

# ROOKERY SOUTH NEWS

Winter 2020/21

## Construction Continues in Challenging Times



The latest view of the construction site (December 2020)

Construction has progressed on schedule at the Rookery South Energy Recovery Facility, aided by the introduction of strict Covid-19 health and safety measures on-site designed to protect workers from the virus.

All structural steelwork on the facility buildings has been completed, as have works on the three-boiler lines, including pressure testing of the boiler components. The project's principal contractor, Hitachi Zosen Inova (HZI) was also able to complete the installation of the facility's stacks (more on this on page 2).

On the exterior of the main facility, cladding to the majority of the buildings has also been installed and the internal fit out is on-going. In the coming months, the project team will be designing the facility's new visitor and education centre, which will be available for local communities, schools and colleges to use and visit once the plant begins operations in 2022.

Jack Stitt, Project Manager for Covanta explained: "I'm very proud of all construction personnel at the Rookery South site for redoubling their commitment to health and safety in a time of Covid-19. Their extraordinary efforts have enabled this complex build phase to safely remain on schedule throughout 2020. In 2021 we will complete the construction phase and move forward into testing and commissioning of all areas of the energy recovery facility to ensure each component is working as it should."

## Covanta Starts Local Recruitment for its Operations Team at Rookery South



Rookery South Facility Manager Ian Judd

With construction work progressing on-schedule, we have begun recruitment for over 50 new permanent operational positions at the Rookery South facility.

In an effort to source the best applicants from the local area whenever possible, and to better enable candidates from Bedfordshire and across neighbouring areas to apply, we've placed a series of adverts in local newspapers.

Ian Judd, Rookery South's new Facility Manager, explained more: "We've launched a Bedfordshire-wide recruitment campaign to fill a range of new operational and maintenance roles as we start to grow the Rookery South's operations team.

"We hope that people locally with the right skills will apply, and to assist this we're working with Bedfordshire's local authorities and Jobcentre Plus to promote these excellent opportunities. Further roles at the Rookery South facility will be advertised in the coming months and these will also be posted on the project website at [www.rookerysouth.co.uk](http://www.rookerysouth.co.uk)."

## Supporting the Vital Work of SMART Prebend Centre



The Rookery South team is proud to support the SMART Prebend Centre for the third year in a row. Their work with the homeless is more important than ever as we tackle Covid-19, winter and the severe impacts they can have on the most vulnerable in our communities. For those also interested in supporting their good work, please visit [www.smartcjs.org.uk](http://www.smartcjs.org.uk)

## Off-Site Work to Improve Road Safety



The new Stewartby level crossing

A number of activities have also taken place outside the main construction site in recent months, including the project-funded upgrade of the Stewartby level crossing by Network Rail. The upgraded crossing now offers an improved level of protection for all road users and pedestrians.

Looking ahead, the project team and Bedford Borough Council have been working to finalise plans to improve the safety and vehicle visibility at the Green Lane / C94

(Bedford Road / Woburn Road) T-junction. The intention is for these works to be completed early in 2021 under a combination of partial and full road closures to minimise the overall duration of the works and maintain safety for all road users and construction workers.

The scheme will also involve a reduction in the speed limit on part of the C94 to 50mph to further enhance road safety at this important junction. We appreciate your patience during this time and apologise for any inconvenience whilst these improvement works are carried out.

For more information, please visit Bedford Borough Council's website ([www.bedford.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/roads-and-pavements/roadworks/](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/roads-and-pavements/roadworks/))

## Rookery's Latest Construction Film



The project team has hired the services of Skyglide, an experienced, Bedfordshire-based filming company, that allows the team to produce regular films to show how the build is progressing over the 36-month construction phase.

The films use a combination of time-lapse and real-time footage, which are available for you to watch at [www.rookerysouth.co.uk/construction-progress](http://www.rookerysouth.co.uk/construction-progress).

## Your Questions Answered



### How was the colour of the Rookery South stacks selected?

The 2009/10 planning application process required detailed consultations with statutory bodies (including English Heritage and Bedfordshire's councils) and local communities, to determine a range of factors such as the number of stacks, the design process and their preferred colour.

The consultations concluded that the flue stacks should have a 'similar tonal appearance to the existing Stewartby brickwork chimneys, whilst maintaining a functional and efficient material for the use of the building.'

### Why is a bright red light needed at the top of the stacks?

Many structures across the UK, such as stacks, radio masts and wind turbines, are required to have high-intensity lighting for aviation safety reasons. The lighting, which is always bright red, makes tall structures more visible to aircraft at night and when impaired by poor weather conditions in daylight hours. The aircraft warning lighting at Rookery South conforms to Civil Aviation Authority regulations and is also a planning requirement.

For more information on these and other frequently asked questions, please visit [www.rookerysouth.co.uk/about-the-facility/faq](http://www.rookerysouth.co.uk/about-the-facility/faq).

## Contact & Additional Information

To find out more about the Rookery South Energy Recovery Facility, please visit the project website [rookerysouth.co.uk](http://rookerysouth.co.uk).

Should you have any construction site-related questions, please contact the Rookery South and HZI teams by emailing [rookery-project@hz-inova.com](mailto:rookery-project@hz-inova.com), or you can call the Site Manager, Chris Barbour on **07950 387 124**.

For any other questions or concerns on the construction works, please contact Central Bedfordshire Council on **0300 300 6039** or email [mwapapplications@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:mwapapplications@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) as the council works closely with the Rookery South project team to address any issues that may arise.

For further information or to contact us, visit: [rookerysouth.co.uk](http://rookerysouth.co.uk)

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