB Pitmans acted for the Environment Agency on its application for the Transport and Works Act Order authorising the Boston Barrier. This provided consent for the project as a structure which interferes with navigation, as well as conferring planning permission and compulsory acquisition powers. We advised on consultation, and the preparation and submission of the application, and successfully steered the application through the public inquiry process. We also advised on complex negotiations with objectors to the scheme and other third parties.

Since the making of the Boston Barrier Order 2017, we have advised the Boston Barrier team on its implementation, as well as advising on property elements of the project and providing continued assistance in engagement with third parties. We received the Planning Law Firm of the Year award at the Planning Awards 2018 in recognition of our work on the Boston Barrier scheme.

Links:

You can find out more about the project and follow its progress at the Boston Barrier twitter account [https://twitter.com/BostonBarrierEA?](https://twitter.com/BostonBarrierEA?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor)

Recent updates on gov.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/boston-barrier-scheme-progresses-with-arrival-of-new-gates>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/boston-barrier-flood-gate-fully-operational>