



BelowGround

The Newsletter of Anvil Foundations Ltd.

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It's the company we keep!



In the cut-and-thrust world of modern, fast-track building, there is no point for a firm like Anvil Foundations in 'making do' with low-budget, high-hassle contracts where many contractors compete at the bottom level. Far better, for a firm of Anvil's growing reputation, to 'take the higher (under!) ground' and fulfil larger contracts for more prestigious (and demanding) clients.

Recently, for example, Anvil has undertaken major underground and site preparation works for, among others, Sainsbury's supermarkets, McDonalds fast-food outlets and Rolls Royce Bentley Motor Cars. **J Sainsbury** used Anvil's expertise at its new 'A' Grade Hazel Grove (Stockport) store to work on specialist foundations under the guidance of The Mezzanine Flooring Co. Taking part in these key-location, tight-schedule projects requires excellent project management skills from the sub-contractor.

Fast-food chain **McDonald's** are gearing up for the Commonwealth Games by developing a large number of new outlets on major routes into Manchester and other centres. As one of their preferred suppliers, Anvil worked recently on the foundations for McDonald's new drive-thru outlet at Aigburth Road, Liverpool. Although a fairly routine project, this type of work must be completed on time and reliably on budget to retain customer confidence.



Customer names could not be any more prestigious than **Rolls Royce and Bentley Motor Cars**. Work was recently undertaken for them at Crewe, under the supervision of consultant Mott MacDonald, to overcome a foundation deficiency in



a turbine building adjacent to the railway line. Again, the job was carried out in difficult working conditions (see Site Casebook, page 3), but Anvil, working as Principal Contractor, rose to the occasion and satisfied the requirements of both client and consultant. What more can one ask?

These relatively large and significant contracts prove that Anvil is the preferred choice for those projects where tight schedules and key-client confidence are involved. Being a company that is 'large enough to cope and small enough to care', Anvil's reputation is now growing steadily. With investments in new equipment and workforce training, - as you will read in this latest issue of *Below Ground* - the opportunity of even larger contracts for more prestigious clients is now a reality.

To find out how all this could work for you, contact Nigel MacLean at Anvil on one of the numbers provided.



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In school, in hospital, in the pub!

Anvil is never far away - feature, page 2

Banana Boat Song!
Suggest some new lyrics - see back page...



SEEING THE SITES

Different Project Types which benefit from the “Anvil Treatment”



The trouble with working underground is that there are very few visible monuments to one's success. People often ask where our work is to be seen and the answer is that, if it's been done right (which Anvil's always is!), then it should be quite invisible. However, it goes without saying that, more or less wherever one looks among different types of building, specialist underground work may well be in place to provide a sure foundation. In this issue we are focussing on four particular building types, where Anvil is developing a particular expertise.



Schools

This is a sector where specialist knowledge is often needed, not to mention work which is tightly scheduled and managed. Recent Anvil contracts have included work at the **Holy Rosary RC School**, Oldham, and **Broadbottom Primary School**, where piling was undertaken for an extension, thereby saving the client money by amalgamating two jobs into one. Both these contracts were under the supervision of Main Contractor, **Benjamin Armitage**, whose Site Manager, **Kevin Lynam**, declared himself eminently satisfied with the project.

Another educational project was work carried out at **Littlemoor School**, Oldham, for Main Contractor **F Parkinson**, where Anvil's site management and piling expertise was praised by Manager Darren Hessian. *Not a bad sort of Foundation Year!*

Breweries

Not forgetting that the cellar is a key area in a pub, where the beer has to be stored and kept in good condition, Anvil has recently undertaken a good deal of work in this sector, notably for brewers **Thwaites**, whose ales and pubs are renowned throughout the North West. Estates managers, **John Booth** and **Bob Dugdale**, have nothing but praise for the work performed by Anvil.

Hospitals

The NHS is clearly undergoing comprehensive redevelopment, not least in its ambitious building programmes. Here, too, Anvil is active, having done three specialist jobs at the **Macclesfield District General Hospital** in the past 2 years alone, all under the watchful eye of Main Contractor, **A J Bossons**. As the firm's MD, **Andrew Bossons**, declared:

“This is specialist work, but Anvil are geared up for it. They arrive and leave when they say they will and put in 60 deep foundation piles for us with considerable expertise. They have a good reputation and live up to it”.



Housing

Whatever type of housing is involved and whatever type of work is needed below ground, Anvil has the experience to tackle jobs great and small.

For example, the recent inner Manchester development by **Urban Splash** at Waulk Mill, Ancoats, which represents the very best of residential urban renewal, featured foundation work by Anvil to a feature staircase within the building and an external sub-station. Similarly, new housing and remedial works, under the regulatory control of the NHBC, is happy to recommend Anvil as an expert within its field. Numerous such projects have been undertaken.

We are pleased to announce the arrival of our new TD 1000 Techno Drill rig - shown here nice and clean, before it really got down to serious work! This machine offers us, and our customers, many advantages over the existing rig, which we built in-house. For example, the new rig operates 5x faster than its predecessor, thus reducing time on-site; it will go through a domestic doorway, providing access to a much wider range of sites; the new rig is far easier for us to transport, once more reducing non-productive time on the job.



Centre of Excellence

As you will have read from previous issues of *Below Ground*, Anvil is a company which places great emphasis on training. Just to give a flavour of its successes to date, Anvil was awarded **full Investor in People status in 1999, reaccredited 2001, National Training Award 2000** and the **North West Excellence Award 2000**, which must go some way towards explaining 100% compliance on jobs and no serious H&S incidents in the last 8 years.

Not content with this, Anvil, under MD **Nigel MacLean**, is fully supportive of the move by trade organisation ASUC (see right) to encourage all member firms to promote NVQ qualifications among staff. As proof of this, Nigel has for some time acted as Chairman of the ASUC Training Committee and 50% of Anvil's workforce have already achieved NVQ Level 2 in their skills-related qualifications. As a spokesman of the CITB (Construction Industry Training Board) put it:

"Anvil Foundations provides a perfect example of what we are seeking in the Trade – high levels of professionalism in their work and a true commitment to the highest levels of training".

ASUC As you see!

The Association of Specialist Underpinning Contractors, with its well-known DIG (Defects Insurance Guarantee) available through members, continues to represent the interests of member firms such as Anvil and is currently very much in the vanguard of moves to promote higher levels of training, particularly in the area of NVQs.

The following recent statements by ASUC Chairman, **Vic Handley**, make these intentions clear:

"The subsidence sector is a specialist sector and its image is not the most attractive within the construction market, which can discourage young people from entering it. The work can be hard, dirty and takes place in all weathers. An NVQ for Underpinners has been introduced to enable their skills and service to be recognised. ASUC members have a commitment to put their operatives through the NVQ over the next two years, replacing the existing "grandfather rights" under the CSCS card scheme. It is hoped this formal qualification will provide an incentive for the younger person to come into this segment of the industry.

Together with the CITB, ASUC also have a committee looking at an NVQ for the multi trade repair operative. These operatives may work across a range of trades, such as brickwork, plastering, decorating; and again this is another "multi" that is not currently

Site Casebook



On a Roll(er)!

The ground stabilisation needed at the turbine shop for **Rolls Royce & Bentley Motor Cars** at Crewe, looked like a classic case of slippage in a nearby railway embankment. However, this did not prove to be the case. Investigations, including the use of inclinometer tubes, revealed this to be a case of foundation failure in a dessicated plastic clay soil affected by tree roots and broken drains.



In addition to the very restricted nature of the site and its access, the schedule of works was run like a very tightly controlled military operation in order to keep things going smoothly. An additional problem was posed by the close monitoring of any waste water on the site by the local Highways Dept. - a necessary safeguard in this location, but one which makes the contractor's life even more exciting than usual! Interceptors positioned by the authorities measure any possible water contamination, so outfalls must be kept under extreme scrutiny by everyone working on site and the client.

Only the Best for the New Superstore

With the new **Sainsbury's Superstore** due to open in Hazel Grove, Stockport early in June 2002, any works below ground had to be completed in good time to allow the main building works to proceed. Because of the upgrading of the store to a Grade A site, a mezzanine floor had to be added to allow space for children to be catered for while parents are left free to shop.

In difficult ground conditions, Anvil drove in 150mm steel-cased piles then installed reinforced concrete pile caps on top, to which stanchion bases would subsequently be fitted. Anvil also worked on the base for a spiral staircase and a lift pit.

During the pile driving work, it proved difficult to achieve the necessary penetration, due to the over-compaction of the sub-base, so this had to be pre-augured, using a Digga auger attachment fitted to Anvil's in-house built rig. Throughout this fast-track project Anvil staff worked closely with Sainsbury's site engineers.



