

PMC complete another Principal Contractor project in Wold Newton with Block Valve re-life works

A team from PMC Ambergate have just completed a Block Valve re-life project, with PMC working as Principal Contractor. Works included the rationalisation of underground bridle pipework, replacement of valve actuators and stem extensions, as well as a fencing upgrade.

Bob Batchelor, Project Supervisor explains: “The first obstacle was to excavate the existing, buried valves, actuators and pipework. Due to the proximity to live pipework, the vac-ex technique was deployed to expose all plant down to a depth of approximately four meters. This, in itself, is a very safe method of working but the site had been previously excavated about two years earlier to fit new root valves to the buried bypass isolation valves and main line valve.

This presented its own difficulties because that excavation had been backfilled with pea shingle, a very loose material which is good to vac-ex but not very stable for heavy plant. Because of this, a change to our temporary works design was required.

This meant deploying more bog matting over a larger area of the site to support the movement and access of plant. Once complete, the excavation measured 16 metres. The previously isolated and vented bypass pipework and the existing gearbox/stem extension were then removed. (Continues over)



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).

