

Website maintenance 21-25 March 2017

There will be intermittent disruptions affecting a wide range of our web services from Tuesday 21 March throughout the rest of the week while we undertake database maintenance. Apologies for any inconvenience.

Press release: Port of Boston announce full support of Boston Barrier Scheme

The Port of Boston has today announced its full backing of the proposed Boston Barrier and has formally withdrawn its objection to the Transport and Works Act Order (TWA0) application made by the Environment Agency in August 2016.

This comes after extensive discussions between the Environment Agency and the Port around the proposed Transport and Works Act Order (TWA0) which will go to a public inquiry next month.

The multi-million pound Boston Barrier is part of the Boston Combined Strategy that will reduce the risk of tidal flooding to over 17,000 properties in the area.

Boston Barrier Director, Adam Robinson said:

We're delighted to be working alongside the Port of Boston, the statutory Harbour Authority, to secure consent and enable the delivery of such an important scheme for the town of Boston, following the December 2013 tidal surge where many properties and businesses were affected.

The Port has agreed that the Environment Agency can provide temporary berthing facilities for use by the Boston fishing fleet during construction of the proposed Barrier. They are also working with them to ensure that the sequencing of the Barrier construction works would allow the Port's operations to continue in a safe and efficient manner throughout the construction programme.

Representative of the Port of Boston, Neil Harris said:

We are pleased to announce today that we are fully supportive of the Boston Barrier Scheme that the Environment Agency are promoting for the town of Boston.

We have been working closely with the Environment Agency throughout the optioneering and development phases of the Boston Barrier Scheme and we will continue to work together during the detailed design and construction stage, particularly in relation to ensuring the continued safe navigation of all vessels on the Haven.

There will be some disruption to navigation during key construction activities, but the Port is confident these can be managed and kept to a minimum through continued partnership working with the Environment Agency and their contractor. Safety of navigation will be a priority at all times.

The Public Inquiry for the proposed Transport and Works Act Order starts on the 19th April at:

Boston Barrier Hub

Marsh Lane

PE21 7PJ

To view the Environment Agency's Statement of Case and supporting documents visit:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/engagement/bostonbarriertwao/>

Notes for editors:

To find out more:

Drop into the Boston Barrier hub every Wednesday from 12-7pm at:

Boston Barrier Hub

Marsh Lane

PE21 7PJ

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

Call: 07769937012

Twitter: @BostonBarrierEA

Facebook: facebook.com/BostonBarrier

Record number of volunteers from Oatridge help at heritage site

Countryside Management and Rural Skills Students from SRUC's Oatridge Campus got their hands dirty by enjoying a day volunteering with Scottish National Heritage (SNH).

Double horticulture award win

The Oatridge Campus of SRUC has been honoured with two awards from the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society.

News story: Innovative fibreboard recycling firm attracts £250,000 investment

A North Wales company has secured a £250,000 investment from a global waste management services group to commercialise its pioneering process for recycling medium-density fibreboard (MDF).

The backing from [SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK](#) will allow [MDF Recovery](#) to take its technology to market after 6 years of research and development.

Their collaboration follows an Innovate UK project where they worked together on a 'closed loop' recycling option for waste MDF. The 2 companies established a pilot plant to refine the process and host demonstrations for potential industrial end-users.

[Find out how Innovate UK supports the manufacturing and materials sector in the UK.](#)

By allowing manufacturers to take the waste MDF back from customers and recover the wood fibre, the technology offers an innovative alternative to landfill or incineration for used MDF products and off-cuts.

Attractive option for the retail sector

MDF Recovery's solution generates a new secondary material source for the wood/natural fibre industry. Co-founder Craig Bartlett estimates it could recycle between 30,000 to 60,000 tonnes of MDF waste in the UK each year, and almost 3 million tonnes globally.

[Learn more about how Innovate UK has helped businesses to be successful.](#)

Craig said:

The SUEZ investment provides a significant boost to MDF Recovery in our quest to commercialise the technology to make single-use MDF a thing of the past. The recovered fibre produced by the process is of the same high quality as fibre obtained from virgin wood and can be used as a direct substitute in the manufacturing process.

The technology can be retro-fitted or designed into new plants and offers a robust solution for reworking waste and increasing the yield at the MDF manufacturing facility.

The business is in discussions with potential customers and partners. The technology could be particularly attractive to the retail sector, which uses large amounts of MDF in shop fittings.

[Find out how to apply for funding.](#)