

## Check out those hidden dangers!

**By keeping an eye on the pitfalls, Anvil gives clients real peace of mind**

Whether or not 2004 will turn out to be an 'event year' - one of those years when it's either exceptionally dry or exceptionally wet causing significant damage below ground - it's always as well to take an open-minded approach to the risks which can be encountered in foundation work.

Some of the most obvious risks, of course, exist above ground, where unscrupulous contractors with untrained staff can cause accidents which culminate in the client being sued for negligence. The effects of

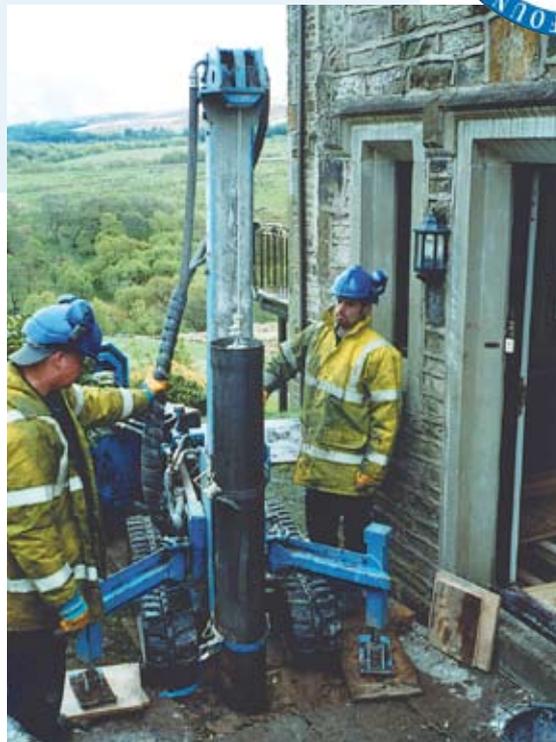
this totally unacceptable 'chain of blame' can be avoided if the contractor is fully approved and all credentials are viewed in advance.



One very familiar current problem is that of the uninsured or under-insured contractor, of whom many are to be found during these times of sky-high insurance premiums. If a claim is made and insurance is inadequate, the client can be the unfortunate one to end up with unforeseen liability. Other avoidable problems can arise where jobs are undertaken without a prior site investigation.

Although we at Anvil always ask for such a site investigation, we are powerless to insist on it. It is amazing how much inconvenience can be avoided by drilling a simple test hole on site.

Above all, clients should ensure that they choose a contractor, like Anvil, whom they feel they can trust. In addition to checking insurances, experience and testimonials for similar work done elsewhere, each customer should also make a point of getting the contractor involved in the project at the first possible opportunity. The necessity for additional remedial work underground is rarely a pleasant discovery, but the early appointment of a specialist contractor able to offer advice and alternative solutions can save huge amounts of money in the long run. With Anvil as part of your team, any unpleasant surprises will be reduced to a minimum and, by responding quickly both on and off site, this is a contractor who can solve your foundation problems with a minimum of fuss and expense.



*Left: Anvil employees on site at Wittons House, Bolton using the Technodrill 1000 drop hammer rig - for more see the Site Casebook on page 3*



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**The best choice for the best job**

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**By popular demand...**

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# Anvil Top Ten: 10 Good Reasons to become an Anvil employee



After our article in the last issue of *Below Ground* listing 10 good reasons to choose Anvil as your foundation-work supplier, we now list another Top 10 selection - this time, ten good factors which we look for in any Anvil employee.

## 1. Enthusiasm

Nothing beats enthusiasm in an employee, because this shows a love for the job, a wish to succeed and a desire to face all challenges positively. Enthusiastic employees impress customers, encourage those working with them and keep a job on target. The nature of our work is to overcome problems and we encourage employees to believe that 'no matter what we find, we'll get it done!'

## 2. Willing to listen and learn

Nobody can be expected to become proficient without learning, but a good employee is constantly learning new skills, listening to advice and realising their own need for self-improvement.

## 3. Hard-working

Anvil has a reputation for efficiency of operation, particularly as other trades are often waiting to get on site as soon as groundworks are finished. This means that all Anvil team members must be focused, energetic and effective throughout the duration of the contract.

## 4. Safe

Operating underground and handling sophisticated, powerful equipment can often be dangerous. Anvil has very strict safety codes and personalised Health & Safety training to meet each employee's needs.

## 5. Courteous and friendly

Politeness is vitally important when on site and with customers. We like to think that our employees' arrival each morning is heralded by a smile, not a grunt!

## 6. Loyal and trustworthy

We hope and believe that this goes without saying for every Anvil employee.

## 7. Reliable

Punctuality, dependability and thoroughness are working practices which rate very highly in Anvil's performance targets. These are valued both personally and corporately.

## 8. Good team worker

However good and well trained the individual, each employee must operate within a team - the smaller the team, the more crucial the contribution of each member!

## 9. Good communicator

Plans, instructions, warnings and guidance must all be clearly expressed and adhered to. Any written or verbal reports must also be clear and concise.

## 10. Good ambassador

Our workforce *is* our reputation and each and every member of the workforce aims to enhance that reputation every day they work for us.

# Anvil In Brief

## What a steel!

As all those involved in the construction industry will know, steel prices are currently increasing at unprecedented rates, currently 20-30% per month, thanks mainly to worldwide purchasing by the Chinese. How long this will last we have no idea, but the implications for all those involved in structural steelwork are obvious - the sooner you can confirm that contract, the better the deal!

## Go on - extend yourself!

The government's ever-tightening grip on planning policy and their moratorium on Building Regulations means that more and more people are rebuilding and extending their properties rather than buying new. Anvil's specialist work on extensions, both for homes and commercial property, really comes into its own at a time like this and we are pleased to offer our advice and expertise to anyone considering such work.

## Safety First

As a result of recent collaboration with ASUC and consultative work with Construction Safety Services, all Anvil employees have now undergone in-depth Health & Safety training relevant to foundation and underpinning operations. In addition, all Anvil vehicles now carry a 'van pack' consisting of policy and insurance documents, method statements and relevant COSHH documentation on materials used.

## It's those mice again!

Such has proved to be the popularity of the mouse mats produced by Anvil to celebrate its 10th anniversary that some have been ordering them in multiple lots! Stocks are still available, so please use the Response Slip to order yours, though applications are limited to one per person. If demand carries on like this, we'll have to set traps!

## Staff Profile: Andy O'Neill

Andy works as a Team Leader for Anvil and is affectionately known at work as Rab, after the famous Rab C. Nesbit of television fame. When not knitting string vests to wear, Andy likes to read books on the SAS, and his other interests include motor bikes, rugby and the martial arts. His ambitions include passing his driving test, completing his NVQ certification and getting his ticket to drive the mini excavator at work. All of these he is well on the way to achieving!



## Don't forget the Anvil Website!

[www.minipiling.co.uk](http://www.minipiling.co.uk), with its ease of access and simple design, the 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.

# Anvil Site Casebook 2004



## Wittons House, Belmont, Bolton

This interesting project is one of many new-build schemes undertaken by Anvil on behalf of the NHBC, on this occasion under the direction of main contractor Peninsular North West, managing director, Dave Faulkner.

The building is divided into apartments and remedial work needed to be undertaken to stabilise the large entrance porch (visible in the photographs). Previous underpinning attempts had been unsuccessful, due to lack of below ground information.



Anvil insisted on a site investigation, then put 8 inch piles outside the porch (previous piles had been sited inside) and ran a number of 600mm square beams beneath the structure. To ensure the right level of stability, the piles had to be driven 10-12 metres below ground.



As the apartments in the building are already in use, temporary walkways had to be constructed for residents during the work and every effort had to be made to carry out this demanding work with the minimum of disruption.



*Above: Wittons House - the prestigious exterior of the building, with its porch, illustrating the problems of access and gradient*

## Retail premises, Stamford New Road, Altrincham

A very recent and interesting contract for Anvil has been this refurbishment of retail premises near the centre of Altrincham. Originally a town-centre residence, the building was converted to retail premises some 20-30 years ago, but it subsequently fell into disrepair. Now being extended and refurbished by the present owners, the part of the project to be undertaken by Anvil includes underpinning the existing structure and providing a piled groundbeam foundation for the extension.

The site has various problems, including very difficult access and the fact that trees have grown right up to the walls of the building, which will need to be removed before work can begin. Never one to turn away from a challenge, Anvil hope to have the work completed during the summer.



## Barnsley MBC

Anvil has recently been involved in a variety of remedial work for Barnsley MBC - mostly underpinning projects for their council house stock.

Subsidence is a continuing problem in many former mining areas and Anvil has built up a reputation with the Council for stepping in at short notice and 'getting them out of trouble'.



## Dream Team of Bikers? You must be joking!

### Living dangerously - out of hours

Our article in a previous issue, which showed Anvil MD Nigel MacLean indulging his passion for biking at Oulton Park, clearly struck a chord with some customers because they responded by mentioning their own passion for the sport.

Quite often, of course, we deal with colleagues and customers at work for years without having a clue what their hobbies are or how they spend the rest of their lives. Just to return to the biking theme once more, here we picture Nigel in his leathers again, this time with a real Wildcard Rider - Mike Andrews of EMTEC Rail! The two have enjoyed several successful outings to competition tracks, proving that in this trade, when we're not below ground, we're pretty fast at moving on the surface!

# Return of the Wordsearch!

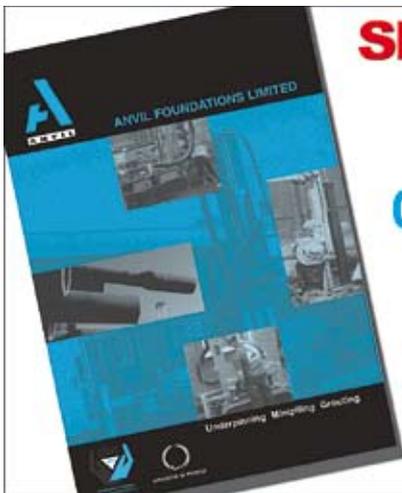
## More Champagne to be won!

Clearly, the 10th Anniversary Crossword in our last issue of *Below Ground* pitted your wits to the maximum and there were no fully correct entries (though some near misses!). By popular request therefore, we are returning to the Wordsearch competition which you already know and love, in the hope that Nigel won't have to drink all the champagne himself this time.

How many words, of four or more letters, can you find in the box above that relate to our industry? The winning words may be set out vertically, horizontally, diagonally, forwards or backwards - you just have to identify them by circling each complete word and sending a copy of your entry together with the total number you have found filled in correctly on the Faxback Response Slip below. Don't forget to add your name, address and contact details on the slip or we have no way of identifying you!

*Entries to the Wordsearch Competition should reach us by Monday, September 27th.*

E	W	S	A	T	W	E	R	C	S
R	O	N	I	A	H	C	M	U	D
U	L	V	G	L	E	L	O	N	S
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E	S	B	H	I	Y	A	L	C	A
R	A	W	T	O	R	Q	U	E	N
P	C	N	C	E	L	O	M	X	D
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