

LANDMARK STRUCTURE BITES THE DUST



Down down: The last pile of rubble awaiting safe disposal

The expert demolition of a landmark structure at the Wilton International site has been completed.

Work on the removal of the 450ft (137 Metre) Number 4 stack at Wilton Power Station began a year ago. Specialist industrial steeplejack firm PC Richardson and Co (Middlesbrough) carried out the work and the concrete stack has now been reduced to a pile of rubble.

Brian Mitchell, Maintenance Planning Manager, said: "Safety was the top priority throughout and the job was completed in a professional, controlled manner without accident or incident."

The giant stack has been a feature of the Teesside industrial skyline since it was erected to accompany No. 6 Boiler in around 1960. The last of Sembcorp's coal fired boilers at the station closed in 2014 and the UK Government has since announced that all coal fired power production in the UK is to cease by 2025.

Today, Sembcorp Utilities UK operates a range of more modern units to produce power including a £65 million Biomass Power Station – utilising around 300,000 tonnes a year of sustainably sourced wood as its fuel - two gas turbines, a steam turbine and a number of package boilers.

Parent company Sembcorp Industries is also a joint venture partner with Suez in the £250 million Merseyside Energy Recovery waste to energy plant, annually utilising around 440,000 tonnes of household and office waste - minus elements which can be recycled - as its fuel. The plant has been producing power and steam at the site since the end of 2016.



End game...the crane sets to work on the final elements of the demolition



Spare us the cutter...the giant cutting tool that did the damage



The way we were...Brian Mitchell poses next to the 450ft stack at the start of the work in 2016