



Rock Guards Clear Airport Access Road

Over the past few weeks, the Rock Guards have been working hard to clear various sections of the Airport Access Road in anticipation of the road opening in 2017. This work was planned as one of the final stages in the construction of the Access Road - and is largely precautionary - to minimise the risk of rock fall.



Clearing Rocks Above the BFI

Rock Guards have identified and removed rocks, earth and vegetation to ensure the hillsides above the Access Road are as stable and safe as they can be. This has involved removing rocks and vegetation that might pose any risk following the completion of construction work, as well as attending to those areas of the hillside untouched by work on the new road.

Our thanks go to the SHG Rock Guards for their support to the Airport Project.

Finishing touches to the Access Road continue to be made, including the installation of drainage, new signage, and crash barriers.



Ground Preparation for LEMP Replanting

Existing junctions are also being made safe, and specific areas next to the Access Road are being readied in preparation for replanting by the LEMP team.

Similarly, areas previously used to temporarily store construction materials, are being rehabilitated and beautified.

Lauren leaves Airport Directorate



Lauren Evans began work in the Access Office in January 2014, as an Environmental Lead. During the Airport construction phase, Lauren was involved in all aspects of the Airport Project to ensure compliance with the Environmental Statement. She also put in place the environmental management systems for the Airport operations phase.

Lauren was known for being passionate about the environment, had a good sense of humour, was talkative and a supportive colleague.

Before her departure last week, Lauren said: *"Over my time with the Airport Project, it has been a great pleasure working with all involved."*

Lauren left the Access Office in late November 2016, in order to accompany her husband to his next posting. We wish them both well in future endeavours.

AIRPORT PROJECT INFORMATION LINE - Tel: 24026

Contact Details

St Helena Government
Airport Directorate
Tel: +290 22494

Email: tessa.roberts@sainthelena.gov.sh

Halcrow
Project Management Unit
Tel: +290 24258

Email: Miles.Leask@ch2m.com

Basil Read
Contractor
Tel: +290 24026

Email: pr@brshap.co.za

Visit us online at www.sainthelenaaccess.com and on Facebook
www.facebook.com/StHelenaGovt

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Security at the Airport - Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why Can't I Go onto the Runway at the Airport?

A: During Airport construction, Basil Read was able to offer limited access to the construction site so visitors could see the progress being made. This came to an end when the Airport received its Aerodrome Certificate from Air Safety Support International (ASSI) on 10 May 2016. This certificate was renewed in October 2016. The Aerodrome Certificate certifies that the Airport is safe and secure for passenger and cargo operations. It also means that the Airport must adhere to international aviation rules, standards and procedures to ensure the continued safety of aircraft, passengers, crew, staff, and cargo. These rules apply regardless of the number or size of aircraft visiting St Helena Airport. These certification requirements are the same as they are for any international airport.



These safety and security requirements therefore mean it is no longer possible for visitors to access some parts of the Airport because security zones need to be maintained.

St Helena Airport is an international airport and, as such, must be kept safe and secure at all times, even on non-flying days when the airport is closed. This ensures that St Helena Airport continues to abide by the conditions for its Aerodrome Certificate and its permission to operate.

Additionally, in the same way that visitors to international airports such as Heathrow or Gatwick are asked to be responsible and remain vigilant, so should visitors to St Helena Airport. When the Terminal Building is open to the public, please keep your possessions with you at all times and remember that you will not be permitted to go into security zones, including access to airside areas. Please do not leave anything in the car park and remember that access to Mole Spider Hill is not currently permitted. Of course, safety is paramount.

Q: Surely if Basil Read can escort SHG personnel onto the runway, then they could do the same for the public?



A: As part of operations at St Helena Airport, Basil Read will from time to time escort personnel connected with the Airport into secure zones. Airport Operational Visitors have to be fully briefed and must go through security procedures and protocols. They are then accompanied everywhere by Airport personnel.

This process is resource intensive and is only for operational visitors connected with the Airport, as necessary to comply with security requirements.

Q: So How Does a Member of the Public Get to See What's Going On at the Airport?

A: Over the past few weeks, there has been a regular trickle of charter flights to St Helena Airport. The numbers on board have been so few that it has not been worthwhile opening the Terminal building for these flights and incurring this cost. However, Basil Read has agreed on occasion to open the Terminal to the public when there are flights with more passengers on board.



On days when the Terminal building is open, members of the public will have full access to all of the landside facilities, including the viewing deck, banking facility, tourist office, shop and landside restaurant.

It is not possible now to have weekly Airport Open Days as previously offered, because these need special security arrangements and incur costs. However, Basil Read will still have Airport Open Days from time to time. Watch this space for further information.