

SCHEME

RAF Gibraltar Drainage System

CLIENT

Ministry of Defence

CONSULTANT

TPS Consultant

CONTRACTOR

Mowlem

PIPE APPLICATION

5000m of 400mm to 2000mm diameter
WEHOLITE HDPE pipe

WEHOLITE handles the rain from Spain

WEHOLITE plastic pipe was installed at the RAF airfield in Gibraltar by Mowlem as part of a major £7.6 million upgrading scheme to replace an old clay pipe drainage and concrete culvert system whilst resurfacing hardstanding areas.

The aim of the drainage scheme is to improve speed of removal of rainwater and the quality of discharge to comply with current European standards. The work was undertaken in three phases to ensure that two of the base's three hardstanding areas were accessible at any given time, allowing the RAF and civilian airlines use of the airfield.

"It was written into the contract that all products had to meet British Standard specification," said Mowlem's Project Engineer Kenny MacNaughton. "However, when all factors were taken into account, WEHOLITE

was still found to be comparable on cost to the concrete alternatives which could have been sourced locally in Spain."

In an unusual move, the new drainage system was designed with sufficient capacity to act as a reservoir able to hold up to 2200m³ of run-off. This is needed because the airfield is only a few metres above sea level and there is danger of seawater backing up into the system at times of high tide and strong onshore winds, usually accompanied by heavy rain.

The system is therefore fitted with crimp valves to seal off the outfalls from the sea thus enabling the system to act as a large attenuation tank, holding back the run-off until it can be safely discharged to sea.

THE ESSENTIAL SOLUTION FOR PIPE USERS NATIONWIDE

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