

# Case study 630

## Sykes assist historic excavation project

Before the Museum of London Archaeology could commence a high-profile excavation project, a pump arrangement had to be sourced in order to remove huge quantities of restrictive groundwater. The organisation were looking to locate part of a city defence wall near the St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and this was estimated to have originally been built around 200 AD. This required digging to depths of below 5 metres which, in some areas, was 3 metres below the water level.

Sykes Pumps were subsequently contacted by the construction company in charge and tasked with providing an appropriate hire solution. We arranged for a sales engineer to visit the site and discuss the best way to dewater dig areas without impacting on other parts of the development. The decision was then made to use a well pointing process, which involves a high pressure jetting pump forcing multiple 6 metre holes into the ground. PVC rods are then placed inside newly-formed voids to pump down the groundwater level in localised spaces.

Two 6" Super Wispa pumpsets and hoses were delivered to site after the well points had been set up. These two units were operating 24/7 to make sure archaeological pits were kept safe and dry. By using a settlement tank and flow meters, the location was permitted to discharge directly into an adjacent sewer system.

This arrangement worked exactly as planned and saved the contractor both money and time. Sykes Pumps were able to reduce the water level within 24 hours of the initial enquiry, meaning there was never a point when work had to stop. At this juncture, pumps were gradually slowed to conserve fuel but left constantly running to keep water at bay. In total, the equipment remained on hire for approximately two months, facilitating a seamless excavation at a historic spot in London.



Performance Max head: 38m, Max flow:  
90 l/s, Max solid: 52mm  
Weight 1990kg with fuel, 1800kg  
without fuel  
Dimensions (mm) 2310 x 1250 x 1535  
Noise level @7m = 65 dBA  
Fuel tank capacity 175 litres  
Pipe connections Suction: 6" table D,  
Discharge: 6" table D, Bauer couplings  
option  
Energy Efficient duty point Fuel  
consumption @ 1500 rpm: 4.1 litres/h



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