Osborne IOW. Royal Glasshouse.





MHG provides heating for former royal glasshouses

A ProCon HT gas-fired condensing boiler from MHG Heating, specified by consulting engineers Martin Thomas Associates, has replaced two elderly boilers serving greenhouses at Osborne on the Isle of Wight. MHG also supplied a plate heat exchanger and flexible plastic flue lining system.

The former royal residence, in East Cowes, was constructed as a summer home and rural retreat for Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. One of the features of the estate is a walled garden which housed a number of glasshouses, though only two of the original structures remained when English Heritage took over the site in 1984. These have been restored and one now contains a traditional Victorian staged bedding display.

"The previous cast-iron boilers serving the glasshouses were experiencing frequent failures so a decision was taken to replace them with a more reliable and efficient modern gas-fired condensing boiler," recalled Paul Trew of Martin Thomas Associates. "It was also necessary to protect the new boiler from any debris in the original cast-iron pipework system, which was achieved by using a plate heat exchanger as a system separator. The new boiler is on a pressurised primary circuit, while the system remains open-vented."

The 150kW ProCon HT boiler was installed by Cowes-based contractor Clarke's Mechanical and has been connected to the existing brick stack, which has been re-lined with MHG's flexible flue lining system. The boiler's onboard controls allow the two greenhouses to be controlled independently of each other to enhance energy efficiency.

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