

Dover Eastern Docks - Berths 8 & 9

Client :
Dover Harbour Board

Designer :
Halcrow

Location :
Dover, Kent

Date :
2003 - 2004



As the busiest ferry port in Northern Europe, Dover sees an estimated 16m passengers travelling through the port each year. With higher levels of traffic predicted, Dover Harbour Board responded with a series of improvements including berths 8 and 9.

The main objective was to design two berths that could accommodate the 28,000-tonne, 210m-long ferries of the future and at the same time remain operational, regardless of any technical problems.

Under a design and construct contract, BAM Nuttall and designer Halcrow developed a concrete berthing structure sitting on steel stilts. The design cut down the amount of sheet piling and in-situ concrete, minimising works at the mercy of the elements.

Each berth has two articulated vehicle bridges and a pedestrian walkway connecting the land to a pair of portal dolphins. The bridges are hydraulically operated.

The contract involved the construction of:

- a 221m-long and 17m-wide pier
- four portal dolphins
- two stair towers
- six linkspans
- the installation of a new type of fender and mooring system.

The onshore works comprised a number of in-situ concrete bridge support abutments and piers together with reinforced earth access ramps. We also established a precast yard for construction of the PC units.