

SMP Alliance - Van Elle announced as primary provider



We are absolutely delighted to have been appointed by National Highways as one of two SMP Alliance primary providers of piling and retaining structures.

The framework, which is for ten years and operates on a national basis, includes all future Smart Motorways projects and any retrofit programmes to existing schemes. Working collaboratively with the Alliance's design and assembly partners, the objective will be to develop efficient, standardised foundation solutions and safe and low carbon, optimised delivery outcomes, using specialist construction techniques including modular off-site systems where possible.

The announcement was confirmed as Van Elle representatives including Strata Geotechnics and ScrewFast were meeting key customers at the 2021 Highways UK event at the NEC, Birmingham (pictured).

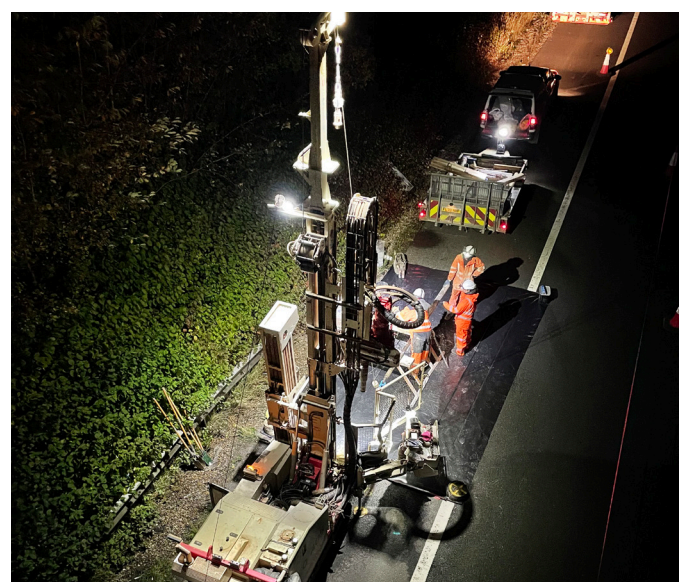


John Preston and Connor Cannon praised following health scare

Two of our incredible operatives received the following praise from Dominic Jankowski from The Hill Group:

"Please pass on my thanks and appreciation to your operatives John Preston (pictured) and Connor Cannon for their prompt action in dealing with a tradesman working at our Lampton Road building site, after they witnessed him collapsing on site."

"Their prompt action of attending to the casualty promptly, clearing his airway and placing him in the recovery position, ensured that he made the best recovery he could until the emergency services arrived and may have even saved his life. Their praiseworthy action is a credit to both them as individuals and to your company."



On M3 Junction 9 (the Winchester/A34 interchange), our Strata Geotechnics team, made up of Garry Naylor, Jon Darby, Adey Foulstone and Mickey Pearce, are carrying out night-time Geobore S coring for client Volker Fitzpatrick.

Geobore S is a technique used to obtain high-quality core samples using a triple-core barrel system. The team are about a month into the project and are using our Comacchio 405 sonic rotary drilling rig to collect core samples from 20m depths.



Precast factories maximise output amid a materials shortage

Our precast factories in Kirkby and Blantyre have been ramping up production to seven days a week to cope with demand, despite a materials shortage which has hit the whole construction sector.

In this financial year alone, the factories have been producing a daily average of 434 Smartfoot beams and over 1,000 piles, which help feed high volumes of housing and logistics warehouse projects that Van Elle are supporting across the UK. These deliveries are supported by Van Elle's own dedicated transport team. Also worth a mention is the Procurement team, who have been instrumental in securing the raw materials needed to support sustained production. The precast factories are positioned in both Nottinghamshire, England and South Lanarkshire, Scotland.



HS2 project provides landmark for ground improvement team

Having completed a successful trial, where 500mm diameter vibro stone columns were installed in a test zone and load tests carried out, Van Elle's ground improvement team have now commenced the main works at West Ruislip Portal for the SCS joint venture on the southern section of HS2.

The project involves over 5,200 stone columns being installed, using two of the Group's low emission vibro stone column rigs. These works mark the beginning of the 150th project for the team, which launched two years ago to deliver vibro stone columns and rigid inclusion techniques across the UK. From works on petrochemical and landfill sites, highways, warehouses and housing schemes, the team have quickly built a strong reputation within the industry.



Appointment of experienced trainers boosts skills capacity

Our Training Centre team recently welcomed two new Trainer/Assessors to support more training for the construction market.

Warren Mulford has joined the team as Lead Trainer and Assessor, and Matt Fletcher, has joined as a Trainer and Assessor.

Warren (pictured right), who has more than 30 years' experience in the sector, will deliver training and testing across CPCS, NPORS, and ALLMI courses, and helping to manage our associate supply chain.

Meanwhile, Matt (pictured left) will deliver a wide range of health & safety training such as abrasive wheels, safety harness, working at height, and NPORS.

Manufacturing win at Chad Business Awards



Van Elle were awarded the Excellence in Manufacturing & Engineering trophy during the annual Chad Business Awards.

Hayley Smith, Head of HR and Paul Dobson, Training Centre Manager (pictured), attended the award ceremony, following a double shortlisting in this year's awards which celebrate the best businesses in Mansfield and Ashfield.

Paul's training centre team were also shortlisted in the Team of the Year category, after they worked hard to overcome the challenges posed by Covid19 restrictions on training in the construction. Van Elle faced strong competition from another local manufacturer in the Excellence in Manufacturing & Engineering category, but left triumphant on the night.

2021 People Awards – open for nominations

Anyone from across the business can nominate a colleague or team who have truly excelled in 2021.

Categories include Rising Star of the Year; Supervisor of the Year; Manager of the Year; Team-mate of the Year; Operative of the Year. Four SITE Values Award and five Perfect Delivery Award winners will also be identified by the panel.

Staff have until Wednesday 24th November to submit as many nominations as they wish before the winners are announced during the online ceremony before Christmas.

Charity donations

In memory of Michael Ellis, two one-off charitable donations totalling £10k were made in his name.

The first, to Great Ormond Street Hospital, will be used to help fund research into pioneering new treatments and state-of-the-art equipment, wards and medical facilities designed around children, letting the hospital treat more patients in the best possible surroundings.

The second donation was made to The Christie in Manchester and will specifically go towards the Haematology & Transplant Unit (HTU), which provides comprehensive diagnosis and treatment of cancers of the blood including leukaemia and lymphoma.

