Balfour Beatty urbaser

UBB (Gloucestershire) Construction JV
Gloucestershire Energy from Waste Facility

Thank you for subscribing to the quarterly newsletter from the new Gloucestershire Energy from Waste Facility, now under construction at Javelin Park, close to Junction 12 of the M5 at Gloucester. The project is part of a joint venture between Urbaser and Balfour Beatty (UBB), to provide a key element of waste management infrastructure in line with the Gloucestershire's Joint Waste Management Strategy.

The first major structures started to appear above ground in September, with concrete casting of the waste storage bunker by continuous pouring or 'slip forming,' and the first steel framework to support the process plant. Process equipment will start to arrive on site over the next couple of months.

In addition to this quarterly community-based newsletter, we also publish regular construction update bulletins and attend regular Community Liaison Group meetings. To find out more about these, please visit our website at www.ubbgloucestershire.co.uk or for any queries please contact us directly: info@ubbgloucestershire.co.uk or contact Community & Engagement Manager Ian Barber on 07785 955 675.

With best wishes
Andrew Bendall
Urbaser Balfour Beatty Project Director

Project Update: Moving Ever Upwards

While below ground concrete works continued during the summer months, September saw the buildings start to emerge above ground, with the concrete bunker walls appearing almost overnight. The first elements of the steel frame construction - the supports for the turbine hall – have now been erected, which signals the start of the main process plant installation, and construction of the administration block/visitor centre.

From September we have started to see increased deliveries of construction steel and process plant elements. Additional highways signage has been provided to direct traffic to site.

In late September, utility company Western Power Distribution also began work to install the electricity cable, to take power from the site to the national grid connection at the Ryeford substation to the south of nearby Stonehouse. This work has been carefully programmed between now and next March to minimise disruption.

Waste Handling: Not just Tip and Go!

Good design and tight operational management are essential elements for the safe reception, unloading,

Site control starts at the weighbridge near the facility entrance, which records and directs every movement of heavy goods vehicles in and out of the site, including waste, consumables such as lime, and the 'export' of residues, processed bottom ash, and metals.

Design for site traffic is based on one direction circulation to avoid traffic conflict as far as possible, and entry of waste vehicles into the tipping hall is controlled by traffic lights. There are strict safety procedures for all delivery drivers for reversing into tipping bays, unsheeting/sheeting loads if necessary, and leaving the tipping hall. The hall has a 'quarantine area' where random loads can be set aside and inspected for waste composition and compliance.

Waste is discharged into a 14-metre-deep bunker, which has a capacity to provide around 11 days' storage of waste. Once in the bunker, the waste is continuously kept on the move by being picked up and mixed using the two overhead gantry cranes, each capable of lifting around five tonnes into the combustion grate feed hopper. Mixing the waste helps to provide an even composition of the waste feed.

Within the bunker building, a feed crusher is used to crush larger items of waste (mainly bulky residual waste from Household Recycling Centres), which are then remixed with the main feedstock. Infrared cameras are provided to detect any hot spots in the waste, and the bunker is equipped with fire detectors and water cannons.

Waste mixing and loading into the combustion grate feed hopper is done by the cranes either, in manual mode or automatically, with operations directed from the control room overlooking the bunker.

The drop into the feed hopper is the last part of the journey of waste from kerbside to energy recovery, which is carefully managed to ensure the safety of drivers and operatives, and regular and consistent feed to our 'power station.'

Considerate Constructors Scheme

In July we had the second assessment from the inspectors under the Considerate Contractors Scheme. For our operating practices, care of the environment, employee welfare, and community engagement, we scored the equivalent of 8.5/10. This is a high score and we are very pleased with the outcome. We will be working hard to maintain such a high standard, and improve wherever possible.

In the spotlight: Ian Hough, Health and Safety Manager

Responsibility for ensuring the health and safety of all personnel on site falls to Ian Hough (as in 'tough' - and you need to be pretty robust when you're looking after the interests of up to 350 people on a construction site).

What was your background before getting into construction?
Before becoming involved in construction I spent 14 years in the British Army as a medic and finally, an Emergency Nurse. During this time, I worked overseas on operational tours, and when it finally came time to leave the Army, I re-trained and worked offshore and on remote sites as medical support.

Often with these types of roles health and safety is combined, so I gained the industry qualification (NEBOSH) whilst working on an offshore rig on nightshifts.

Finally an opportunity came up to work on a massive construction project near home in a full time health and safety position. Since then I have spent the last 12 years on large construction projects around the country.

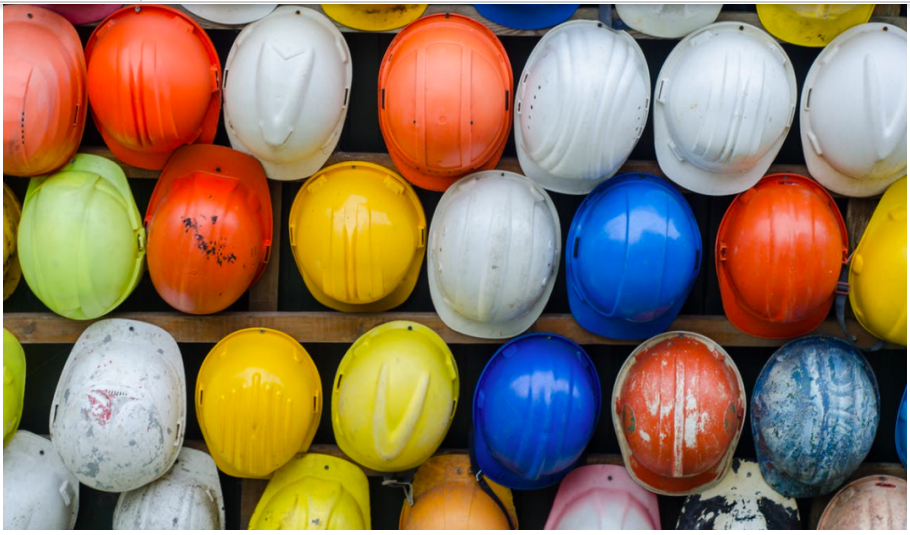
Who do you have to assist you with operations sometimes going into the night time?
Within the team I have an advisor on day shift and one on night shift. The team also has administrative support.

The rules on H&S are applied evenly to all workers, whatever the skill, craft or management level. Does this make life easier for you?
Consistency is the key to good management, regardless of the 'trade'. We don't treat anyone differently and everyone is expected to enforce the rules on site, which are ultimately there to ensure that no-one gets hurt and cannot make it home to their families.

What are the main tools in getting the H&S messages over to workers and site visitors?
Everyone coming on site is inducted, where we explain the key site rules. However, the health and safety team, along with the health and safety advisors employed by the contractors, are utilised to ensure everyone is following the rules.

We expect a lot from everyone, but construction is a dangerous environment to work in and mistakes can cost lives. Contractors working on site must produce risk assessments for every aspect of work. We ask for everyone to be briefed each day on the tasks, key safety messages and any co-ordination aspects. We also run safety incentives to thank those who go the extra mile.

Aside from the obvious gains of avoiding injury and downtime, does the construction project generally benefit from a good H&S culture and climate?
Everyone benefits from a good culture on site. If everyone understands the requirements and rules, and is prepared to follow them, everyone is happy coming to work knowing that the man next to them is going to work safely and not cause an accident. The key to good culture is communication. Having conversations is an essential skill for health and safety advisors. Get it wrong and people wont thank you for it, and wont buy into what your trying to achieve.

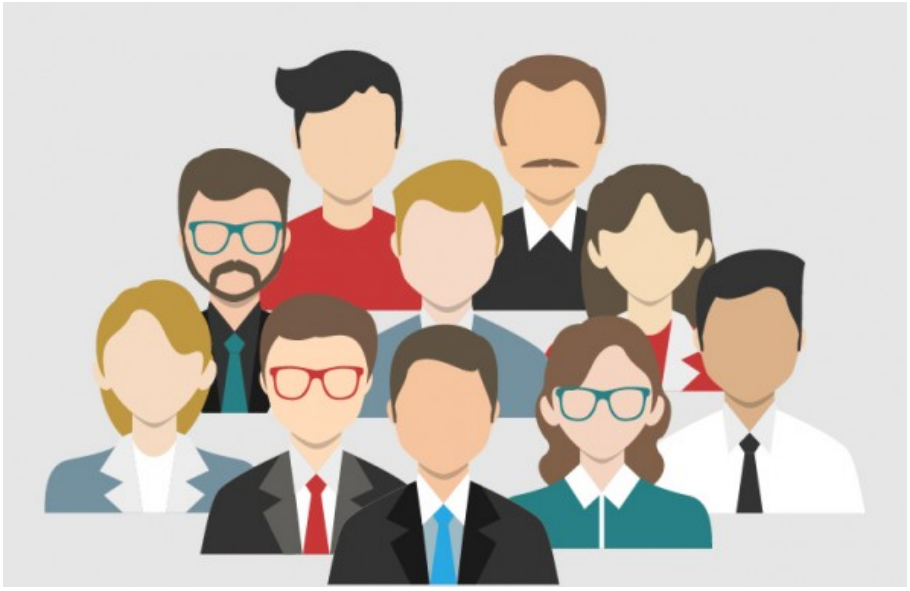


How much??

All this construction activity involving excavations, concrete pouring, and steelworks prompted the question: "Just how much of this stuff are we using?"

Turns out, it's quite a lot! Here are just some of the stats from the site to date:

- 15,860 cubic metres of concrete
- 1,970 tonnes of steel reinforcement in the concrete
- Over 3,000 metres of drainage pipes and ducting
- 52,370 cubic metres of excavation



Updates from the Community Liaison Group

The CLG continues to meet on a regular basis, and minutes are posted on the UBB web site. As well as progress updates and taking community feedback onboard, recent meetings have discussed the electricity grid connection, and recycling levels in Gloucestershire. We are planning to take another group of CLG members to see an operational EfW plant in October.

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For more information contact ***info@ubbgloucestershire.co.uk***