

Headlines

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

May 2008

Hydrock Wins Major Environment Agency Remediation Project

Following a rigorous tendering process, Hydrock has won a significant Environment Agency contract to remediate groundwater contamination on a major aquifer at Helpston near Peterborough. Work has now started on the £2.5m plus project, which will involve Hydrock treating over a million cubic metres of groundwater over the next ten years on the site of two former landfills. In the 1980s the tips were used for the disposal of an agricultural pesticide called mecoprop, which has leaked into the aquifer. The pollution has since found its way to water supply boreholes several miles away, and the pumped water needs expensive treatment to make it safe for drinking.

In order to deal with the consequences of this major historical pollution incident, a line of remediation wells has been installed between the tips and the public water supply boreholes, to create a 'hydraulic barrier' which will stop further mecoprop migration. The water abstracted from our remediation wells goes to a water treatment

plant (pictured right), which is now operated and maintained by a team of Hydrock specialists. The contract will also involve the investigation of the tips to identify the source of the mecoprop and the implementation of measures to prevent further leakage. To the east of the line of wells we will be monitoring the dissipation of the mecoprop over a wide area, using complex groundwater models to understand the contaminant transport processes and to predict how long it will be before the mecoprop reduces to a safe level. Winning this high profile complex project is a significant achievement for Hydrock. Over 30 organisations, including some of the UK's best known consultants and contractors, went through the pre-qualification process and Hydrock was eventually appointed from a short-list of six companies invited to tender. The feedback from the Environment Agency was that the Hydrock proposal demonstrated enthusiasm, commitment, and a freshness of approach, which is exactly what we do best. They will not be disappointed.



Storage tanks at the water treatment plant, Helpston



Dr Mike Higgins, Hydrock Director with overall responsibility for the project, was delighted with the win: "The Helpston Project utilises our geo-environmental, hydrogeological, process engineering, remediation contracting and project management skills and requires the classic Hydrock combination of 'brawn and brain' that epitomizes the Hydrock attitude."

Satisfying results!

By completing our satisfaction questionnaires, our clients help us to make sure that we maintain excellent levels of service; 94% average satisfaction level year to date in 2008!

- "Excellent service provided" Aspire Defence
- "Very efficient service and friendly contact" Bristol Land
- "As ever, quality service" Newnham Estates
- "Good customer service all round, very pro-active and always help us out" David Wilson Homes

Free seminars on development issues

Following the success of our Plymouth seminars on topical development issues, the next in the series will be held at the Bristol Golf Club, Almondsbury, Bristol BS10 7TP on Wednesday 21st May. Topics covered will include: managing flood risk; waste management and disposal; groundsource heating and slope stabilisation.

If you would like to attend this event you can download an invitation from the 'news' page of www.hydrock.com. If you would like to be kept updated on other seminars planned for 2008, then please contact Mike Fernott on 01454 619 533 or alternatively email mikefernott@hydrock.com



In the spotlight

A key part of Hydrock's ethos is that our own people must feel motivated, valued and satisfied, so that they will offer their best to our clients; so it's great for both Hydrock and our clients when we receive independent recognition for this commitment. We were delighted to learn that we have been ranked **4th place** in this year's **Sunday Times 100 Best Companies To Work For** survey, up from fifth last year. The company also received a special award for Giving Something Back (which relates to being socially responsible) and placed 1st in the 'Would Recommend A Job Here' category. It's also important to us and our clients that the sites we work on are safe, responsible and well-managed, and that has been recognised with a **Silver Award** from the **Considerate Constructors Awards**, for our work at the Combe Down mines site in Bath. The same site has also attracted the attention of the **Ground Engineering Awards**, the judges at which commented: "The team integrated with and enjoyed the support of the local community." Last but not least we are also finalists at this year's Construction News and National Specialist Contractors Council's **Specialist Awards**.



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!

Hydrock's underground drilling specialists put retail development back on track

Work has just been completed at a challenging and unusual development site in Guernsey which required service channels to be drilled below pre-existing buildings. The micro-drilling job, for Crocker Civil Engineering Ltd, called on Hydrock's experience at tunneling in unconventional locations and in extraordinary circumstances. The project was located on a retail park development site at which work had been forced to stop due to a lack of drainage channels underneath an existing building. Hydrock's professionals tackled the task in two phases - firstly digging parallel trenches on either side of the building, before drilling horizontally beneath the construction to reach the opposite trench, thus providing service access. Hydrock has also managed to secure further work in Guernsey on the back of this success, and our Geo-Environmental Consultant and Director Adam Fisher commented: "Thanks to our work, construction at the site was able to resume, and we ensured the client was satisfied by finishing the project on time and on budget."



Residents return after unstable wall made safe

Residents of Mill Lane, Kidderminster were elated at finally being able to return to their homes after months of living in temporary accommodation. Due to the risk posed by a failing wall, Worcestershire County Council evacuated residents and businesses in August 2007. Hydrock has delivered the design and build work on reconstructing the retaining wall



which had previously supported the residential street, pulling together its geotechnical, structural and infrastructure skills. During a controlled demolition, part of the unstable wall collapsed. The collapse had previously been identified as a risk, and a predetermined emergency plan was enacted. Representatives of Worcestershire County Council expressed their thanks to the site team for the way they reacted to the collapse and controlled what could have been a serious situation. This site has required modification to design and construction techniques in order to meet the unique challenges involved. The reinforced soil structure has been created and we're now working on the aesthetic brick facing to restore the site for its residents.

Multidisciplinary engineering service delivers value on time and to budget!

The practical and commercial benefits of being able to provide a complete range of design services have been felt by clients in the defence and education sectors, with recent successful delivery on time and to budget of two Hydrock new build projects. Hydrock Regional Director, Steve Wherry explains: "Our ability to provide a multidisciplinary engineering service has been key in delivering these jobs which mix the aesthetics of modern design with cost effectiveness, functionality and energy efficiency. We were able to offer a really cost effective, integrated design solution that minimised on-site construction problems."

Defence: At the Abbeywood MOD site in Bristol, a former library was converted to offices incorporating a host of sustainable and comfort control features including re-cycled carpet, acoustic ceiling tiles, timber sound absorption boards to improve speech intelligibility, remotely-operated solar control blinds and glare control blinds to the perimeter windows.



Education: The £2.7m extension of Morrision Comprehensive School, Swansea, provides 5 additional classrooms, 9 science laboratories, meeting rooms, staff rooms, toilet facilities and store rooms but also provides a new service and emergency access road, a dedicated, safe and secure staff car parking area for 50 vehicles and a further general car parking area for 45 vehicles. The design maximises the potential for passive solar gain and incorporates a full range of energy efficient features including heavily insulated roofs and walls, an assisted passive stack ventilation system, a 'Kalwall' thermally broken structural curtain walling system and low e double glazed windows.



Infrastructure team's capabilities boosted

New appointments in the Infrastructures and Flood Risk teams have been made in order to further strengthen our capabilities in these areas. Given the increasing significance of flood risk management in the development process, we have expanded our team with **Dr David Lloyd** of GeoStandards, who joins us as Technical Director, Flood Risk, and **Rob Stroud**, Flood Risk Consultant, who moves from the Waterman Group of engineering and environmental consultants. They are joined in the Infrastructure team by two important new arrivals in the shape of experienced residential development civil engineer **Mike Smith**, who joins from Antler Homes as Senior Infrastructure Engineer, and **David Hughes** of Halcrow who moves into the position of Graduate Infrastructure Design Engineer.



*Name: Dr David Lloyd
Joins from: GeoStandards
Area: Flood risk assessment
Experience: After years abroad studying slope stability, David set up a UK-based risk assessment consultancy, and joins to head our flood risk team.*



*Name: Mike Smith
Joins from: Antler Homes
Area: Infrastructures
Experience: Mike has over 25 years' experience in consultant civil engineering and residential development.*

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