

WHITEHOUSE CENTRE, SCOTSWOOD

Contract: Whitehouse Centre, Scotswood

Client: Newcastle City Council

Principal Contractor: Thompsons of Prudhoe

Contract Duration: 7.5 months

Contract Value: £1 million



The Whitehouse Centre, located within the Scotswood area of Newcastle, was built in 1963 as an abattoir and meat market. Although it was later converted into commercial and industrial business units, it became vacant and Newcastle City Centre took the decision to demolish it as part of a plan to redevelop the area. The abattoir building was a reinforced concrete structure, measuring three storeys high. The former meat market was an adjacent low level building. Both were set to be demolished, including internal fixtures and fittings, foundations, and pipework. A number of the internal reinforced walls were to remain intact, as was the existing surface water drainage systems, and foul and surface water sewers.

Due to the nearby city centre and busy public highway, a safety fence was erected around the perimeter of the site, with a fully manned access gate to prevent unauthorised access. Additional internal fencing was utilised to segregate demolition exclusion zones within the perimeter of the site.

The project commenced with the asbestos removal and soft strip of both buildings to prepare them for demolition. Using the Komatsu 750 High Reach, a remote demolition method was utilised to take down the buildings in a controlled fashion, with minimal disruption to the surrounding buildings and members of the public. Due to the high amount of concrete in the structure, a fire engine was onsite at all times to suppress the dust generated by the works. All waste generated was segregated ready to be recycled or disposed of. Only a small percentage of the waste, such as the asbestos, was sent to landfill. Materials such as concrete, of which there was around 80,000 tonnes, were processed on site before being transported to our recycling facilities for reuse. Finally, the site was graded to ensure a safe and level surface, before being spread with topsoil in accordance with the contract specifications.