

# WIVENHOE TOWNSCAPE FORUM: LOCAL LIST RECORDING SHEET AREA F

**ADDRESS** Colne Barrier, Walter Radcliffe Way, Wivenhoe

<b>POST CODE</b> CO7 9WS	<b>WARD</b>	Cross	<b>Quay</b>
<b>CONSERVATION AREA</b>		YES	<b>NO</b>
<b>MAP REFERENCE</b> TM042213	<b>PHOTOGRAPH</b>	YES	NO

**DATE OF ASSET** 1991

**TYPE OF ASSET** **Building** Group Landscape Vista Item Other (please specify)

## DESCRIPTION

This is a prominent and deceptively large building with two floors. The control room is on the upper with good views over the Wivenhoe Tidal Barrier. The building is very much part of the concrete barrier itself which stretches across the River Colne meeting only, of course when the barrier is closed. The greyness of the concrete is reflected in the materials selected for the control building, that is, modular light grey cladding panels, grey brick work and a dark tile covering a pyramid roof. The greyness, is repeated in the surrounding hard landscape yard walling so that the whole structure and building work seem to work as one. There is by contrast a curved theme to the plinth brickwork, which sweeps up from the ground to the ring beam and in the design of the entrance which also has curved features.

## HISTORY AND CONNECTIONS

The Surge Barrier as it is also known and the Control building from which the Environmental Agency operates the barrier was constructed in 1991 and the National Rivers Authority opted for a 'surge barrier' as part of their regional strategy to protect the coast line, specifically in this case to safeguard the industrial areas up river in Colchester, as well as protecting Wivenhoe and Rowhedge. The last cargo to arrive at Rowhedge harbour was in 1999 and this was shortly followed by an Act of Parliament to close Colchester's harbour facilities in 2001. Like the advent of the railway in the 1860s, the construction of the tidal barrier has resulted in a massive expansion of housing in lower Wivenhoe, especially along the now protected shoreline.

## RESEARCH SOURCES

[www.wivenhoe.gov.uk](http://www.wivenhoe.gov.uk)

*The River Colne Barrier (Wivenhoe) Order 1991* (made in 23.7.1991)

An Act to make provision for the closure of certain commercial harbour facilities and to enable the Colchester Borough Council to cease to be a harbour authority for the harbour of Colchester; and for connected purposes, *Colchester Borough Council Act 2001* (dated 22.3.2001)



**PHOTOGRAPH BY** Richard Edwards, June 2011

## CRITERIA: HIGHLIGHT IN BOLD AS APPROPRIATE

<b>ARCHITECTURAL VALUE</b>	A++ (very high)	<b>A+ (good)</b>
	T-F (timber-framed i.e. C18th or earlier)	
	?T-F (timber-framed – needs investigation)	
<b>HISTORIC VALUE</b>	H++	H+
<b>CONDITION</b>	<b>C++ (complete with no inappropriate alterations/extensions)</b>	
	C+ (largely complete)	
	C (good or restorable)	
<b>OTHER VALUES</b>	I = iconic value H = contribution to the historic area in which it stands	
	<b>P (prominence)</b>	<b>Q = quirkiness R = local rarity S = sustainability</b>

Recorded by: Richard Edwards

Date: April 2011