

Case Study ♦♦♦♦♦ Royal Mail, Nine Elms Lane, London SW8

Existing Structure & Location:

The site was owned by the Royal Mail Group and used as one of the main sorting and distribution offices serving the West London area.

The Mail Centre Building was closed in early 2012 in anticipation of the redevelopment of the area. The site was previously part of a former gas works constructed around 1930, a legacy of which has meant that the area was left with high concentrations of contamination within the soils.

The main building was constructed from a heavily reinforced concrete frame with solid floor slabs, with the single storey postal sorting area being a light-weight modular steel framed structure clad with aluminum panels.

Scope of Works:

- Demolition of the former Mail Centre building, associated loading bays and structures down to the top of the existing ground slab.
- Due to the contaminated ground a remediation package of works was also necessary.
- Removal of the high level footbridge.
- Removal of asbestos products.
- Diversion of existing power supplies to the Gatehouse and fuel island.
- Demolition of the 5 storey reinforced concrete structures which formed the main section of the building was carried out using a 'high reach' machine.
- Air pollution was kept to a minimum as we used substantial dampening down techniques to ensure that dust was controlled during the entire works.

- The low level metal structure was dismantled using 45T machines and disposed of from site.
- The resulting material from the reinforced concrete structure was processed to remove the reinforcing bar prior to crushing to 6F2. This was left stockpiled on site for the clients future use.
- The project objective was to demolish the existing Mail Centre down to ground level only with minimal impact to its operation and the existing Royal Mail staff. This involved close liaison the employer and the associated Trade Union Associations, keeping them fully informed at all times regarding progress and method of works.
- Our works included adjustments to the existing one way system, the use of temporary road closures, working outside normal hours and removing the operational footbridge.
- The environmental emissions generated from the demolition activities were closely monitored by the site team who strategically placed remote noise, vibration and dust monitors to the perimeter of the site.

Conclusion / Key Achievements:

During the "out of hours" work, we were able to remove a large section of the east elevation of the structure with minimum disruption to Royal Mail operations, which was achieved with careful planning & regular consultation with Royal Mail Management and Staff.

Awards:

In recognition of the works carried out on the busy live Royal Mail site, John F Hunt was awarded The Considerate Constructors Bronze Award.



Client: Royal Mail Group and M3 Consulting

Value: £380,000.00

Structural Engineer: Halcrow Group Limited

Works Duration: 12 weeks



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