



# New repair unit set for completion at Alexandra Dock this month

**A team of contractors led by A Torn Construction expects to complete work on a new boat maintenance building at Hull's Alexandra Dock by the end of this month, at an overall cost of approximately £700,000.**

Known as the Marine Engineering Support Unit (MESU), the building will span 23m with an eaves height of approximately 9m. It will house a general maintenance workshop and paint shop, and will be used to repair buoys, floats and pilot launches associated with the River Humber. In addition the project will provide seven berthing and service points for vessels along the existing quay – three more than the existing facility includes.

The MESU will be linked to the dock via two 16m 'finger' piers projecting into the dock, supported by tubular steel piles 18m long driven into the dock bed. A mobile boat hoist will run along these piers, plucking boats from the water and transporting them to the new workshops. Both piers are being built by A Torn under the overall MESU contract.

The new unit will replace an existing maintenance shed, located at Albert Dock. Once the current construction project is complete the dock's owner, Associated British Ports (ABP), will hand over the land to regeneration specialist Yorkshire Forward.

A Torn won the MESU contract in November, after impressing AB Ports with its alternative designs during the tendering stage. AB Ports' initial design for the MESU was based around

an L-shaped facility; A Torn amended this to a square, which significantly reduced the build cost and brought considerable savings on space. In addition, A Torn created an alternative structure for the piers, utilising a composite steel and concrete design, supported on the piles and the existing quay. This made the installation more economical and required far less piles than the structure originally designed by the client.

The contractor started on site on 7th January 2009, taking over a site which had previously been used for general cargo storage. The project team began the construction programme by removing the existing tarmac surface and introducing new ring beam foundations, and a concrete floor slab.

The new building is based on a steel frame, with insulated cladding panels supplied by Bradley Roofing; the roof is a composite system, while the walls are a built-up sheeting system. The workshops will be left as large, airy open-plan shells with a seven-tonne overhead crane, bordered by a small section of offices, welfare facilities, workshop and storage. Light will be permitted via translucent sheeting to the roof and elevations, and the offices will be enhanced with plastered ceilings.

Meanwhile the piers are being built using lightweight steel tubular piles, driven into the bed of the dock using a floating crane barge. The piers were fabricated off-site before being lifted into place in sections, ensuring a quick, efficient installation



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programme. Furthermore, by reducing the number of piles included in the initial design, A Torn has significantly curbed the risk of contamination in the dock bed – a major benefit for AB Ports.

Alexandra Dock is a key constituent of the Port of the Hull, and provides a number of vital services including aggregate and dry-bulk handling. The dock also houses the huge Euro-terminal, operated by Harding Cargo Handling Ltd; this facility is dedicated to a variety of cargoes including grains, animal feeds and bulk soda ash.

## About A Torn Construction

A Torn Construction has established a prestigious client base with repeat business the core of their success. Turnover has now grown year on year and they already have an order book bulging for 2009 with turnover set to increase yet again.

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A Torn Construction is a nationwide construction leader, specialising in a variety of key services including civil engineering, commercial building, marine, bridges and structures. A key strength is overcoming the technical challenges of unusual projects. The manager's experience and expertise enables them to look at any obstacle and develop economic alternative solutions and methodology for achieving the goals required.

The company commands more than 20 years' experience and is renowned for its ability to deliver high quality design-and-build projects to clients who require first-class service and continuous two-way communication.

A Torn's growth strategy is built on the development of close relationships with clients by delivering projects on time, while maintaining quality and high safety standards.



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*A Torn Construction Ltd are pleased to be associated with ABP and wish them continued success in the future.*