

Background

In May this year Ribble Valley and South Ribble Borough Councils granted outline planning permission to develop the BAE Systems site at Samlesbury, subject to an associated legal agreement called a Section 106 and specific conditions of planning. The development will help provide the infrastructure, skilled employees and capability that is needed to deliver key international military air programmes to our armed forces on the frontline and will feature a number of key elements:

- The creation of a new site entrance which will provide safer entry and exit to and from the site on the A59
- New modern working accommodation – providing the optimum environment which will allow co-location of critical resource
- State of the art new production facilities which will be matched to workload demands
- The expansion of our facilities is essential to sustain current jobs, and has the potential to create a significant number of new jobs, thereby strengthening and underpinning the future of aerospace in Lancashire



The aerospace industry is vital to the North West and the development at Samlesbury will offer big benefits to the sector in this part of the world. It will sustain current jobs and has the potential to create further opportunities for growth.

The development is also consistent with the UK MoD's Defence Industrial Strategy; the blueprint for the future of the industry in the UK which calls for a fundamental transformation of the military air sector. In essence, this is one of the first key steps in that process. We are looking at ways to optimise our facilities and assets, match capacity with the anticipated demand and make the right improvements.

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Samlesbury site development update Jan 2008



Welcome to the second of our newsletters regarding the development of BAE Systems Samlesbury site. These newsletters are part of BAE System's continued activities to ensure that our Samlesbury workforce and the local community are kept fully informed about the development of our site. These newsletters are intended to complement, not replace, the consultation process by giving you a quick update on recent activities, plans for the site and key events.

If you have any specific concerns or issues at any time please do not hesitate contact me or Ashleigh McClure on tel. 01772 855572 who will be happy to answer any questions you may have.



Dave Holmes
Director of Investment and Strategic Planning



Back in July 2007 detailed planning permission was granted by Ribble Valley Borough Council for two new accommodation complexes. These buildings are the first phase of our overall development and are four storey 700 person modern flexible office accommodation units which will allow the co-location of critical people resource.

Permission to develop the site was dependant on BAE Systems meeting a number of mandatory local planning authority conditions, the majority of which had to be implemented before work could start on site. As such since July we have worked hard to prepare the site ready for the commencement of building work. Conditions included wildlife, archaeology, renewable energy and highways.



Environment and Ecology

An ecological survey took place earlier in the year which found that BAE Systems Samlesbury site was home to Great Crested Newts.

Protected by law, disturbing the newts can incur a £5,000 fine (per newt) and as such a licence was required from Natural England in order to relocate them to an existing breeding pond area on the other side of Samlesbury site.

Traps were set and it took 40 days to ensure that the area was free of newts. 20 trapping nights (dictated by temperature, wind and moisture) plus another five consecutive newt free nights

The elusive newts weren't the first wildlife that the development had to contend with. From February to July the site had nesting birds. An ornithologist was hired to confirm when the chicks had fledged and it would be clear for work to commence.

Archaeology

Prior to the Samlesbury site becoming an airfield in 1939 it was home to a number of farmhouses. Consequently the site has archaeological significance and the county archaeologist expressed an interest in finding out more. In order to do this part of the construction area has been fenced off so that the remains of the farmhouses can be examined and detailed records made.



View looking north-north-east in 1939 to make way for Samlesbury Aerodrome



Looking east, showing Inglewood in the background. Demolished 1939 to make way for the Samlesbury Aerodrome

Front view, looking south. Demolished 1939 to make way for Samlesbury Aerodrome

Renewable Energy

Another condition specifies that 10% of the energy to be used by the new development must come from renewable sources. The new buildings will achieve that by using:

- Night-time cooling - which means using the outside air to cool the building structure overnight which then cools the internal environment for a part of the day, rather than using electrically powered coolers to bring down temperatures
- Controlled lighting - that only switches on when it's needed
- The installation of a biomass boiler to supplement the heating system

Highways

We committed at an early stage to consult on a regular basis with our local residents, and with the welcome help of the Parish Councillors, have listened to their concerns about traffic. These concerns were then fed through to the traffic and highway experts. Work is being done to lessen the traffic impact of the development - a new site entrance will be created, work will be done at the nearby Swallow Hotel, and traffic calming measures introduced at Mellor village. Eventually we may have to go back as far as the M6 junction 31, with different packages of road works triggered at different times according to the density of traffic going to and from the site.



The Next Phase

Building works have recently commenced on the two new accommodation blocks. These will continue throughout 2008 with occupation of these buildings taking place provisionally from early 2009. In order that the buildings works cause as little disruption to our local residents as possible we have agreed with our various contractors that all of their vehicles gain access to the site using only the main A roads. This has been written into their contracts and will be continually monitored.

We are currently constructing the foundations for these first two buildings and in order to do this the construction company is using a method called piling, where metal rods and concrete stakes are driven into the ground. There is some noise associated with this method. To give you an example of this; from 20m the typical noise level is approx 70dB, which is the typical background noise level in an open plan lively business office. The noise is a repetitive percussion type noise similar to a bass-drum noise and approx 1 hammer drop every 2 seconds.

In addition, we have recently submitted a planning application to Ribble Valley Borough Council for a new entrance to and from the sports and social club. This will improve access for local residents and allow them to use the facilities without having to enter the main BAE Systems site. A further two planning applications will be submitted in April 2008 for a new reception facility for the new main site entrance and a Material Engineering and Structural Test (MEST) Facility.