

## WORLD CONSERVATION & EXHIBITIONS CENTRE

For more information, visit [britishmuseum.org/wcec](http://britishmuseum.org/wcec)

The construction of the World Conservation and Exhibitions Centre is progressing well and remains on schedule for completion in late 2013. This important new building will house state-of-the-art laboratories and studios for the conservation, preservation and research of the collection, a new special exhibitions suite, world-class stores for the study of the collection as well as facilities to support the Museum's extensive national and international loans programme.

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Key milestones for 2011 are:

Milestone	Target date (subject to change)
Substructure commences	July 2011
First tower crane erected	August 2011
Piling complete	August 2011
Bottoming out (completion of excavation)	November 2011



Rendered view of new Centre on Montague Place

### 1 Construction update and looking ahead

The last of the demolition work is now complete and piling has been able to progress in earnest. The piling rigs that occupy the site each weigh in excess of 100 tonnes and reach a height of nearly 30 metres. These large rigs drill boreholes around the perimeter of the site to a depth of approximately 20 metres. The boreholes are reinforced and filled with concrete, creating a continuous or secant piled wall which will form the structural basement of the new centre. Load-bearing piles in the body of the site are also being installed

which, along with the secant wall, will provide foundations for the building. The next major stage of work is the bulk excavation to form the deep basement which commences in July. A reinforced concrete wall, or capping beam, will be installed to join the tops of all the secant piles together. When the capping beam is complete in a particular area, temporary props will be attached to it. The props keep the secant wall in position during the bulk excavation. As the basement goes deeper additional props will be installed.



Piling rig in the project site, May 2011



Site activity, May 2011



Piling rig in the project site, May 2011

## 2 Designing the new Centre



*Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead exhibition, November 2010 – March 2011*



*Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead exhibition, November 2010 – March 2011*



*Architectural impression of special exhibitions gallery*

## 3 Site accommodation

Activity has also been taking place outside of the project site. As detailed in the last newsletter, the project site accommodation has now been installed above Malet Street and Montague Place. The accommodation provides facilities for the project workforce engaged in both building and managing the project. It will be operational in July.

Over the next few months there will be some further visible changes on the project. Most notable of these will be a revised hoarding to the front of the site

on Montague Place with two pairs of gates installed with a covered pedestrian walkway adjacent to this hoarding over the footpath. This covered walkway is to protect pedestrians on the footpath when lifting operations commence unloading lorries on Montague Place. The unloading of lorries, which will be strictly marshalled, will be undertaken by two tower cranes both of which will be erected within the project site. The first of these cranes is due to be erected in early August and the second in early September.

Architects Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners are leading a design team made up of service and structural engineers as well as a range of specialist consultants and designers. Together with Construction Manager Mace, the design team continues to work closely with the Museum on all aspects of the building's design.

With the exterior and technical design elements broadly in place, the team is starting to finalise plans for the interior and fit-out of the new building – from the light-filled conservation studios at the top of the Centre to the specialised scientific laboratories at the bottom, and the spacious temporary exhibition gallery which will be accessed via the Great Court. The World Conservation and Exhibitions Centre will provide world-class facilities for both the visitors and staff who occupy it.

The procurement of future works packages is a major activity for the project team. Appointments have recently been made for both vehicle and passenger lifts with current tender activity including the structural steel frame, the building envelope and the mechanical and electrical services packages.



*Conserving an ancient Egyptian shroud  
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## 4 Who to contact

If you have any questions or would like more information about the project, please contact Heidi Weeks on 020 7323 8713 or [wcec@britishmuseum.org](mailto:wcec@britishmuseum.org)

If you have any questions regarding the activities on site, you can also contact Willie Shaw at Mace on [willie.shaw@macegroup.com](mailto:willie.shaw@macegroup.com)