As part of the Thames Tideway project, Volker Stevin, ABCO Marine Ltd and Van Elle were appointed to carry out the design and construction of the new Slipway at the Shadwell Basin Outdoor Activity Centre across the river from Canary Wharf.

Van Elle was responsible for the installation of the 22 piles stretching out into the Thames to support the new slipway ramp.

A bespoke Klemm 709 rig with a 14m mast was mounted upon a jack-up barge and drilled single piece 323mm diameter steel piles up to 13m into the river bed.

The 16mm wall thickness of the piles was protected for the marine environment by a specialist 3mm coating so a unique clamp arrangement was devised so as not to damage it upon installation.

Timings were critical due to the tide and, of course, environmental factors were also a major consideration throughout the works.