Claims

1. A floodgate comprising:

a panel configured to be movable between an opened position and a closed position wherein in the opened position, the panel forms a barrier against flood water;

at least one extendable member configured to exert a sufficient force to move the panel from the closed position to the opened position about at least one hinge at one edge of the panel, wherein the or each extendable member is a gas strut; and

at least one connection means, wherein the gas strut has a first and second end attached to the at least one connection means and the panel, respectively; wherein the gas strut is arranged with the panel such that when the panel is in the closed position, the first end of the gas strut is closer to the edge of the panel than the second end is, and the second end of the gas strut lies directly below a point two-thirds of a length of the panel from the edge of the panel.

2. A floodgate according to claim 1, wherein when, in use, the floodgate is installed into a generally horizontal ground area, a first end of the gas strut lies beneath the axis of the hinge and is laterally spaced away from the axis of the hinge.

3. A floodgate according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein each extendable member comprises a dampening mechanism configured to reduce the rate at which the extendable member moves the panel from a predetermined position to the closed position.

4. A floodgate according to claim 3, wherein the reduction in the rate at which the extendable member moves the panel is adjustable.