

# Bridgwater Tidal Barrier Scheme

Creating a community resilient to flooding and coastal change



**We are delighted that the Secretary of State granted the legal powers to construct the barrier - the Transport Works Act Order (TWAO) - after a long and complex process. This is a major milestone for the Scheme and means we can now move forward to detailed design and construction of the barrier and the associated elements. Whilst the TWAO has now been granted, there is still a great deal of work to be carried out ahead of construction.**

We also started ground and archaeology investigations for the scheme in early January. The works will provide us with further information to help influence the detailed design of the scheme and investigate the archaeological potential of the area.

We recently held a successful open day for the archaeology investigations. All timeslots filled up fast and we received some great feedback. Each slot started with an introduction at the Somerset Brick and Tile Museum, followed by a tour of the excavations. Over 100 people joined us throughout the day, and visitors were highly appreciative of the opportunity to learn about local history, with several of our younger visitors even expressing an interest in archaeology as a career.

For more information on the project see:

[www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/article/1659/Bridgwater-Barrier](http://www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/article/1659/Bridgwater-Barrier)

If you would like to receive future newsletters directly please contact:

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Archaeology investigations have discovered coins dating back to the 1920s



Kiln dating back to turn of the 20th Century

## What we've been doing

While waiting for the decision on the TWAO, we have been busy working on several pieces of important work to help shape the detailed design of the scheme.

Including:

- We have appointed Atkins as our a consultant and Kier as our contractor to complete the detailed design phase.
- We have carried out ground investigations and archaeological surveys as mentioned above.
- We have completed topographical surveys both on foot and by drone.
- We have continued discussions with local landowners to explain the proposals and understand their views and any concerns.
- We carried out early ecological surveys in the local area, to help us to plan our detailed design and better understand the local environment. These included surveys for bats, water voles, great crested newts and habitat surveys.

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### What we've been doing cont...

- We are engaging with local schools – we have been fortunate to attract some funding from the Department for Education to contribute towards the cost of constructing the barrier, and also to engage with local schools on the risks and dangers of flooding. Four local schools were identified as being currently at risk of flooding and will directly benefit from the Barrier Scheme. We are carrying out interactive sessions with the schools, engaging young people and talking to them not just about the scheme, but flooding and the impacts of climate change.
- We continue to work with our partners and to source additional funding to carry out work on items not directly included in the barrier scheme, for example landscaping and further enhancements to the natural environment.
- We are striving to reduce the carbon impact of our project and are considering the materials used and our methods both pre and during construction.

### What's coming up in the next six months?

We anticipate construction will begin in the autumn with site establishment and then enabling work in spring 2023 and it is likely to take around four to six years to complete all elements of the scheme.

We will hold a public exhibition later in the year to share more detail on the work we have carried out and our future programme. We look forward to seeing you then.

We will keep you updated as the Scheme progresses through the detailed design stage to construction.

For more information on the scheme, visit



<https://www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/bridgwaterbarrier>



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