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Summary

Throughout the project Mace has maintained the highest levels of health and safety on site. This was reaffirmed in July when the project reached one million man hours without a major incident. This is a huge achievement for the project and the Museum congratulates everyone at Mace who has worked together with all the contractors on site in order to achieve this momentous milestone!

Last month saw the removal of the first of our two tower cranes. The tower cranes have been an essential part of the construction of the new Centre, and their removal marks yet another milestone as the project moves towards building completion at the end of this year.



The Museum acknowledges the generous support of the Heritage Lottery Fund, who have confirmed a £10 million grant for the WCEC. The HLF's support will provide resources to enable the Museum to expand its innovative outreach and public engagement, and maintain the highest standards of collections care.



Site and design update

Internal works are progressing at pace in the Sainsbury Exhibitions Gallery with the laying of the polished concrete floor now underway. Major pipework that serves the air handling units is complete and power to all the main services plant rooms has been installed, tested and turned on.

The external façade is developing rapidly with the first pieces of Portland stone now in place and the cast glass progressing over all elevations. The foundations of the green roof have been formed and a roof-mounted cradle system installed to allow access to the façades of the building for cleaning and maintenance purposes. The truck and passenger lifts are progressing. External works to the landscape areas have begun with planters formed.

The design of storage racking for the basement areas has been finalised and sample racking installed. The Museum's Exhibitions team are working closely with the project team on the design of the first exhibition in the new gallery. The links to connect the new and existing buildings are progressing. The only public connection to the new building will be from the Great Court, but a series of back-of-house connections are being formed, including a link bridge from the lower landing of the North stairs.



WCEC Collections Hub.

Moving objects across the Great Court.

Alan Lovett, Contracts Manager Mace Logistics.

Inside the building

A recent survey by *The Art Newspaper* (June 2013) listed the British Museum as 'the world's largest lender', highlighting the fact that over the past year the Museum has lent a record number of 4,502 objects to other institutions for display in the UK and overseas.

The current facilities for this kind of work are spread throughout the Museum and are far from adequate to support the steady increase in loans over recent years. Accommodating large vehicles on site has also become increasingly challenging. The WCEC will provide a dedicated suite of storerooms, workshops and a loading bay exclusively for assembling, despatching, and receiving loans and exhibitions. The new truck lift will enable us to accommodate the largest of fine art haulage vehicles, allowing plenty of room for staff to safely and securely load and unload objects. The workshops and storerooms will provide plenty of space to prepare objects for loan – making support armatures for display, photographing the objects, as well as carrying out the bespoke packing of each object to prepare them for transportation. The new workshops and loading bay will enable us to handle very large objects more easily. The extra capacity will allow us to prepare more than one large touring exhibition at a time, as well as all the many individual items which are regularly lent to museums and galleries both near and far.

The WCEC will help support the Museum's programme of exhibitions and loans, meaning that more audiences across the UK and around the world will continue to benefit by sharing the riches of the Museum's truly global collection, and visitors to Bloomsbury will be able to see exhibitions of a size and scale not previously possible.

Meet the team

Alan Lovett, Contracts Manager for Mace Logistics, is responsible for supplying the logistical provisions for the WCEC site. From the security and access controls to the management of the site delivery strategy and fire and emergency procedures, Mace Logistics ensures that the site remains a safe working environment.

'Working next to such a prominent building like the British Museum has been hugely challenging from a logistical perspective. With the rest of the Museum remaining open to the public throughout the course of the construction, we have had to ensure the highest levels of logistical provision in order to allow for the construction to progress without causing any disruption to the members of the public, and staff working within the existing Museum building.

'I would like to thank the logistics team for all of their continual hard work and dedication to the project, especially when managing the fire and emergency strategy which has proven extremely complex.

'This is a legacy project that will no doubt stand the test of time, and is something that I am proud to say I have been a part of!'



Who to contact

If you have any questions or would like more information about the project, please contact Louise Fenner on 020 7323 8858 or wcec@britishmuseum.org

If you have any questions regarding the activities on site you can also contact Willie Shaw at Mace on 020 8256 9527 or willie.shaw@macegroup.com