

Project News

This was done using a heavy duty lorry mounted Hiab, the lorry mounted system was used because a previous lift (to install site accommodation) using a conventional mobile crane had to be aborted due to high wind levels. The lorry mounted system has the capacity and reach required, but it is able to keep its jib at low levels, avoiding any high wind levels.

The new bypass pipework was then installed using the lorry mounted crane and then supported by a fully designed scaffold tower, lifting slings and block and tackle constructed around it.

The new gearbox and stem extension were fitted to the mainline valve (to bring it above ground) and all new vent and sealant lines were fitted to all valves.

All below ground plant was then coated with Multi Component Liquid SP4888 and the backfill commenced.

Once the backfill was complete, the above ground pipework and actuator top works were painted and the fence line was set out and a new palisade fence installed. Then came a general tidy up of the site, new pathways and replacing kerb stones. Other activities on site include fabrication, welding and pressure testing (small bore pipework only). All the bypass pipework was fabricated and tested in Ambergate”.

PMC Glasgow “race” against time to perform an emergency flowstop in Edinburgh

PMC Glasgow performed an emergency flowstop in Edinburgh whilst avoiding a “Bike for Parliament” road race and the Avengers film crew!

Bob Mcgregor, Network Technican explains: “We were asked by the customer to quote to flowstop an existing 120 year old 30” Cast Iron pipeline running through Edinburgh old town. The pipe runs at 410mbar and, as the pressure could not be reduced, we would have to carry out a Large Diameter Folding Head Stoppie, as against a traditional Iris Stop.

About 100 years ago, part of the old town was built over and this left the pipe running through a basement at Edinburgh University (see right).



This has only recently been discovered. We had a tight timescale to work to as there was a “Bike for Parliament” road race on the Saturday at 12:30pm and the route ran along the road we were working on. Also, the new Avengers movie was being filmed 400 yards along the street.

We started on Tuesday 18th April carrying out various under pressure drillings and, finally, dropped the stopples on Thursday 20th April to prove we had a satisfactory seal (which was never in doubt!).

We started early on Friday morning and carried out three 30” cold cuts to allow the customer to remove the old pipe and lay their new 630mm plastic pipe. However, we had an issue as the adaptors ordered and fitted by the customer were found to be too big.



PMC sourced new adaptors at 11:00pm on the Friday evening. Once fitted, to electrofuse the 630mm fittings and allow to cool, we were asked if we could return to site at 5.00am. We stayed over at a nearby hotel and returned to site at 5.00am the following morning.

After the customer tested for leaks and commissioned their new pipework, the crane returned to site to allow us to retract & remove our stopples from the pipe and blank flange our valves. This allowed the customer to temporarily tarmac the roadway, move the boundary fence and open up the route for the race. This was completed at 12:20pm! Just in time!

We returned on the Monday to set two 24” completion plugs, remove our Sandwich Valves and blank the flange.” The team consisted of Stuart McLaren, Finlay Badger, Brian Slaven, Les Reay & Bob Mcgregor.