

**TRANSPORT AND WORKS ACT 1992
TRANSPORT AND WORKS (INQUIRIES PROCEDURE) RULES 2004
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
BOSTON BARRIER ORDER**

**DOCUMENT EA/15/1
PROOF OF EVIDENCE
OF
DAVID EARNSHAW**

MARCH 2017

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Introduction	1
2	Scheme Need	1
3	Impacts on Boston	1
4	Personal Experiences	1
5	Conclusion	2
6	Statement Of Truth	2

1 Introduction

- 1.1 I am David Michael Earnshaw BEng(Hons), Managing Director of Parkinson Harness Technology Ltd. A company with a £9M turn over, which is a manufacturing business based on Marsh Lane, Boston. The company occupies a 20,000 sq ft factory, and has 160 employees. I have been a director of the company since 2002, and been employed by the company since 1997. I am an Engineering graduate of Bristol University and have worked in UK manufacturing businesses since 1987 in various technical and management roles. I live with my partner and daughter approximately 20 miles west of Boston.
- 1.2 I am appearing in support of the Boston Barrier scheme.

2 Scheme Need

- 2.1 Boston is a town and Borough with the potential for significant economic growth in both the Agri-food and other wealth creating sectors such as manufacturing, including Agricultural machinery. Currently that development is restricted by flooding concerns; specifically the building of new commercial and residential property is restricted. For the town to fulfil its potential there needs to be a shift in the direction of travel of the facts and the emotions on this issue. The town's flood defences are the only possible cornerstone to this shift and the barrier (and its associated works) has been adjudged to be technically the best solution and it will be a very visible statement to help address the perception of Boston as a town at risk of flooding.

3 Impacts on Boston

- 3.1 I understand that the flood risk in the area has led to planning permissions being refused.
- 3.2 I understand that the available field of insurers that we use, generally use the Environment Agency flood risk map (attached) when assessing our applications and the risk of flooding. Certainly a small number of companies have already refused to quote for us because of the flood risk.

4 Personal Experiences

- 4.1 We had to evacuate our premises during the 2013 flood and although the waters did not reach us and no damage was done that incident obviously sowed seeds of doubt both with us and our insurers. There have been no subsequent flood warnings that have directly affected us.
- 4.2 Four of our employees were flooded out in 2013 and that had a knock on effect to the business, as these employees had to take a significant amount of time off (both immediately and during the following months) to order their domestic arrangements. The work they did not do would have to be covered by other staff on over-time which was an additional cost to the business.

5 Conclusion

If we don't enhance the protection for Boston, we're effectively writing Boston off, as the direction of travel from global warming inexorably increases the threat from tidal flooding.

6 Statement Of Truth

I hereby declare that the contents of this proof of evidence are true.