

# GROUNDDED

News and updates from Van Elle February 2022 | [comms@van-elle.co.uk](mailto:comms@van-elle.co.uk) | 01773 580 580



## Apprenticeships at Van Elle

During National Apprenticeship Week (7th – 11th February), our team celebrated our apprentices and promoted a number of apprenticeship opportunities currently available across the company. Our current apprentices are:

Mustafaa McDonald, Civil Engineering Apprentice,  
Nils Rollinson, Chartered Surveyor Apprentice, Conor White, Civil Engineering Apprentice, Alex Harvey, Civil Engineering Apprentice, Connor Reynolds, Service Engineering Technician,

Milly Lounds-Head, Business Admin Apprentice, Harry Clay, Service Engineering Technician, Macauley Edwards, Piling Apprentice, Will Seage, Civil Engineering Apprentice, Stuart Boole, Piling Apprentice,

Ben Howard, Piling Apprentice, Nathaniel Niblett, Civil Engineering Apprentice, Karl Drayton, Piling Apprentice, Aaron Lee, Piling Apprentice, Joe Evans, IT Apprentice, George Medley, Chartered Surveyor Apprentice

**Congratulations our apprentices who graduated!**



**Olivia Bestwick**  
Passed a Level 5 apprenticeship in HR and continues her work as a HR Advisor.



**Oliver Foulke**  
Passed his Construction Civil Engineering Apprenticeship, he is one of our Fitters working for our Housing division.

## Supplier collaboration supports CSR activity

Working in collaboration with supplier Total Construction Supplies, Van Elle is helping reduce steel reinforcement waste while supporting ex-offender employability. Total Construction Supplies devised a work placement programme with HMP Oakwood to enable prisoners nearing release to gain meaningful, paid work experience. Participants fill several roles within the business, including in the factory, where they fabricate the steel cage reinforcements, which are a bespoke design for Van Elle, created from recycled offcuts. The pile cap cages are produced and delivered for use in conjunction with our Smartfoot pre-cast concrete foundation system.

## New Group Services Director appointed



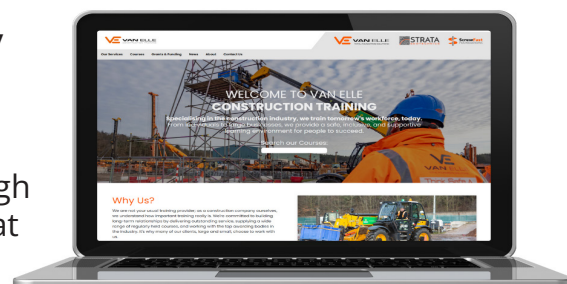
Rob Walsh has taken up the role of Group Services Director and will be responsible for the strategic direction of the central support functions for HSQE, plant, property & facilities, production, fleet & transport as well as overseeing innovation and business improvement.

He will also lead our increased focus on sustainability and low carbon solutions in response to the demands of national and industry priorities.

## New Training Centre website launched

Van Elle Construction Training recently launched its new ecommerce training website.

New and returning customers can now browse through the entire course range, choose the date and time that suits them, and pay through a secure online system.



## Piling continues at Wood Wharf Development Phase 3

The project at Wood Wharf, for Canary Wharf Contractors, will provide the foundations for four mixed use 38-storey buildings to house commercial and residential properties.

Early works involved two SR75 rotary coring rigs which cored through 177 obstructions, including the old dock wall and the dock slab in four weeks. The installation of 351 piles (900mm in diameter) and 135 piles (1050mm diameter) to depths of up to 33 metres is now underway using two Llamada P160 rigs.



## Specialist offshore work gets under way for RNLI Fowey

At Fowey harbour in Cornwall our specialist team have begun a project to replace the existing pontoon and berthing foundations, as part of an upgrade for the RNLI.

Utilising a Hütte 207 rig, we commenced the installation of four new Circular Hollow Section (CHS) piles, treated with a marine protective coating. The use of bored and placed CHS piles rather than driven CHS piles will reduce the impact of noise and vibration for the local community for the duration of the project.

## 100-strong team deliver rail blockade works at Christmas

More than 100 members of our Rail and Specialist team supported by subcontractors, fitters, managers and our Health & Safety team, completed back-to-back shifts to achieve the following works during the Christmas blockade:

- Helical Screw Piles to support slab track of a section of rail at Kentish Town (pictured)
- Three undertrack crossings (UTX) at Hitchin across four tracks on the ECML
- 188m of pre-augered sheet piles for Small Dean Viaduct as part of HS2
- CHS piling at Radyr Station for electrification of the Core Valley Lines in Wales
- CHS piling on the Midland Main Line to enable critical electrification work
- Sheet piling and UTX at Medge Hall
- 34 SFA Piles (510LM) for platform replacement work at West Horndon Station



## Record-breaking piles at Manor Road

Foundations to depths of more than 32 metres are currently being installed for a luxury apartment and commercial building project for Morgan Sindall in London.

More than 330 piles, ranging from 450mm to 1050mm in diameter, are being installed to the record-breaking depths by the continuous flight auger method (CFA), using our Llamada P160 and P140 piling rigs.

## Installing SFA piles on the Devonshire coast



Our Specialist Piling team are currently in Dawlish, installing 660mm/600mm SFA piles using a Klemm-709 rig with adapted augers.

The project is for Dawlish Sea Defences, working in collaboration with BAM Nutall Nuttall Ltd and Network Rail.

## M4 Smart Motorway project nears completion



The final gantries have been installed on the M4 Smart Motorway (junction 3-12), after a three-year project delivering specialist piled foundations for Balfour Beatty Vinci JV. Our highways team overcame tight, constrained working conditions which restricted labour, vehicle and plant access and adapted its construction techniques to deliver the project within specific customer requirements. Installing 257 piles to support gantries, major and minor structures, we used a variety of specialist rigs and equipment including lorry mounted rigs (Soilmec STM20), a bespoke compact Hütte 207 piling rig, a Llamada P140 and a Soilmec SR75.