

FactFile

Humber Estuary Tidal Defences

Albert Dock Scheme



A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR THE HUMBER ESTUARY



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

A study of the existing tidal defences on the dock frontage in the City of Hull has been commissioned by the Environment Agency as part of its ongoing programme to maintain and improve flood defences on the Humber Estuary.

The dock areas were originally reclaimed from the estuary and are set at a higher level than the land behind them. Consequently the docks provide the current protection against flooding for a large part of the City of Hull, much of which lies below normal high tide level.

The Albert Dock Scheme is located on the Humber Estuary Frontage in the City of Hull and extends from the



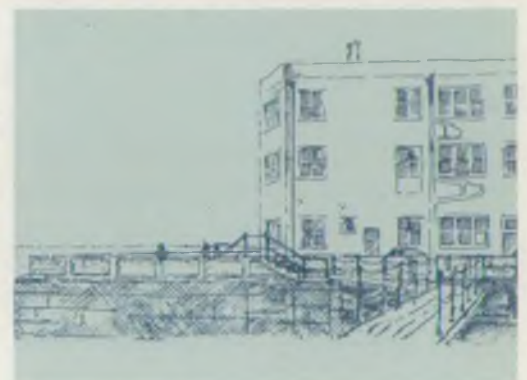
disused St Andrew's Dock downstream to the Humber Dock basin, a distance of approximately 3 kilometres. This length of estuary frontage comprises busy working docks and associated businesses, tracts of unoccupied buildings and land, conservation areas and the amenity area of Hull Marina. Other important features include a considerable length of public footpath and the Memorial to Lost Seamen of Hull at St Andrew's Dock Bullnose.

Flooding

The existing docks provide a level of protection against a one in ten year flood event. Although the possibility of flooding cannot be completely eradicated, the frequency and severity of the event can be reduced by the provision of flood defences.

The new defences will increase the level of protection to a one in fifty year flood event to the dock area, and the City of Hull to a one in two hundred year event. This also builds in an allowance for an expected sea level rise to the year 2045. Increased protection will be given to 4,600 residential properties and over 300,000 square metres of city centre industrial, retailing and commercial property in addition to businesses located within the docks.

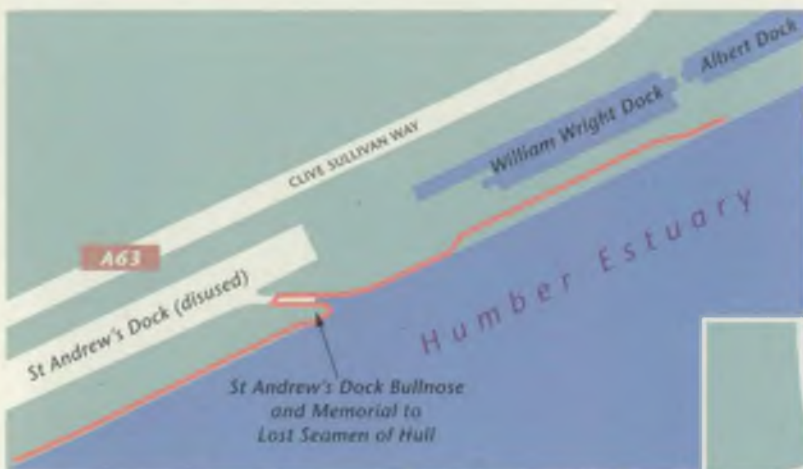
Photograph of the lock at St Andrew's Bullnose, with artist's impression below showing a typical view of the new flood wall.



The Works

PHASE 1 (Summer 1997 to Autumn 1998)

In this section of the work programme, the existing river walls will be raised by constructing new walls just over a metre in height, over a length of approximately 1600 metres. A wave return wall will be installed where the present defence is formed with sloping stone or rubble faced revetment. The works cost is £1.25 million.



- Phase 1 – New flood walls and wave return walls at St Andrew's Dock and William Wright Dock (above) and Albert Dock Basin and Humber Dock Basin (right).
- Phase 2 – Replacement and increase in height of outer lock gates at Albert Dock (right).



PHASE 2 (Programmed for 2001)

Flood defence levels are to be maintained across the entrance to Albert Dock by new outer lock gates incorporating a propping mechanism to prevent the gates opening during a storm surge.

Associated British Ports own most of the land on which the new flood wall will be built. The project has been developed with their cooperation and assistance.



Environment, Recreation and Amenity

Unlike many other areas of the Humber Estuary, the section under consideration for this scheme is not fronted by environmentally sensitive mud flats and salt marsh. Consequently the principal environmental concern has been the visual appearance of the works, particularly where the flood wall passes through the St Andrew's Dock and Old Town Conservation Areas.

The surface finishes of flood walls and footpaths have been chosen to blend in with existing features, and dock artifacts have been retained in order to present minimum impact on the character of these areas. In addition, artwork panels will be incorporated into the flood wall at the St Andrew's Dock Bullnose to complement the existing Memorial to Lost Seamen of Hull.

A public footpath runs adjacent to the Estuary frontage for much of the length of the new flood wall. The scheme will re-open a section of this footpath running along the river frontage.

In addition, several raised platforms will be installed to allow wheelchair users to view the river over the top of the flood wall, and new improved footpath surfacing will be placed over much of the footpath length. During construction it will be necessary to temporarily divert the footpath route which will be reinstated on completion of the scheme.

The Environment Agency aims to deliver a scheme which provides improved flood protection and enhances the visual appearance and amenity of the area.

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For general enquiries please call your local Environment Agency office. If you are unsure who to contact, or which is your local office, please call our general enquiry line.

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