Environment Agency

Work to improve Canvey Island's tidal defences after 1953

Mid-1950s to early 1960s

Interim repair and raising works on tidal defences damaged during the 1953 surge event took place throughout this period. Tidal defences were raised by up to 1metre above the recorded peak water level during the 1953 event (image 1)

Image 1

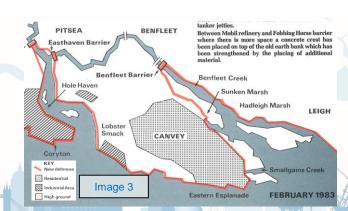
CANVEY ISLAND-STEEL-PILED PARAPET CONSTRUCTION

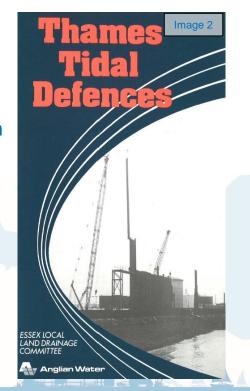
Late-1970s to early 1980s

In 1972 Parliament passed the Thames Barrier & Flood Protection Act which gave authority to construct the Thames Barrier and raise defences downstream of the barrier throughout the Thames estuary. This work was known as the Thames Tidal Defence (TTD) scheme. Image 2 shows the information pamphlet provided at the time.

Defence raising took place on Canvey Island as part of TTD in 1982 and 83. The defences cost £40 million and covered the Island's southern shoreline. The red line in image 3 shows where work took place.

The TTD scheme gave us the tidal defences which protect Canvey Island today. They still serve a very high level of protection. The scheme did not replace the revetment – this remained unchanged with very little disturbance







How were Canvey Island's current tidal defences built?

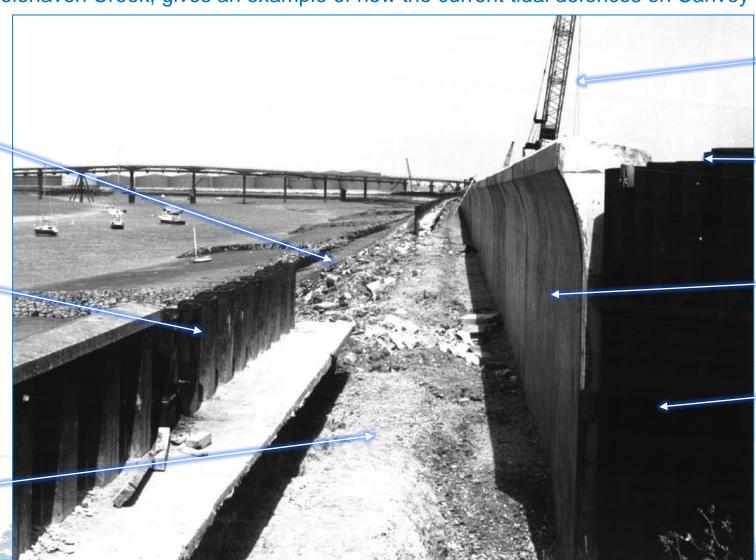
This photograph, taken in Holehaven Creek, gives an example of how the current tidal defences on Canvey Island were built in

the early 1980s.

Revetment not renewed

Removal of mid-1950s defence works

Creation of a new seaward maintenance access track



Plant and machinery constructed the scheme from the landward side

Creation of a new landward promenade

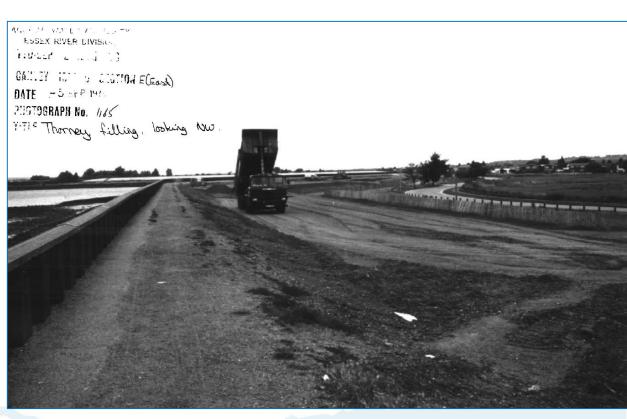
New steel core encased in reinforced concrete

New steel core of defence driven into position

Environment Agency

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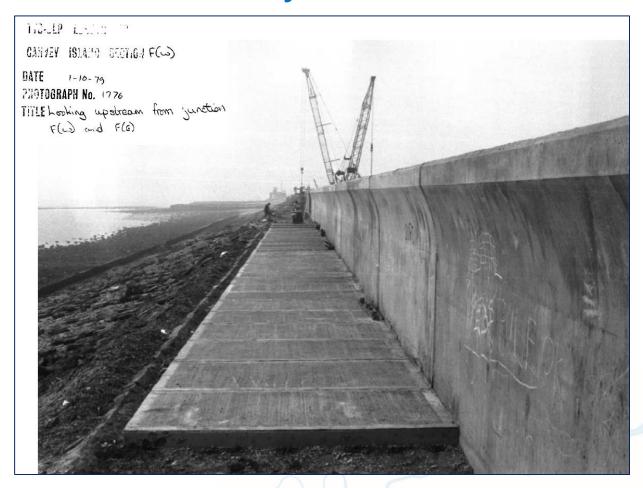


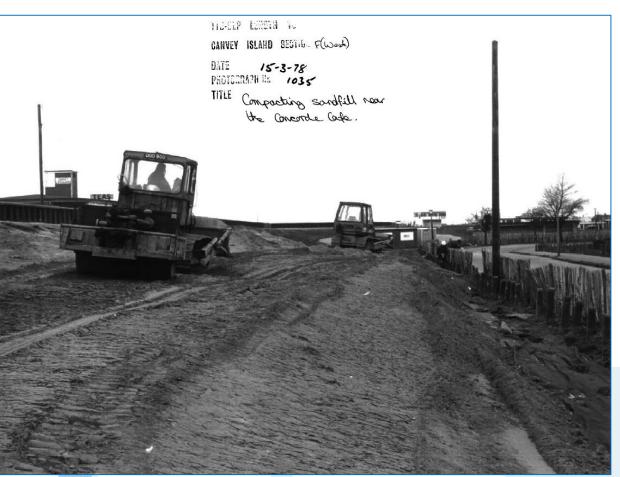
Labworth Cafe

Looking west towards Thorney Bay



How were Canvey Island's current tidal defences built?





Looking west towards the Concorde Cafe

Concorde Cafe