

NORTH LEVEL DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Foul Anchor Sluice, Tydd Gote, Wisbech



Foul Anchor Sluice, from River Nene (photo taken in July 2015)

Listed Building Consent Application – September 2020

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. Foul Anchor Sluice is located approximately 5 miles north of Wisbech, on the western bank of the tidal River Nene.
- 1.2. The sluice is a Grade II listed structure, designated under UID 1204893 (see Appendix A). It was originally built in 1859, but has been subject to various refurbishment works since. A public highway, known as Front Road, crosses the sluice.
- 1.3. Foul Anchor Sluice comprises a larger, central arch, approximately 7m high by 6.1m wide, with a smaller arch to either side, each around 7m high by 2.85m wide. Each arch has timber doors designed to allow water pumped at North Level District IDB's Tydd Pumping Station (approximately 650m west of the sluice) to flow out to the River Nene, but to prevent flow in the other direction.
- 1.4. The central arch doors were replaced, and other sluice repair works carried out, in 2015. Listed Building Consent for these works was obtained under South Holland District Council reference H21-1053-14.
- 1.5. The above works included some minor repairs to the two outer doors to try and stop leaks, but those doors are showing significant signs of deterioration and do not seal effectively against the sluice structure, allowing water to flow "the wrong way" on high tides.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1. In order to address the issues outlined in 1.5 above, it is proposed to replace the two outer sluice doors. Any works required to the sluice structure to ensure effective fixing, sealing and operation of the replacement doors would be undertaken at the same time.
- 2.2. Replacing Foul Anchor Sluice outer doors should ensure they again operate as intended, reducing flood risk upstream.
- 2.3. The new doors would match the materials of the ones being replaced, being timber doors with metal fixings, and would, necessarily, be the same size. It is expected that silt and lichen/aquatic growths would quickly reduce any visual contrast between the new components and the existing central doors – photographs in Appendix B show the change in appearance of the central doors from their installation in 2015 to the present day.
- 2.4. The doors would be designed to Eurocode 5 (and associated standards) and would be made off-site from FSC-certified Ekki, or other suitable hardwood, before being brought to site for installation. It is expected that the new doors would have an effective life of around 50 years.
- 2.5. During the 2015 works to replace the central sluice doors, a secure temporary working compound was set up on land owned by the Board adjacent to Front Road/Station Road. 3-way traffic lights were also in operation throughout.
- 2.6. It is anticipated that similar measures will be required as part of this project. Work plans and traffic management proposals will be progressed when a contractor has been appointed to deliver the project, after which any required temporary traffic orders will be sought from Lincolnshire County Council.
- 2.7. Surveys will be carried out (by an appropriately-licensed and experienced individual) to check if there is any evidence of bats using the sluice. Similar surveys conducted ahead of the 2015 works did not find any evidence of such use.

3. CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1. The Board believes that the proposals are appropriate, as the replacement doors will replicate the size and materials of the existing outer doors (timber with metal fixings), while ensuring the Board has a sound, fully-functioning flood defence structure.
- 3.2. The proposals will not cause any adverse effect to the surrounding area. There will be minimal disruption to the public while the works are in progress.

Appendix A – Summary information of Listed Building Designation

Appendix B – Photographs of doors



Outer door (northern)



Outer door (southern)



Change in appearance of central doors from installation in 2015 (top) to present day (bottom)