

WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA

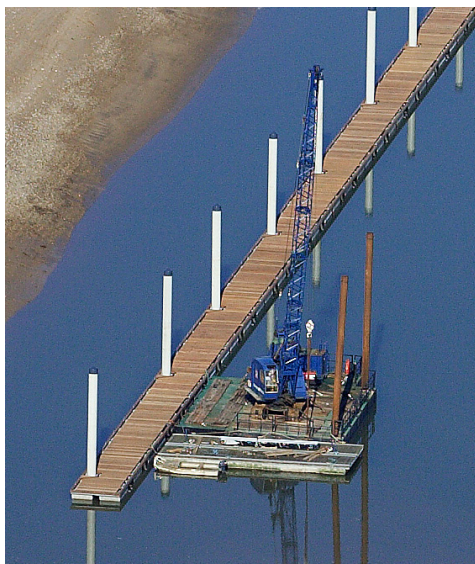
NORTH SEA DOCKING FACILITY FOR WIND FARM CONTRACTORS

The new Outer Harbour at Buxton's Bight at Wells-next-the-Sea in Norfolk was completed early in 2010.

The project, undertaken by Walcon Marine, consists of a jetty and 150m of pontoons and enables the town of Wells to take full advantage of the opportunities coming from the expected boom in offshore wind energy generation. As such it is expected to make a significant contribution to the local economy.



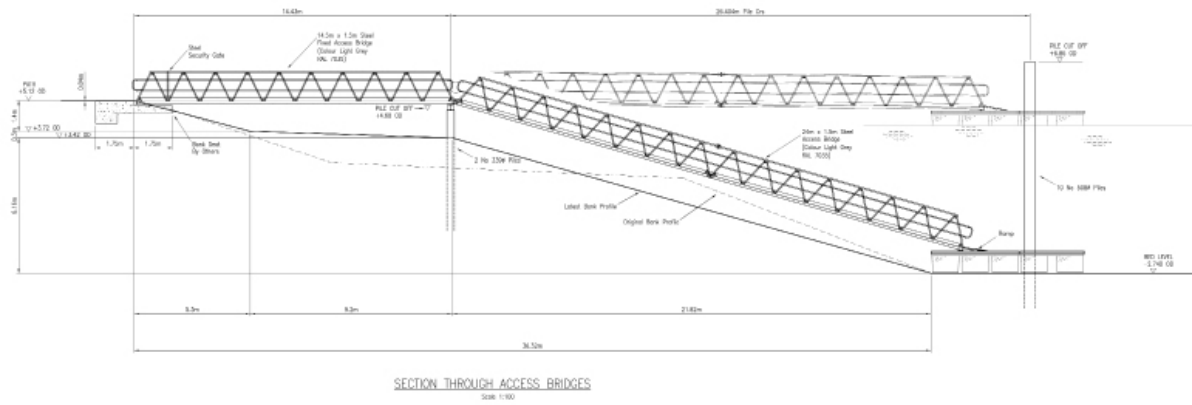
The jetty has been constructed in an almost totally enclosed area of water especially created for the purpose and is a linear structure allowing it to be flexible with regard to the size and type of vessel that can lie alongside. The decision to create a bespoke facility was taken so as to ensure that the wind farm support operations did not interfere with regular local port activities. Initially the jetty will be used primarily by personnel transport vessels transporting crew for the turbine installation work.



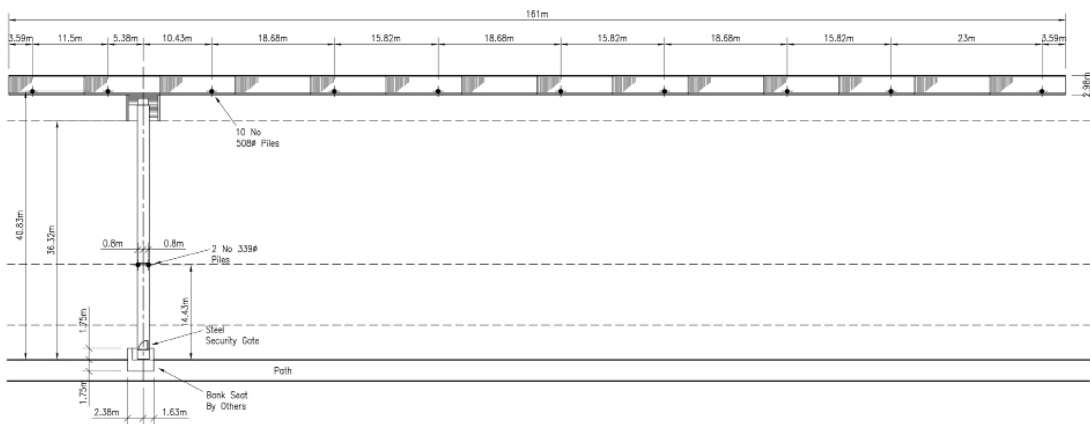
The pontoons were constructed to a heavy duty specification to cope with the stresses of commercial use, with additional bracing added to the Walcon System 21 units, along with extra thick deck boards. Walcon's road transportable piling rig was also brought in for the project, once again demonstrating its ability to operate in areas generally considered to be inaccessible by conventional equipment.

The steelwork and piling were subsequently painted to blend in with the natural background as part of the environmental requirements for this area of outstanding natural beauty.

SCIRA's Sheringham Shoal offshore wind farm is targeted to be operational from the end of 2011. Other wind farms are expected to be developed in the area over the coming years and the new harbour at Wells-next-the-sea will be well positioned to service them.



The schematic above shows a detail of the access bridge including the dimensions, piling requirements and colour. The diagram below presents an aerial view of the entire project.



PLAN ON PONTOONS & ACCESS BRIDGES