

• Meet the Environmental Team

• Focus on Wirebirds

Issue No: 22
28 November 2012
Access Office, SHG

St Helena Airport

Bringing Environmental Issues Into Construction

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Wirebird Chick

Work continues in all areas of the project including taking the haul road to its final alignment, establishing the platforms for the permanent BFI, and excavations on the airfield site. In planning these works, extensive consideration was given to potential environmental impacts. The Airport Project is guided by an Environmental Statement and an Environmental Management Plan (see www.sainthelenaaccess.com). These documents assess the environmental impacts arising under the project and help us plan appropriate mitigation.

From day one under the project, these environmental mitigation measures have been built into how we carry out construction. This is where the role of our Environmental Team comes in. The Team consists of Annina van Neel, Marge Fowler and Sasha Benjamin from Basil Read; Nick 'Kaiser' Stevens and Robert Kleinjan from the Project Management Unit; and Isabel Peters from the SHG Environmental Management Directorate.

The Team focuses on a number of areas, for example, issues such as noise and vibration, air quality and dust, terrestrial ecology and nature conservation. We'll provide updates on some of the issues arising over the coming weeks.

Focus on Wirebirds

This week we focus on our endemic Wirebird, which has made its home in several of the areas affected by the Airport Project, including Prosperous Bay Plain (PBP) itself.

The Environmental Team has worked very closely with the St Helena National Trust (SHNT) Wirebird Team, who assisted us in developing a Wirebird Protocol to guide how we implement mitigation measures to protect the Wirebird. Up until the blasting and major construction activities started on PBP, the SHNT Wirebird team were monitoring the Wirebird on the airport site; this is a role that we've

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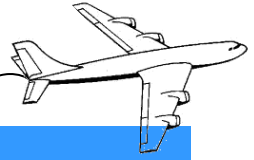
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Bringing Environmental Issues Into Construction



Focus on Wirebirds (continued)

taken on as access to PBP has been closed to non-project personnel due to the hazardous nature of works taking place. The SHNT Wirebird Team kindly provided training for our Environmental Team and this helped to ensure that we are fully equipped to carry out the monitoring.

Since this training, we have monitored Wirebird activity in the project area. Each new nest is recorded and marked with a yellow stake after which it is visited regularly to check its condition. In the past two months, our Environmental Team has observed 8 nests, with 4 sets of eggs having hatched and 2 nests still being tended to by the parents. Unfortunately we lost 2 nests and 1 set of chicks to predators but this is still less than the average for predated nests.



The Team also monitors the response of the birds to construction activity, especially when blasts occur. So far the Wirebird has shown itself to be quite unconcerned, appearing not too bothered about what's going around it and we have seen it happily feeding around some of the noisiest plant on site. We have also noticed that nesting Wirebirds in the vicinity of the blasts return to their nests shortly after the blasting operations - yes, even after the 32 tonne blast!

It seems that the Wirebird population of Prosperous Bay Plain and airport construction have found a balance that allows the birds to successfully breed and raise their young while construction work continues around them.

A reminder about blasting on Prosperous Bay Plain

Basil Read carried out a 32 tonne blast on 16th November 2012, the largest to date on the airfield site. Below is a sequence of photos showing the area before and during the blasting operation. Blasts of this magnitude will now be carried out regularly under the project. **IN THE INTERESTS OF PUBLIC SAFETY, PROSPEROUS BAY PLAIN REMAINS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.**

