

Case Study - Underground Gas Storage Tank Removal

Client: Edmund Nuttall Ltd
Duration: 7 weeks
Location: Nechells, Birmingham



Background

A large scale ground reclamation contract on the site of this former gas storage facility involved removal of a massive underground gas storage tank and superstructure.

Scope of Works

WM Plant Hire were contracted to provide long reach plant for safe removal of the tank with concentric steel layers extending deep below ground. With a diameter of over 50 metres and the central area sloping steeply to the base, access proved a particular challenge.

Solution

Detailed planning and risk assessments were drawn up to identify hazards and safe systems of work. The 90t Caterpillar 375 with a reach of 26m and capable of lifting over 4 tonnes at maximum reach was needed to reach the bottom of the tank safely and remove each section. To deal with any contaminated material environmental measures were implemented. Digging to a depth over 17m, the extended reach and lifting power of this large excavator was especially suited for this work.

Particular attention was given to completing the operation safely and avoiding any environmental impact.

The use of WM Plant Hire's specialist long reach plant removed the need for personnel to enter the deep excavation and controlled the movement of the steel tank lining sheets. Their highly skilled operator was able to safeguard the environment and promote safe working.