


ORIEL COLLEGE

 Oxfordshire

Our ScrewFast team were appointed by Beard Construction to provide foundations to support the construction of a new bar, lounge, and kitchen, toilet facilities and historic corridor.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

- Appointed by Beard Construction
- The project involved detailed design, procurement, fabrication, delivery, and installation of 97No. helical piles and top hats

CHALLENGE

During demolition, which was handled by another contractor, existing foundations, prior structural elements and potential archaeological remains were discovered.

With restricted access, limited space, and nearby structures, our team had to manoeuvre equipment with precision to ensure accurate installation without causing disruption.

No vehicular access was allowed to the site, with entry limited to a 1.5m wide, 2.2m tall archway. This required navigating over a 4.3m tall Grade I listed wall. Due to these access restrictions, the excavator had to be dismantled, lifted over, and reassembled onsite. The process was carefully coordinated with the client, excavator supplier, and our transport division, with trial lifts conducted at the head office yard.

Additionally, the below-ground drainage required careful coordination with civils drawings for exact placement and protection.

VAN ELLE SOLUTIONS

The project was completed over a four-week programme, covering the detailed design, procurement, fabrication, delivery, and installation of 97No. helical piles and top hats.

Given the site's access constraints and numerous underground archaeological sensitivities, we proposed helical piles to minimise vibration and disturbance, meeting the client's requirements while preserving the site's historical elements.

To overcome the access limitations, our team dismantled an 8-ton tracked excavator, lifted it over a building wall, and reassembled it in the courtyard to facilitate the installation.

Trial lifts were conducted in our yard beforehand to ensure we could get the equipment over the wall within the restrictions of the narrow road.

AT A GLANCE

Sector: Civils

Solutions: Restricted Access Piling

Techniques: Helical Piling

Client: Beard Construction

Van Elle Division: Specialist Piling (ScrewFast)

EQUIPMENT

8T Tracked Excavator

