

Laing O'Rourke pave the first private runway for 60 years.



After years of pursuing planning permission to build an all-weather runway at Sywell Aerodrome, consent was awarded in April 2008 to build the 1.5km, 30m wide runway at this historic site. Laing O'Rourke were engaged in May 2008 to deliver the concrete paving for the new runway

Working closely with Sywell Aerodrome, an integrated approach was developed for designing, producing and placing the runway pavement that ensured everyone worked towards delivering a high quality finished product. Laing O'Rourke's specialist plant division

Select, which owns and manages a Guntert and Zimmerman S850 high performance mid-range slipform paver engaged Laing O'Rourke Infrastructure materials specialist to work internally to develop a high quality pavement concrete using locally sourced multi-supplier constituents.

With effective transitions from laboratory, plant and paving trials, runway full production paving commenced in September 2008. Over the next eight weeks 11,000 cubic metres of pavement concrete was laid to complete this runway, noting that the site batching plant



was a Leibherr mobilmix 2.25 which peaked at around 60 cubic metres an hour of production. All aspects of the pavement delighted Sywell design team – laying tolerance, texture, durability and consistency all met the high standards demanded by the integrated team. The new Sywell PQ design and the rapid deployment into full production placement amounts to a job well done.

There were four Select employees on the site from 1st September and a further four men were employed locally. Select's high safety standards set the benchmark on this job which were adopted by the entire workforce, including subcontractors and agency labour.

As the first light aircraft runway for the UK that has been built in the last 60 years, Sywell aerodrome with its fantastic historic heritage finally has its all-weather runway which hopefully will see the desired increase in corporate traffic into the aerodrome and give it a long-term hub status for the East Midlands.

