

# Leaders visit Bristol Port as flood defences take shape

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Leaders at Avonmouth

**The Avonmouth and Severnside Enterprise Area (ASEA) Ecological Mitigation and Flood Defence project is marking another milestone this month, with work having started in earnest at the Bristol Port. Following extensive survey works carried out last year, leaders from around the West of England gathered today to see the installation of new sheet piled flood defence walls that will help protect homes and businesses from flooding and unlock new jobs, delivering a significant boost to the local and regional economy.**

The sheet pile walls are one of several forms of flood defence used throughout the 17km project area.

These are steel sheets that are driven deep into the ground and are well-suited to the area around the port as they take up only limited space in the industrial area, with installation causing little disruption to the operations of the port. The sheet piles, delivered directly to the port via boat, have the additional benefit of a reduced carbon footprint compared to a reinforced concrete wall.

The ASEA project is a partnership between Bristol City Council, South Gloucestershire Council and the Environment Agency.

The largest of its kind in the region, the £80m project will provide 17km of new and improved flood defences, from Lamplighter's Marsh in the south to Aust in the north, once complete in 2026/27. The defences will help reduce flood risk to around 2,500 homes and businesses over the scheme's lifetime.

It will also create a minimum of 80 hectares (the equivalent of around 112 football pitches) of new wetland habitats for the internationally important Severn Estuary's bird species.

Funding for the project has come from the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership, administered by the West of England Combined Authority. Other funding sources are the Government's Flood Defence Grant in Aid, and Local Levy raised by the Wessex Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. The contractor is BMMjv (<https://www.asea-flood-ecology.co.uk/bmmjv-explained/>).