

PRESS RELEASE

17 August 2017

BNM Alliance's 'Siege Breaker' embarks on Severn Trent flood defence mission

A 160-tonne tunnel boring machine has embarked on a journey 15 metres below the historic town of Newark in Nottinghamshire, as part of a £60m waste and water infrastructure overhaul.

The BNM Alliance – a partnership between Barhale plc and North Midland Construction Plc - is working with Severn Trent on the major improvement scheme, which will upgrade its legacy water system and help protect 400 homes and businesses from the threat of sewer flooding.

Work has commenced on the scheme, which is Severn Trent's largest investment in the East Midlands. It will run 15km of pipeline beneath the market town and is due for completion in 2020.

As the largest of five tunnelling machines planned for use on the project, the 75m long 'Siege Breaker' will burrow a 2.85m diameter tunnel from its entry point at Crankley Point Sewage Works. It will travel 2800m at approximately 50m-a-day to create the 'backbone' of the revamped water network.

Nick Wallace, programme engineer from Severn Trent said: "This work forms a pinnacle part of the project and will help protect our customers from sewer flooding. As the town continues to expand with developments and businesses, the new water and waste system means that our customers in Newark have a more reliable and stable system for years to come."

The 'Siege Breaker' machine was given its name by a keen historian and Newark resident – inspired by the fact that its launch shaft is located in an area where Newark's civil war siege of the 1600s is said to have taken place.

The BNM Alliance board said: "This high-profile project with Severn Trent reinforces Barhale plc and North Midland Construction Plc's alliance. This powerful tunnelling technology will

allow the BNM Alliance team to develop the principal tunnel ‘backbone’ to the entire scheme – and is a major milestone in the commencement of this three-year project.”

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About BNM Alliance

The BNM Alliance comprises Barhale plc and North Midland Construction plc – a partnership launched to deliver large-scale water infrastructure projects for Severn Trent.

About Barhale plc

Barhale is a civil engineering and infrastructure specialist with over 35 years’ experience in the construction industry. Founded by our Chairman, Dennis Curran in 1980, the group was originally set up as a specialist tunnelling contractor. Whilst we retain our tunnelling roots, repeated success across the water, energy, transport and built environment markets of the construction industry has enabled us to expand our skill set and become one of the largest privately owned infrastructure specialists in the UK.

<http://www.barhale.co.uk>

About North Midland Construction Plc

North Midland Construction Plc has 12 UK offices and provides international engineering and consultancy services.

Established in 1946, the family controlled company became a Plc in 1982. The team operates across the Construction, Highways, Power, Telecommunication and Water industries.

<http://www.northmid.co.uk>

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