



DfID Project Manager for St Helena Airport Visits



L to R: Simon Walker, Jimmy Johnston, Tony LeRoy, Nigel Kirby and Chris Penn

Visiting the Island from 23-31 July 2014 was Nigel Kirby, DfID Project Manager for the St Helena Airport. Nigel was accompanied on Island by Jimmy Johnston, Basil Read's Project Director, Tony LeRoy Basil Read's Technical Manager, Chris Penn, Halcrow's UK-based Project Manager for the Airport and Simon Walker of Aquila Aviation. Simon was on Island for two days to discuss Airport staffing and input specialist information into various manuals needed for the Airport operations. The purpose of Nigel's visit was to focus on certification issues and staffing proposals for the operations phase of the Airport Project. Prior to arriving on St Helena, Nigel spent four days in Johannesburg working with Basil Read and Lanseria preparing for discussions with SHG. During his time on Island Nigel met with key stakeholders in SHG to discuss working projects to ensure ASSI requirements are met (including Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting Services, Customs, Immigration, options for Baggage Handling and Security). He also met with Enterprise St Helena to agree ways for improved collaboration with the Airport project to drive forward development on the Island. Nigel was able to assess construction progress at the Airport site, discuss with St Helena Government and other stakeholders progress in securing air services to the Island, to progress issues relating to Airport certification and agree next key steps.

Air Service Procurement - End of Phase 1

The first stage of the formal process to procure an Air Service Provider to St Helena began on 13 June 2014. Interested parties were invited to submit various details about their organisation and outline proposals through a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ). The deadline for PQQs closed at noon on Thursday 17 July 2014.

The submissions received will now be reviewed over the coming weeks to establish the parties to be invited to tender for the air service to St Helena.

St Helena Government expects to award the final contract for an air service provider in February or March 2015.

AIRPORT PROJECT INFORMATION LINE - Tel: 24026

Contact Details

St Helena Government
Air Access Office
Tel: +290 22494

Halcrow
Project Management Unit
Tel: +290 24258

Basil Read
Contractor
Tel: +290 24026

Email: airport.directorate@sainthelena.gov.sh Email: Andreas.Huber@ch2m.com Email: pr@brshap.co.za

Visit us online at www.sainthelenaaccess.com and on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Helena-Government/292300047580382>

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St Helena Airport

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Open Channel in Use



The Open Channel at Dry Gut is now in use having been completed on Saturday 14 June 2014.

The Channel was excavated to deviate any rainfall water run-off from the upper Dry Gut catchment area through the South West of Dry Gut to eliminate the run-off of any water through the fill itself.

Work commenced on the Open Channel on 16 September 2013 and took nine months to complete. The Open Channel is 260m long by 120m wide at the top and 7m wide at the bottom. It is 35m deep from the top of the hill. 620 000m³ of material was removed to create the Channel.

New Additions to LEMP Team

The Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Programme (LEMP) has two new additions to its team - Mikko Paajanen and Belinda Thomas. Mikko joined the team on 23 June 2014 as the LEMP Ecologist - to provide advice on plants, ecology and horticulture. Part of Mikko's role will be to conduct vegetation surveys including surveys of endemic and invasive plant species and prepare planting schemes for revegetation sites.

Mikko commented:

"I hope to help the LEMP to make a positive impact as much as possible on the conservation of St Helena's unique flora and fauna."

Joining the team from 4 August 2014 is Belinda Thomas LEMP Field Supervisor. Belinda is responsible for providing plants for the rehabilitation of the Airport and associated sites. In doing this Belinda is required to supervise the propagation of the relevant flora at the Half Tree Hollow LEMP Nursery, for replanting and relocation to their new sites.

Belinda commented on her new role:

"It is a privilege to be part of the Project, as it is the biggest conservation project in the history of St Helena and a vital part of sustaining our beautiful environment long after the construction of the Airport is complete."



Rupert's Engagement Forum

On Thursday 10 July around thirty people attended a stakeholder engagement meeting at St Michael's Church, Rupert's Valley.

A presentation outlining the Airport construction work programmed for the next three months was given by Project Management Unit Environmental Monitor Robert Kleinjan, who also informed those present about the likely increase in activity in Rupert's Valley resulting from the construction of Rupert's Wharf.

LEMP Project Manager Ross Towers also invited those in attendance to come forward with ideas for plants they would like to see on the verges once Rupert's Road had been upgraded. Residents were very responsive to the presentations given, and were able to inspect design drawings for the Wharf and Rupert's Road. This is the second recent public engagement forum to be held by Basil Read, PMU and the Access Office.

