

# Headlines

Headlines is the newsletter of Hydrock: a leading provider of consultancy and specialist contracting services for construction, infrastructure and the environment

July 2006

## Hydrock's Menu for Success Awarded Three Stars

Following its success in the Times Top 100 Best SME Companies to Work for List, has been awarded the highest rating in a newly launched scheme which rewards good employment practices and workplace engagement. Hydrock was one of only 41 companies nationwide to receive a 3-star rating in the Best Companies Accreditation Scheme. The 'Michelin' style scheme is judged on eight factors of workplace engagement" says



Dr Pete Bradon, head of research at Best Companies, " and achieving three-star accreditation is tough. It doesn't matter how many balloon trips or days out at the races a company arranges for its employees, if an organisation's employees aren't engaged in their work and with the organisation, it will be reflected in the accreditation." Dr Brian McConnell, (pictured, left) who received the award on behalf of Hydrock at a prestigious lunch at the Berkeley hotel in

Knightsbridge in the company of celebrity chef, Gordon Ramsay, has always been an advocate of putting people at the heart of the business. "It's great to get the recognition for what we have done, but to me the most important thing is that our employees are telling the world that they truly believe in our company. That's a powerful message which will help us to recruit the highest calibre staff possible and to continue to successfully grow our business."

## RENEW NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE

Hydrock has been appointed as a preferred supplier on the RENEW Panel to provide the following specialist services: Site Investigation, Monitoring, Appraisal and Land Quality Statements, Risk Assessments (Contamination and Groundwater), remediation Design and Validation, Mine Working Investigation, Treatment Design, and Treatment, Contamination Remediation. RENEW North Staffordshire is one of nine Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder schemes in England funded by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. The schemes aim to create a better future for communities hit by low demand for property and poor quality housing.

## Feasibility First Step to 'Oven-Ready' Land

Cofton Ltd, the Birmingham-based land regeneration company has agreed a joint venture with landowner Nickolls Quarries, owner of a 65 hectare quarry located in West Hythe, Kent to prepare the site for mixed-use development. Cofton will work in



partnership with the landowner to deliver serviced parcels of 'oven-ready' land, 24 hectares of which is for the development of approximately 720 residential units, and has appointed Hydrock to take responsibility for the geotechnical, geo-environmental, and hydrogeological aspects of this major challenging project. Cofton, who is taking the lead in submitting an outline planning application including preparation of a Development Brief and Masterplan, is looking to a SiLC-led team of senior Hydrock specialists to carry out feasibility studies which will help determine the technical and commercial viability of the site. The work is being carried out in two phases which included a scoping study, and which has now moved on to extremely thorough groundwater and gas risk assessments and geotechnical and ground improvement reports. The groundwater risk assessment is a key element in one of the initial tasks, which is to agree surrender of the site's Waste Management License with the Environment Agency.

## Thumbs up for Design & Build Soil Nailing

The last stage on a brand new housing development in Swadlincote, Derbyshire, was the stabilisation of an embankment alongside a road on the edge of the development. The design, for George Wimpey Homes, had to satisfy the requirements of the Local Authority and be in keeping with the overall landscaping proposals. Hydrock geotechnical engineers designed and built a soil nail solution using fibre glass nails and plastic head plates with an erosion protection mat and mesh facing detail to give a soft, natural



appearance which was environmentally consistent with the surroundings and gained the approval of regulatory bodies and the residents!

## Recognition for Hydrock Specialist in Land Condition



Dr Kevin Privett, BSc, PhD, FGS, CGeol, EurGeol, FIMMM, CEng, Eurlng, CSci, Principal Geo-Environmental Consultant, has added more letters to his impressive list of credentials by becoming a government-registered SiLC (Specialist in Land Condition). As a SiLC Kevin has the authority to provide the highest level of professional advice on all issues relating to land quality. Kevin, and Hydrock Technical Director, Eric Cooper, are two of only 99 registered SiLC's in the UK.



## Career Opportunities

www.hydrockfutures.co.uk

If you are interested in developing your career as part of a highly motivated team that is committed to customer service, please go to our recruitment website for details of current vacancies. We can't wait to hear from you!



### Former Landfill - Safe as Houses!

Transforming a former landfill site which has been used as a cattlemarket for the last 60 years, and been heavily gassing, settling and leaching contaminants into an adjacent river all the while, is not without its challenges! The site, at St Oswalds Park in Gloucester, has been acquired by Persimmon Homes for residential development in several phases and at each one Hydrock will use its in-house expertise to: produce a demolition portfolio including an asbestos survey and a specification for the recovery of reusable aggregates for road construction etc. and manage the tendering process; manage the dynamic compaction and piling specification and tendering process; collate an integrated remediation method statement for gas, human health risk and controlled waters; supervise and validate the above and liaise closely with the regulators to ensure that the site is completely suitable for use. In sensitive areas where dynamic compaction cannot be used, including a high pressure oil pipeline, Hydrock has been working to determine the perfect mix for exsitu cement stabilisation that will achieve the required geotechnical performance. This option will achieve significant cost savings compared to the alternative approach of removing contaminated material and replacing it with compacted granular material.



The former land fill site shows obvious signs of settlement (above) and has been leaching contaminants into an adjacent river (below).



## Hydrock Welcomes....

.... new personnel in all parts of the business. Continued growth has led to the appointment of a total of 48 additional staff since April!

### Hydrock Responds to Green Brief for Windpower in Eden

Hydrock's structural design team has been assisting ISKRA Wind Turbines to respond to a brief from the eco-friendly and sustainability-conscious Eden Project to replace a 9.0 m wind tower with a 12 m tower at their famous site in Cornwall. The brief was not only to provide increased renewable electricity generation but also to re-use the embodied energy of the existing foundation base rather than increase carbon emissions from the demolition and replacement of the concrete. Following analysis of the existing foundation for the increased loads and through a specially designed bespoke adaptor base plate, along with further guidance provided by Project Manager Bryan Rowlands, ISKRA and the Eden Project were able to achieve their goals.



### "We like a Challenge!" .....

.... says Dr Adam Fisher, Hydrock Geo-Environmental Director (pictured below) and it's just as well because the absence of flat, greenfield development sites certainly keeps life interesting for our Geotechnical and Structural teams. Take this site in Bristol city centre. The site is derelict but has a large victorian red-brick retaining wall which backs onto a residential development. The site steps down to a road and the step is to be eliminated, thereby increasing the site footprint to allow for a 5-6 storey building with a parking undercroft. Party wall issues mean it is not possible to use ground anchors or nails as a stabilisation option and so the design must include buttresses onto piled ground beams, whilst being as cost effective as possible. Preliminary designs have reduced drilling requirements to take account of the extremely hard ground and these are currently awaiting regulatory approvals prior to detailed drawings being produced.



|                                                                                |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <b>Matt Bennett</b><br>Senior Structural Engineer<br>Andrew Carpenter<br>Miner |  |  |  |
| <b>Natalie Hunt</b><br>Geo-Environmental Consultant                            |  |  |  |
| <b>Abigail Wiseman</b><br>Admin Assistant                                      |  |  |  |
| <b>Alan Rees</b><br>Miner                                                      |  |  |  |
| <b>Kerry O'Brien</b><br>Supply Man                                             |  |  |  |
| <b>David Codogan</b><br>Miner                                                  |  |  |  |
| <b>David Ferneyhough</b><br>Geo-Environmental Consultant                       |  |  |  |
| <b>Brian Lundregan</b><br>Miner                                                |  |  |  |
| <b>Andrew Drennan</b><br>Site Agent                                            |  |  |  |
| <b>Alun Lewis</b><br>Miner                                                     |  |  |  |
| <b>Garath Thomas</b><br>Miner                                                  |  |  |  |
| <b>Elisabetha Moretto</b><br>Accounts Assistant                                |  |  |  |
| <b>Anthony Austin</b><br>Miner                                                 |  |  |  |
| <b>Gary Evans</b><br>Miner                                                     |  |  |  |
| <b>Gareth Wheeler</b><br>Miner                                                 |  |  |  |
| <b>Gerald Evans</b><br>Miner                                                   |  |  |  |
| <b>David Holley</b><br>Engineering Geologist                                   |  |  |  |
| <b>George Elliot</b><br>Supplyman                                              |  |  |  |
| <b>Alan Jones</b><br>Miner                                                     |  |  |  |
| <b>Wayne Munkley</b><br>Miner                                                  |  |  |  |
| <b>Colin Lewis</b><br>Miner                                                    |  |  |  |
| <b>Harold McKew</b><br>Miner                                                   |  |  |  |
| <b>Haydn Jenkins</b><br>Miner                                                  |  |  |  |
| <b>James Smith</b><br>General Operative                                        |  |  |  |
| <b>John Roberts</b><br>Miner                                                   |  |  |  |
| <b>Ken Austin</b><br>Miner                                                     |  |  |  |
| <b>Laurence Sharp</b><br>General Operative                                     |  |  |  |
| <b>Lee Jones</b><br>Miner                                                      |  |  |  |
| <b>Lee Rogers</b><br>Miner                                                     |  |  |  |
| <b>Mark Waters</b><br>Miner                                                    |  |  |  |
| <b>Martin Evans</b><br>Miner                                                   |  |  |  |
| <b>Mike Shellard</b><br>Miner                                                  |  |  |  |
| <b>Neil Williams</b><br>Miner                                                  |  |  |  |
| <b>Paul Butcher</b><br>Miner                                                   |  |  |  |
| <b>Paul Rothwell</b><br>Miner                                                  |  |  |  |
| <b>Phillip Sweet</b><br>Miner                                                  |  |  |  |
| <b>Rachel Williams</b><br>Commercial Assistant                                 |  |  |  |
| <b>Richard Elton</b><br>Miner                                                  |  |  |  |
| <b>Rob Smith</b><br>Geo-Environmental Consultant                               |  |  |  |
| <b>Robert Williams</b><br>Miner                                                |  |  |  |
| <b>Roger Nurdin</b><br>General Operative                                       |  |  |  |
| <b>Ryland Peters</b><br>Miner                                                  |  |  |  |
| <b>Stacey Howell</b><br>Geo-Environmental Technician                           |  |  |  |
| <b>Steve Phillips</b><br>Miner                                                 |  |  |  |
| <b>Steve Voleinik</b><br>Miner                                                 |  |  |  |
| <b>Terry Davies</b><br>Electrician                                             |  |  |  |
| <b>Walter Steele</b><br>General Operative                                      |  |  |  |

For more information on Ground Engineering, Civil and Structural Engineering, Mine Stabilisation, Surveying, Environmental Consultancy, Tunnelling, Architectural Services, Mechanical and Electrical Design, and Specialist Contracting Services, contact one of our offices or visit [www.hydrock.com](http://www.hydrock.com)

**Head office:**  
Hydrock Consultants  
Over Court Barns,  
Over Lane,  
Almondsbury,  
Bristol BS32 4DF  
T +44 (0)1454 619533  
F +44 (0)1454 614125  
E [bristol@hydrock.com](mailto:bristol@hydrock.com)

**Plymouth office:**  
T +44 (0)1752 266988  
E [plymouth@hydrock.com](mailto:plymouth@hydrock.com)  
**Northampton office:**  
T +44 (0)1604 842888  
E [northampton@hydrock.com](mailto:northampton@hydrock.com)  
**Stoke-on-Trent office:**  
T +44 (0)1782 261919  
E [stoke@hydrock.com](mailto:stoke@hydrock.com)

