

No intrusion on paradise

Installation of a FLEXWELL® Safety Pipe as a fill pipe in nature reserve to maintain the heat supply on the island of Vilm



Jürgen Vellage,
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„The 232-acre island of Vilm lies southeast and is a treasure of the Baltic coast. The forests of ancient oaks and stately beech trees are among the most impressive woodland images in all of northern Germany and were declared a nature reserve in 1936. I was deep impressed, that the laying of 95 m pipeline took only one day.“



Until 1990 this island was used for a guest house by the Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic. Nowadays, the island is a branch office of the Federal Agency of Nature Conservation. It serves the International Academy of Nature Conservation as venue and two researching departments (Biodiversity and Ocean and Coast Nature Conservation) as operating seat.

Before a contract could be finalized, an RFP pursuing two solutions was sent out. The first envisioned the analysis and possible repair of the systems; the second called for the complete replacement of the 95-meter-long pipeline.

Those responsible decided to completely replace this pipeline, which at that time had functioned for 16 years without incident. This meant BRUGG Pipesystems had to be prepared for all eventualities.

The material, a FLEXWELL® Safety Pipe Type 60/83 (DN50), was transported by the company's own assembly vehicle in a single length on a wooden drum as far as the harbor in Lauterbach. In the harbor, the drum and trailer were transferred to a barge by a loading crane.

People who work on the island are ferried to the island and back on a small passenger ship. A barge, which is schlepped along at the side of the passenger ship, is available for transporting goods. When the seas are rough, however, the barge is not used for safety reasons. The trailer with the pipe and all the materials necessary for laying and installing the pipe enjoyed calm seas during transit.

BRUGG had only a few hours to disassemble the faulty pipeline, dig the trench and lay the new pipe, and finally to prepare the defective pipes for removal. Laying the pipeline was made more difficult by a vertical rise of 8 meters from the landing point to the heating plant. Thanks to the flexibility of the FLEXWELL® Safety Pipe, it was easy to route trench for the pipeline around water lines and conduits crossing the trench.



Transferring the pipe drum to the barge



Tying up on the island of Vilm



Unrolling the pipe

Solutions for the future

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Using an endless FLEXWELL® Safety Pipe in conjunction with proper preparation of all the tradesmen involved guaranteed that the work ran smoothly and with great time savings.

And the idyllic nature reserve was back to its daily routine in the briefest of times.



Location of the island of Vilm



Minimal excavation spares the ecosystem

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