

King's Cross, Gasholder No.8, King's Cross, London, King's Cross Central Limited Partnership (KCCLP)

The iconic gasholders have been residents of King's Cross for over 150 years. Now without any gas to hold they are being refurbished for a whole new use. Originally constructed in the 1850s by the Imperial Gas Light and Coke Company, the gasholders formed part of the Pancras Gasworks, cited alongside the Regent's Canal, thought to be largest gasworks in the world.

There were nine substantial gasholders at the gasworks, seven of which remained until the construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL) works at St Pancras station. All but one of the remaining gasholders were taken down, the exception being Gasholder No.8 the last standing gas holder, until it too was dismantled in 2011. Gasholder No.8 is a Grade II listed (and on the English Heritage 'At Risk' register) structure with 16 hollow cylindrical cast iron columns in two tiers. It has cast iron column capitals and two levels of wrought iron riveted lattice girders.

Gasholder No.8 forms part of the new 67 acre development at King's Cross and the King's Cross Central Limited Partnership, responsible for delivering the development, committed to celebrating the industrial heritage of the site, is restoring more than 20 historic buildings and structures.

The Gasholder No.8 project has involved the painstaking dismantling and refurbishment of the guide frame. After the dismantling work took place in 2011 the gasholder was transported column by column, beam by beam, to Shepley Engineers Ltd in Yorkshire. Due to the size and construction of the gas holders, existing skills had to be developed further to enable the works to be completed.

During the refurbishment in 2011/12, which included sand blasting the structure to carry out repairs to the cast iron, it was possible to determine that Gasholder No.8 had been painted 28 times over its lifetime. As part of the refurbishment the frame has been painted a dark black/grey to reflect the paint schemes, 20, 22 and 28 from the gasholder's paint history.

Gasholder No.8 is now gradually returning to King's Cross and is being re-erected by contractor BAM Nuttall on the north side of the Regent's Canal, close to the western



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boundary of the King's Cross development. The re-erection works started in May 2013 and are due to complete toward the end of 2013.

Over the two year restoration period of Gasholder No.8, Shepley Engineers in Yorkshire have not only hired an additional four employees and three apprentices, but they have also safeguarded the employment of the current workforce, which consists of up to 20 skilled operatives as well as supporting a local supply chain in the South Yorkshire and Lancashire area.

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