

Rochester Riverside Development

Preliminary Engineering Works

Client :
Medway Council / SEEDA

Designer :
Royal Haskoning

Location :
Rochester, Kent

Date :
2005 - 2007



The Rochester Riverside scheme was a flagship brownfield regeneration project in Medway, part of the Thames Gateway growth area. The 30 hectare former industrial site occupies a spur of reclaimed land on the southern bank of the River Medway, near to the historic town centre of Rochester.

The northern part of the site, a former gas works, had a legacy of contaminated soil and groundwater, including the gravel aquifer beneath the site.

The aim of the project was to create a platform for future mixed use development of the site. This required the import of 400,000m³ of fill material and provision of a new 2.2km river frontage to provide flood protection for a 1 in 200 year flood event.

Environmental sustainability was a major driver in meeting both the remediation targets and in limiting the impact of the works on neighbouring residents and businesses. Achieving this objective involved the application of several remediation technologies. BAM Nuttall was awarded the 2007 Brownfield Briefing Innovation Award for Best Use of Combined Treatment Systems.

Rochester Riverside was one of the first projects in the UK to utilise Recovery Waste Management Licences for dredged waste. The use of dredged waste for beneficial use saved 40,000 potential lorry movements.

A bioremediation treatment process was utilised to break down and destroy contaminants into non-toxic by-products so that the soil could be re-used on site. This technique treated over 76,000m³ of contaminated soil, with only 1.7% of cyanide-impacted material being removed from site. Some 15,000 lorry movements were avoided, reducing the carbon footprint, the burden on transport links and landfill sites.

The biodiversity of the inter-tidal habitats along the river was retained by translocating existing plant species to a nursery, where seeds were taken and the plants grown on for re-planting on the site. In July 2007, about 40,000 plants were brought back from the nursery and planted within the newly formed creek areas, covering a surface area of some 8,500m².



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