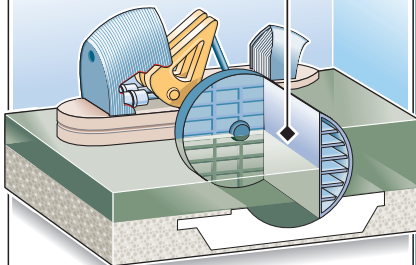


North Sea tidal surge brings flood risk

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

