

AQUOBEX[®]

CASE STUDY

Trout Hotel, Cockermouth, Cumbria

Contract value: 360,000
Scope: Scoping, design, supply and installation of flood protection scheme
Dates: December 2016 – May 2017



Background:

The major floods in Cockermouth resulted in significant insurance claims of £6m loss 2009 and £5m loss 2015. The client was unable to renew insurance and so was in a position of effective self-insurance from Spring 2016.

After being recommended to Aquobex by its insurer broker, the hotel's owners contacted Aquobex to carry out a flood risk assessment and scoping for flood protection.

Scoping

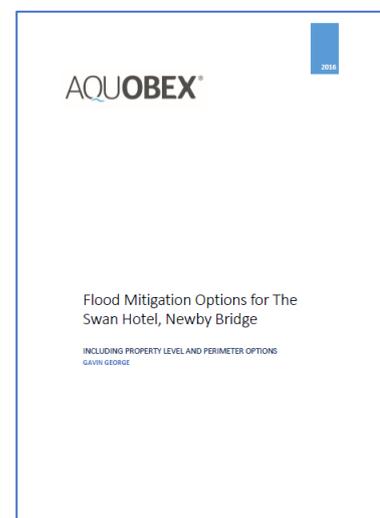
Outline designs were produced for both perimeter protection and property level protection however in the absence of accurate hydrologic models for the River Cocker and River Derwent, a design flood elevation was set to the 2009 level.

After initial budgets were established and funding and planning constraints investigated, the perimeter protection plans were set aside in favour of property or asset level protection. Due to the age and complex nature of the building it was decided to protect the external walls and also additional protection to key assets such as the kitchen and bar.

Detailed Design

Commencement of the detailed design stage meant working closely with the client's architect (David Blair of Architects Plus) and insurance broker (Towergate Insurance) to ensure acceptable performance and aesthetics. Aquobex carried out negotiations with the Environment Agency and supported the architect with information to submit to planning authorities due to the Conservation Area status.

Property level protection would be required to work within the constraints of available flood warnings and historical onset times and so much focus was on the resource available and the ability to deploy numerous flood barriers within. This meant that sectional barriers such as aluminium stop



logs were largely removed from the scheme and replaced with single panel Floodguard barriers where possible, or with flood resistant doors.

For the newer extension part of the building complex, it was agreed that the windows would be replaced with bespoke flood resistant versions which would be designed and tested by Aquobex prior to installation.

Installation

The construction phase was project managed by Aquobex's Linda Blundell who issued a sub-contract to Floodsafe Projects Ltd, Aquobex's approved installation partner. Linda provided a full Health & Safety file including RAMS and with the Aquobex team provided scheme drawings which could be accepted by the client and interpreted by the installers. Mark Arrowsmith of Floodsafe led his team of 4 CSCS-certified installers in the completion of the project installing all doors and flood barriers, sumps and pumps, sluice gate. The work was completed to an exceptional standard and handed over to the client.

Completion

In the absence of guaranteed flood warnings, it was agreed that Aquobex would design and build a flood monitoring system including gauges, SMS and telephone warnings to the key nominated staff.

Aquobex would also work with the client to produce a flood emergency response plan and provide a number of training sessions to ensure the staff were able to deploy the barrier, pumps etc.

In addition there was a flood warning issued by the Environment Agency in which the client was able to successfully test their response.

For a reference contact:

Sue Eccles, General Manager

Email: sue.eccles@trouthotel.co.uk

Telephone: 01900 823591

