



# BELOW GROUND



The Newsletter of Anvil Foundations Ltd.

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## Underground and Overseas: Anvil on the move!

2007 has seen an active start for Anvil Foundations, following on from a busy and successful 2006. Towards the end of last year, two new directions of work were begun for Anvil: one working with contractors on projects for a specialist basement development company, and the other working overseas – in the Isle of Man – preparing foundations for extensions to a hospice. Both these developments took Anvil into new areas of experience, tapping into the new vogue for basement living and managing all the logistics of an off-shore project.



Overseas contracts present difficulties of a different kind. Although the Isle of Man isn't oceans away, the problems of off-shore travel were highlighted for the Anvil team when the Seacat from Liverpool to Heysham sank after colliding with another vessel and our intrepid workforce had to travel by ferry from Heysham with their vans and trailers in convoy – a total of nearly 4 hours on the water. Added to this, one team member managed to be sick throughout the flat-calm

crossing and, although the natives proved to be very welcoming on arrival, some cultural differences were certainly noticeable!

Basement extensions are now all the rage – the Sunday supplements tell us so and, in London in particular, celebrities and trend-setters are keen to install swimming pools, games rooms and all manner of other lifestyle necessities underground. Specialist firms, who handle all the details from planning to outfitting, are springing up to meet this demand and with it, not surprisingly, comes a need for experienced foundation experts to attend to the technical preparation of the site. Anvil Foundations is obviously in poll position for work of this kind and has already undertaken numerous projects for some of the major specialist basement companies. Here the well-known Anvil trademarks of quiet professionalism, reliability and efficient timing on site were particularly appreciated. More of this type of work is expected in the coming months.

The project itself, for local main contractor Dandara, went well, forming foundations for two new extensions to the Brackenbridge Hospice. And, in answer to the question already forming in some customers' minds, no, Nigel didn't skive off to test out the TT circuit during the visit. Some people know their priorities!

All in all, the year looks to be shaping up well as a busy and exciting one. Read on to find out more!

### INSIDE:

Watching our step – Anvil's H&S training in safe hands - Page 3

Out on site with projects from the Anvil Site Casebook - Page 2

Get out the magnifying glass – spot the difference competition - Page 4



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# High Quality Care

Anvil gets hospice extensions onto a firm footing

## ANVIL SITE CASEBOOK



At Nobles Hospital, Brackenbridge, Isle of Man (see front page), 219mm. diam. steel-cased bottom piles were driven in to carry the floors for two new extensions to the hospice.

Despite working a long way away from their home base, the Anvil team completed the work ahead of schedule and to the satisfaction of main contractor, Dandara.

## When the wagons stop rolling...

New commercial use for former haulage yard in Preston



At Edmondson's Haulage Yard, Preston, previously a very busy road transport site depot, contractors Brighthouse Construction, of Marton, Knutsford, appointed Anvil Foundations to work on their mezzanine floor requirements.

# Location, Location, Location!

Foundations for prestige domestic new build in Prestbury

Prestbury, Cheshire, has long been known as a well-to-do village much loved by the 'Cheshire set', so it is not surprising to find expensive and well-designed new homes being built there. One such has been a new build by Croft Prestige Homes on Meadow Drive, where Anvil were contracted to build foundations and insert a piled ground beam.

This was not an entirely straightforward project in view of the need to span the drainage system on site, but Anvil handled this difficulty with their usual unflappability(!). Croft's Project Manager, Mike Barltrop, was full of praise for Anvil's performance and efficiency on site.



This involved working with the old floor slab and inserting piles to support the new structure

– a commercial building. Contracts Manager for Brighthouse, Steven Heald, declared himself well satisfied with the job and the degree of cooperation experienced on site with Anvil.



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**ANVIL HONDA**

The Race Bike is Available for Sponsorship for the 2007 Season...

**ANVIL FOUNDATIONS**

## Off the tracks!

Considering Anvil's employees normal professionalism when it comes to handling technically complex and valuable machinery, the company's 2006 Fun Day, at the Three Sisters Karting Track, saw all of them throw caution to the winds in some wild dare-devil stunts and appalling lapses of road sense. Amazingly, everyone survived to tell the tale and, next morning on site, the mayhem seemed a million miles away! For the day itself, we'll let the accompanying pictures tell their own story.



## Better Safe than Sorry

### Health and Safety developments at Anvil

Over the past 10 years, and particularly recently, Anvil has developed a close working relationship with Construction Safety Services (NW) in all areas concerned with staff and safety training. Based in Golborne, Warrington, CSS(NW) Safety Advisors are all chartered members of the Institute of Safety and Health (CMIOSH) and take particular pride in developing bespoke training programmes to meet the needs of their clients.

In November, 2006, for example, CSS(NW) carried out a one-day health and safety awareness course for 6 operatives, covering subjects as diverse as Health & Safety at Work, Manual Handling, Control of Vibration at Work Regs., Noise at Work Regs. and Avoidance of Danger from Underground Services. This was followed, in December 2006, by a short course on Abrasive Wheel and Manual Handling for other employees. Anvil Foundations is pleased to be associated with the work of CSS(NW) and considers itself fortunate to have found a training provider so responsive to its needs. For their part, CSS's Shaun Lowry is quick to acknowledge Anvil's commitment to safety training, which has 'developed over the past 10 years through an excellent working relationship with our trainers and advisors'. For more information about CSS (NW), call 01942 729770.



## Staff Profile: Iain Morris

Iain has been with Anvil right from the start over 10 years ago – in fact, Iain and his step-brother formed the first site crew in September 1994! Now Anvil's Contracts Director and MD Nigel MacLean's right-hand man, Iain trained as an apprentice joiner and studied at St. John's College in Manchester. After several years 'on the tools' with other firms, Iain first completed a plant operator's course with Anvil and obtained licences to drive excavators and dumper trucks. Since his appointment last August as Anvil's Contracts Director, Iain is charged with improving the firm's already high standards of workmanship and safety. He has also completed a course as an approved NVQ Assessor.

At home, Iain has little time to relax. He has spent the past 3 years building an extension to his home, doing all the work himself except wiring and gas fitting. Apart from being a family man, Iain is also a big supporter of MUFC and Wigan RFL. What does he do to relax?!



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## Spot the Difference!

**COMPETITION!**

Win a Springtime prize!



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 30th June 2007 in order to qualify. Prizes will only be awarded to participants who have fully completed the response slip.

Good luck!



## Don't forget the Anvil Website!

[www.minipiling.co.uk](http://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.

