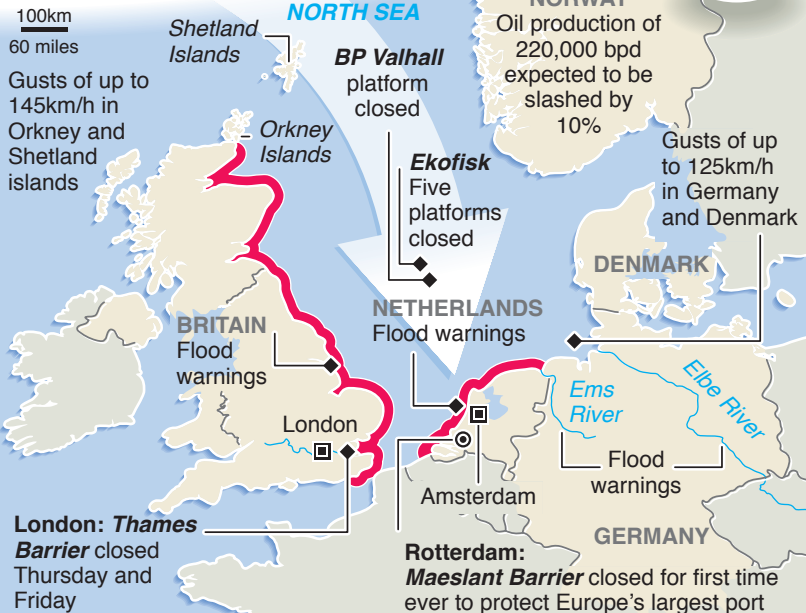
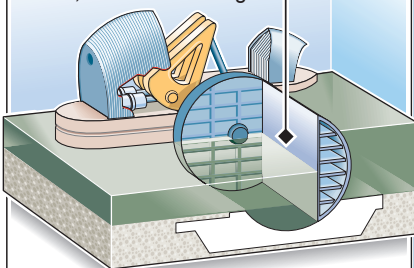


# North Sea tidal surge brings flood risk

Storms across northwest Europe – caused by the remnants of Hurricane Noel coinciding with a tidal surge – prompted German, Dutch and British governments to issue flood warnings. Strong winds and the highest tides for 50 years sliced down the North Sea, threatening low-lying coastal areas



**Thames Barrier:** Each 61-metre-wide gate holds back 90,000 tonnes of water  
3,200-tonne steel gate



Gate stands 15m above river bed. When not in use gate lies flat in concrete base

**1. Barriers, stowed in docks, float as water level rises, allowing doors to be swung shut**

