

Permanent BFI

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Works are progressing well at the permanent BFI site. Teams from Basil Read are responsible for construction of the platforms and plinths for the tanks. When these are complete, Trotech and their welding team then has responsibility for the erection of the tanks. Erection of the first tank is already well underway, with the lower section of a second tank also in progress.

Tank D2 at assembly stage (still waiting on the roof)—March 2013

The works at the permanent BFI are subject to stringent quality assurance measures. Everything must be to specific standards in order to meet safety requirements. This is especially true of the aviation fuel facilities which will be very important for airport certification.

Not only do we carry out standard concrete testing to ensure it is to specification, we are also using x-ray equipment to test welds to ensure that there are no defects. More on this can be found on our website www.sainthelenaaccess.com

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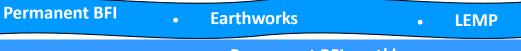
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LEMP

An additional £870,000 has recently been approved alongside the Airport Project for a Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Programme (LEMP).

The Environmental Statement for the Airport Project recognises that a major construction project such as this will result in impacts on the landscape. For example, there will be permanent visual impacts on the landscape at Prosperous Bay Plain as a result of the construction of the runway and terminal. The LEMP contributes towards mitigating this.

The LEMP comprises a combination of landscaping and planting programmes. It is intended that native species (rather than invasives) will be planted wherever possible. We are now at the detailed design and planning stages. More information will follow on the LEMP in coming months.



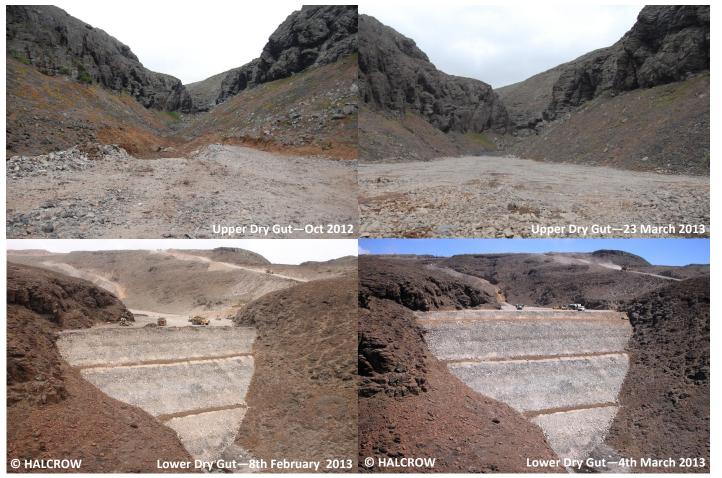


Earthworks at the Airport Site



Works are continuing on Prosperous Bay Plain, with the focus on excavating material for use in Dry Gut fill. Basil Read are currently operating 3 teams on the day shift and 3 teams on the night shift. This is only the second week that we have operated 3 teams at night so this is still very much an induction period. The teams are swiftly moving towards the production target of 20,000m³ of material per day.

20,000m³ may sound like a lot but in total we need over 8,000,000m³ of material to fill Dry Gut. Whilst we've come a long way as shown in the photos below, there's still lots more to be done.



Other News in Brief



Permanent Jetty



The drawing shows the preliminary design for the Permanent Jetty in Ruperts. The Basil Read designers are busy with the preparation of final designs. This involves carrying out wave modelling tests as well as further environmental studies.

Basil Read has contracted a small team of local divers who are working with SHG's Environmental Management Marine Team. Together they are carrying out surveys of the seabed in Ruperts to gather data that will be used in preparing the final designs.

The intention is to use funding from both DFID and the EDF (European Development Fund) for the Permanent Jetty. Both organisations are supportive of this approach but will need to assess the final designs. We expect the final designs to be completed in around about June. Further updates will follow when these are available.

The Haul Road



Work is continuing to take the haul road to its final alignment. At present, the Basil Read teams are focussing on Ruperts (near St Michael's Church and near the existing BFI), and on Pipe Ridge.

Arrangements for the Easter Weekend

Basil Read has advised that on-site works will shut down at noon on Thursday, 28th March and resume at 6am on Tuesday, 2nd April. This will apply to all areas under the project except from the permanent BFI where the majority of workers are from non-Christian faiths. As celebrating Easter is not traditional for these workers, they have expressed a preference to continue working during the Easter holidays and this request has been granted by our Resident Engineer.

The works at the permanent BFI will not impact on lower Ruperts. We can therefore advise that the Shears area will be open to the public during the Easter weekend. We request support from the public in leaving the area clean and tidy. The public is also reminded that the Airport Project sites are classed as construction sites and are therefore closed to the public in the interests of public safety. This includes Ruperts (the temporary jetty, laydown areas, temporary fuel storage facility, and permanent BFI site), the haul road, Bradleys workshop, and Prosperous Bay Plain. Public access will only be permitted via the organised tours.