
Press Release

A WATERSHED FOR THE RESIDENTS OF BEWDLEY

The scale and severity of flood events in the UK today is such that no single solution can be assumed to provide future security and the deepening effects of climate change can only worsen the outlook. It's a problem that needs a wide perspective and a flexible approach, taking into account the many and varied physical criteria, both for fluvial and tidal situations.

This type of thinking was very much evident in the design process involved in the scheme for the town of Bewdley on the River Severn, which having undergone numerous inundations over the years, urgently needed some positive action to prevent yet more misery in the future, especially so considering the devastation of the floods of 2000.

The Environment Agency considered many design approaches, even to the extent of a radical scheme to divert the floodwater around the town in large diameter tunnels, discharging it downstream. Most of the ideas considered were rejected after evaluation on the basis of high cost or technical difficulties. Not least of these technical obstacles was the need to preserve the outlook to the river frontage of this historic town, this then precluding the use of permanent flood walls, which would have needed to be built to a height of nearly 3 metres. The eventual scheme would also have to demonstrate a required balance between benefits to the community and cost of building, so again the more heavily engineered options were not a realistic solution.

The BAUER-IBS Demountable Flood Defence System "DEMFLLOOD"TM was carefully evaluated and subsequently chosen to defend the community against future flood events, providing as it does the required defence height, but in a completely removable format. The design also required consideration of the very poor ground conditions at the river, resulting in a virtual re-building of the river wall, together with a deep secant

pile wall to accept the BAUER-IBS System, a precision made, highly engineered System, consisting of lightweight aluminium post profiles and beams. The demountable posts are quickly installed by bolting to plates cast into the concrete foundation at 3 metre centres, followed by insertion of the dam beams up to the required flood height. The System can also be partially erected, so if an increased defence height is required, further dam beams can be added, even whilst floodwaters are rising. When the system is not in use only the small anchor plates, which are flush with the top of the permanent ground beam/ground level foundation, are visible.

Peter May, Area Flood Defence Manager, Environment Agency Upper Severn Area, comments:

"I am delighted that we have found an acceptable solution to help reduce the impact of flooding in Bewdley. The innovative demountable barrier system allows us to provide a flood defence that does not detract from the town's beauty".

Managing Director of BAUER Inner City Ltd, George Lauchlan comments:

"DEMFLLOOD™ is another example of outstanding German engineering. The product is manufactured to an extraordinarily high standard to enable it to withstand the full force of British flood conditions".

BAUER Inner City Ltd was formed in 2000, to bring new products to the UK market. We are proud that DEMFLLOOD™ is the forerunner of these products.

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**For more information on this Press Release please contact Deborah Darling at
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Notes to Editors

BAUER Inner City Ltd was established in 2000. The Company is a leading provider of groundbreaking engineering solutions and offers an unrivalled range of engineering technologies. DEMFLLOOD™ is the forerunner of these.