

EDI strategy launched

At the end of July, Hayley Smith - Head of HR - shared our Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity strategy, which has been developed in partnership with the EDI Working Group, as well as input from people from across the company.

As she shared the strategy, Hayley said:

"We are actively working towards building a diverse environment and an inclusive culture whereby everyone, regardless of our similarities or differences, feel valued. Our aim is simple, we want to be a company that accepts and values everyone; and we are empowering every single employee across the company to help make this happen."

The strategy and examples of how it is being utilised across the company will soon be available to view as we are launching an EDI page on our Van Elle Intranet.

Alongside Hayley, the working group comprises Jen Stretton, Jan Jones, Dominic Torr, David Buckley, Jessica Dallison, Paul Dobson, Anne-Marie Cutler and Claire Garrett.

If you are interested in joining the group, simply contact Jen Stretton in HR.



Work begins on the electrification of the Core Valley Lines in South Wales

In July piling works started on the Core Valley Lines in preparation for the electrification of the South Wales Metro.

Working together with Amey and Transport for Wales (TfW), Strata is already undertaking GI works and the Rail team, under Mark Boyle and Vaseem Ali, is looking forward to starting piling in October.

David Buckley, Director of Rail said:

"We are delighted to be supporting the electrification of the Core Valleys Lines on the South Wales Metro project. This important work will make it easier for people travelling across the Cardiff Capital Region, transforming rail services in the area."

Bryan Mckeown,
Operative of the Month



Winvic recognises Van Elle performance

While delivering the safe installation of Rigid Inclusions on the Corby Plot A project, Bryan Mckeown, one of our supervisors, was awarded Operative of the Month by client Winvic.

Winvic recognised Bryan for his continued cooperation and diligence throughout the duration of the works.

Well done Bryan!



Kirkby MP shows support for the decarbonisation of the railways

On Friday (13th August), Local MP for Ashfield Lee Anderson visited Kirkby to hear about our commitment to the decarbonisation of the UK's railways.

Along with representative from RIA and the Midlands Rail Forum, Anderson met with Rail Director, David Buckley and his team as he showcased existing electrification projects and discussed the challenges for future decarbonisation of rail.

While on a tour of Van Elle's test track, he observed a demonstration and met workers and apprentices from the company.



A46 team support local Coventry community

In July we commenced work on a new flyover bridge at the A46 Binley Junction project in Coventry for client Osborne.

On the ground, supervisor Joe Page completed the project ahead of schedule while piling engineers James Horley and Ryan Marshall attended a series of community liaison events to support Highways England. Meanwhile, Business Development Manager, Jan Jones, donated almost 20-kilos of biscuits to a local food bank following support from Van Elle employees and suppliers Lemon Steel and Hanson UK.



200 rail stations and counting

Van Elle has been working on railway infrastructure projects since 1996.

Our first project was supporting an extension to a building at Derby Station, but since then we have successfully completed foundations for more than 200 station projects across the UK, from Edinburgh Waverley to London Bridge and from Queen Street Cardiff to Manchester Piccadilly.

In 2010, while working for our client Volker Fitzpatrick, a crew of 44 personnel, running six rigs, over 12 platforms, worked during the Christmas blockade (and temperatures of minus 14 degrees) to install 72 piles for the development of Birmingham New Street Station.

After the success of this project, we established a dedicated Rail division and piling on-track with rail mounted piling rigs became part of our standard capabilities.

In one of our highest profile schemes, beginning in 2013 at Reading Station for Costain Galliford Try JV, our team installed over 1000 mini piles (of between 100mm and 600mm diameter) during a five-month project, using restricted access rigs to support new subway works, lift pits, platform upgrades and new footbridges.

Over the last 12 months our teams have been busy at Gatwick, Brent Cross and Birmingham University stations, supporting the development of new and expanded stations to support regional growth plans and improved capacity.



ScrewFast helical piles at Tokyo Olympics

If you caught any of the televised shooting competition footage during the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, you might be interested to know that ScrewFast designed, manufactured, shipped and installed the helical piles supporting the frames for the ballistic nets, combined and finals ranges.

During the 17-week project which was completed in 2019, three ScrewFast staff, Will Harris, Matt Woods and Rob Day, visited Tokyo to install the piles, with support from a local team of labourers, excavators and telehandlers.

Once the 2020 Paralympic Games conclude in September the building will be dismantled and the helical piles removed, leaving no negative environmental legacy.



Summer placements welcomed

Over the summer we welcomed two engineering students to our Kirkby site.

Ella Agyeman, a first year Civil Engineering student at Loughborough University, gained experience working in the Design team, interpreting soils and understanding pile resistance. Meanwhile Amy Piggott, a Civil Engineering student due to graduate from the University of Nottingham in 2023, has been gaining practical experience working in the Rail division.

