



**Client** Stanhope Plc  
**Type** Demolition, Environmental and Groundworks  
**Location** White City, Hammersmith & Fulham, London

**Sector** Mixed-use  
**Procurement** Traditional with CDP  
**Value** £20M

## BBC Television Centre



The McGee's scope of works included soft strip, asbestos, demolition of the central wedge area, Studios 4, 5, 6 and 7, the restaurant block, the drama block, including two 40 meter chimney stacks and the careful deconstruction of three Link bridge structures. On completion of the Studio structures McGee were awarded a ground works package which included installing a 150 meter perimeter sheet pile wall and perimeter ring road hard standing road.

### The Main Block - Iconic Helios Building:

From the onset McGee were tasked with a large scale Soft strip and Asbestos removal to the Helios and studios structures which included an undercroft of service runs between the ground floor and basement area, a floor to ceiling height of only 1m. From start to finish the job was meticulously planned from the removal of Asbestos within the undercroft structure to the hard demolition of the Studio structures.

Demolition works commenced with the removal of Plant rooms and a central wedge structure which can be seen from below. A top down demolition

methodology was adopted for the reinforced concrete encased composite steel structure, serviced by two tower cranes.

Once the Central wedge structure was demolished down to ground floor level this paved the way for our second Phase of demolish with introduction to site of the renowned McGee Volvo 460 long reach excavator.

Due to the spans of the studio roofs and the sequence of long reach demolition works the roofs had to be removed prior to the demolition of the huge external cantilever walls.



### Iconic Satellite Dishes

The iconic satellite dishes were safely and carefully taken down in order to be reused elsewhere.

The final dish to be removed, which was 11 metres in diameter and weighed in at 8.4 tonnes, was used to distribute programming in the UK.

Lifting a dish of this nature is not a straightforward operation as McGee had to carry out a considerable amount of background checks on how to lift the dishes not damaging them. Liaison was sought with London Underground and Transport for London due to the close proximity of the LUL Hammersmith and City Tube line, adding even more layers of complexity to the operation.



### The Drama Block

This building officially called the design block, was completed in 1953. The Scenery Block, covering nearly an acre, accommodated the Design Department. At the back of the building a scenic artists studio (Paint room) was constructed enabling backcloths to be painted. These scenery workshops, and the drama block were reinforced concrete frame buildings with a distinctive barrel-vaulted ceiling and rows of circular rooflights.

### Perimeter Sheet Pile Wall

Sheet piles were used as a temporally earth retention system and provided a cut-off through the River Terrace Deposits to the underlying London Clay. A hard standing perimeter site service road was created adjacent the sheet pile wall.

In order to control groundwater levels within River Terrace Deposits and to facilitate the baulk excavation dig for the permanent work, an array of wells were developed and installed. Using discharge and recharge wells we could reduce groundwater levels across the affected areas allowing the construction phase to progress.