



BELOW GROUND



The Newsletter of Anvil Foundations Ltd.

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Investing in our future...

2007 has been another active year so far for Anvil Foundations. The poor weather has not helped the construction industry and the natural peaks and troughs require us to constantly find new market opportunities.

New ideas are the life blood of our business and new trends constantly evolve. A year ago, basement extensions took off and became very popular. House extensions continue their mass appeal and demand for new build also remains strong, with a particular emphasis on low economic cost and eco-friendliness.

Investing in the right equipment to meet our clients' demand requires more than crystal ball gazing, and Anvil is at the forefront of innovation in this area. Its very latest move in this connection is to commission a brand new design of a 'silent' top-driven piling rig, due for delivery before the end of 2007. This large new rig, specially designed to drive pre-cast concrete and thick walled steel-cased piles, is capable of installing a considerable metreage of piles per day. It features revolutionary sound-reduction technology and is ideal for new build work on housing developments and environmentally sensitive sites where noise is a particular issue.

We shall be describing this new machine in the next issue of *Below Ground*, but enquiries are already coming in to fill Anvil's increased capacity in this area. So, now we are actively creating demand as a direct result of good forward planning. The calendar for 2008 already looks busy!



Elsewhere in this issue you can read about the highlights of Anvil's 2007 site casebook, our latest achievements in the areas of training, health and safety, and other future projects. Stay with us to see what's best in life underground!

INSIDE:

Fit for purpose: Anvil keeps its Health & Safety record in good shape - Page 3
Workfile: Out on site with projects from the Anvil Site Casebook - Pages 2 & 3
Calling all eagle-eyes – spot the difference competition - Page 4



ANVIL FOUNDATIONS LTD
Specialist Foundation Contractors

8 Beaufort Chase | Wilmslow | Cheshire | SK9 2BZ
Tel: **01625 522800** | Fax: **01625 522850**
e-mail: **Info@minipiling.co.uk**



www.minipiling.co.uk

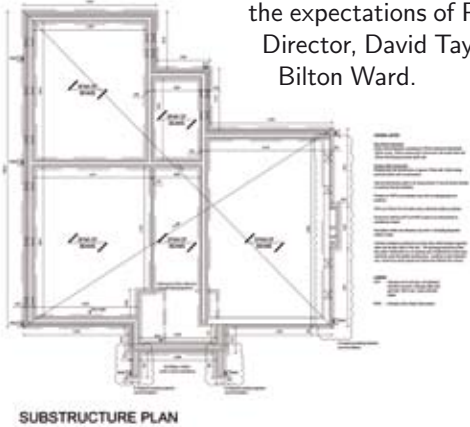
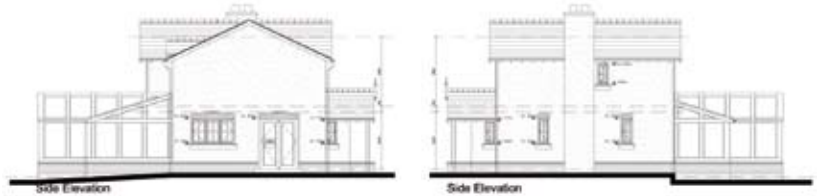
Brook Cottage, Over Alderley

ANVIL SITE CASEBOOK

Even celebrity homes need work underground!

Bilton Ward Developments of Great Warford, who specialise in very prestigious domestic developments in the multi-million pound category, called in Anvil Foundations to help with foundations for a number of new projects locally.

Working with existing old buildings - an old garage, cottage and extension - Anvil carried out a piled raft underpin and provided ground beams, piles and needle beams for the structures. The project was in two phases and fully met the expectations of Project Director, David Taylor, of Bilton Ward.



Brookside, Clitheroe

Complex underpinning project meets all targets...

Anvil undertook a major £100K underpin at the above large private house in Waddington, Clitheroe, under the project management of The Restoration Design Partnership. Lengthy 10-12m piles were required to form the piled raft underpin, with nibs needed into the load-bearing walls.

This was a large underpin taking nearly 8 weeks, but the operation ran very smoothly, under the overall supervision of David Walter of RDP. The work was carried out under an ASUC+ guarantee.



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e-mail: info@minipiling.co.uk • www.minipiling.co.uk

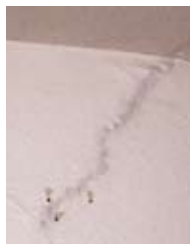


Needham Avenue, Morecambe

Domestic underpin which exceeded expectations!

As ever, the domestic underpinning market continues to form a large part of Anvil's activities and this interesting minipiled underpin project, for consultant Elipta, was typical of many that we do. Equally typical, unfortunately, can be the unreliability of information gained from site investigations.

On this occasion, pile depths of between 10 and 12 metres proved necessary. Nevertheless, the team on site coped well and managed to complete the additional work within the original contract period, to the satisfaction of both client and consultant!



Anvil in Brief

Steady as she goes!

Despite some earlier threats to the stability of the market in 2006, 2007 has now given a far more settled outlook than we might have predicted just a few months ago. The cornering of the structural steel market, to feed China's apparently insatiable industrial expansion, does seem to have avoided the worst predictions of market shortages, while the huge hike in insurance premiums, which characterised the 2005-6 market, has now settled at more reasonable levels without any dangerous lessening of cover. **ARE YOUR CONTRACTORS ADEQUATELY COVERED?**

Extension market buoyant

Although not all Anvil customers are fitting basement swimming pools or adding a new west wing, many are still preferring to extend their existing property rather than selling and moving on. Domestic extensions have always formed a large part of Anvil's activities and, with the firm's rapid response and quick turn-round on site, this type of work suits both client and contractor. If an extension forms part of your plans for the future, consult Anvil for the best advice from the outset!

That sinking feeling

Despite last year's dry summer and soaking winter, the amount of general subsidence work undertaken by Anvil has stayed well within expectations. Regular underpinning projects from the Coal Authority, usually cases of domestic subsidence caused by previous coal-mining activity, do keep us busy, but major subsidence projects are now less common.

Health and Safety Update

In addition to Anvil's work with Construction Safety Services (NW) of Golborne on staff and safety training, all site employees of the firm now hold the CSC Scheme Health and Safety test card. This is a government target nationally, but one that is by no means met by other employers. Additionally, all Anvil foremen are now qualified to NVQ Level 2 or above and other site employees are currently working towards it.

This is a huge achievement, especially when Anvil are benchmarked against the industry standard. Each employee has also been trained in manual handling skills, hand/arm vibration, abrasive wheels and First Aid. Anvil clearly understands that, on site, all such training is a necessity, not just to safeguard personnel but to achieve the teamwork and professionalism which underpins a successful job. Without it, targets are not met and accidents occur – it really is a case of better safe than sorry!

Clear Road Ahead!

Pictured here is a stylishly signwritten Nissan Navaro, one of the latest additions to the Anvil fleet. The machine, normally piloted by Anvil's Contracts Director Iain Morris, clearly makes a suitable impression on site.

In fact, the vehicle is quite invaluable, since it is capable of towing the firm's rigs and also acts as a 'quick response' vehicle, when situations require changes on site.



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Anvil Foundations Ltd

8 Beaufort Chase | Wilmslow | Cheshire | SK9 2BZ

Tel: 01625 522800 | Fax: 01625 522850

e-mail: Info@minipiling.co.uk

web: www.minipiling.co.uk

Spot the Difference!

COMPETITION!

Win a prize in time for Christmas!



See how many differences you can spot between the two pictures we've printed (there are ten!). Then fill in the Response Slip below and fax the whole page to us on 01625 522850. We need to receive your entry by 14th December 2007 in order to qualify. Only fully completed response slips will be put into the hat for our grand Christmas prize draw!

Good luck!



Don't forget the Anvil Website!

www.minipiling.co.uk, with its ease of access and simple design, the newly updated site contains lots of information about the firm's activities and helpful hints on all things below ground. Enquiries can be made through the website all will receive a rapid and helpful response.