



## HBPW Strengthens Its Accreditation Armoury

**HBPW has been verified under the Achilles UVDB accreditation scheme for the first time, just days after achieving another 100% badge of approval from the British Standards Institution.**

It now means that the firm can work for utility companies from the Canal and River Trust to Scottish Water and UK Power Networks.

Associate Paul Jacklin, who has responsibility for quality standards within HBPW, said: "Accreditations and quality standards are a gradual process

that take years to achieve, implement and refine.

"However, once in place, they are a badge of credibility that instantly tell a range of people within large sprawling organisations, that HBPW is able to deliver without the need for further extended checks at departmental level."

The firm developed its own quality assurance scheme several years ago, not only to meet ISO9001 criteria, but to control and complement the innovative and lateral processes for which it has become known amongst clients and contractors.



"The ISO9001 criteria is now governed by the BSI's 2015 regulations which we have successfully implemented a year ahead of final deadline.

"Maintaining quality systems is not easy and takes real time and effort, however, they undoubtedly assist bids for work by letting key players know that we are fit for purpose. These latest badges of honour reinforce that," he added."

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In February we stopped the church sinking in Marske, North Yorkshire, two months later we were part of the team that won the Large Projects category of the ICE North West Awards for our work on Liverpool's Gladstone Docks Biomass Project, and we were also part of the Emergency Response engineering team called in to help restore rail services in Leicestershire following the rail bridge collapse at Barrow upon Soar.

We have even completed our pro bono work on the new 100 metre boardwalk at the Idle Valley Nature Reserve for the Rotary Club of Retford.

Yes, it's been a year of great projects, some community based, others commercial but, essentially, it's been POSITIVE! I fear we will need a strong dose of optimism in the months ahead so allow me to kick start the feelgood factor: have a great Christmas and a wonderful New Year with lots of success ahead.

For now we continue to work on some great projects so please keep an eye on the HBPW blog to see what we've been up to ([www.hbpw.co.uk](http://www.hbpw.co.uk)).

Meanwhile enjoy the read!

**PAUL WITHERS**  
MANAGING PARTNER  
HBPW LLP

## Welcome



Paul Withers - Managing Partner

I am once again in reflective mood as I prepare to count my growing number of grey hairs at the end of yet another year!

I had a quick look at my comments from last January and smiled broadly: "Perhaps the year ahead is about being a little kinder after the turbulence of 2016, Brexit, the ups and downs of the economy and the craziness of the US election?"

Well, Brexit certainly hasn't gone away, and President Trump has entered our lives with all the delicacy of a ballet dancer in pit boots!

Nevertheless, it's been a good year for HBPW despite all the naysayers and other prophets of doom.

There seems to be a new face in the office every time I walk in, which is great considering that they are additions rather than replacements so, hopefully, we are doing something right!

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## Boost For East Coast Windfarm Scheme



One of the hi-tech Service Operational Vessels

**High tech service vessels which will play a major part in supporting some of Britain's leading offshore windfarms, will also benefit from a series of engineering initiatives designed by HBPW.**

In late 2016 DONG Energy announced plans for a multi-million pounds investment in Grimsby to create the UK's largest offshore wind operations and maintenance hub, now being developed in the town's Royal Dock.

It will initially support Westermost Rough, Race Bank and Hornsea Project One offshore wind farms, with further capacity to also support other east coast wind farms in DONG Energy's future development pipeline.

Transforming the way wind farms are supported, the hub will be served by high-tech Service Operational Vessels (SOVs) capable of accommodating up to 60 crew and technicians while remaining at sea for long periods.

Associate, Paul Jacklin, said: "A 64m pontoon is being built at Royal Dock with the ability to berth up to five SOVs. Our job has been to complete the engineering design for the five 27.5m vertical steel mooring piles that anchor the pontoon, in addition to the fixed reinforced concrete base that will ultimately support the boat loading crane."

The wider hub will include a comprehensive marine and helicopter coordination centre capable of providing 24-7 service to offshore operations across the UK and beyond.

Brent Cheshire, DONG Energy's UK Country Chairman, said: "This new operational hub in Grimsby will be a game changing industry first, raising the bar for the way we serve offshore wind farms. It will generate direct and indirect job opportunities in the Humber region, as well as opportunities for the local supply chain.

"It represents a massive vote of confidence to the UK offshore wind industry and confirms our commitment to the Humber region

where by 2019 we expect to have invested around £6 billion."

The first SOV arrives imminently to support a phased activation on the new hub. The vessel will initially support the operation and maintenance of Race Bank, DONG Energy's 580-megawatt offshore wind farm currently under construction 17 miles off the Norfolk and Lincolnshire coastlines.

Paul Jacklin added: "We may only be playing a small part in the overall scheme but it is an important one and testimony to the company's reputation among those organisations leading some of the biggest civil engineering projects in the UK."

**Client:** DONG Energy  
**Contractor:** Hobson Porter / Humber Work Boats

## Dolphins Make a Splash in Scotland

**HBPW has been playing its part in the construction of mooring dolphins off the coastline of a Scottish research and engineering zone.**

Energy Park Fife encompasses a 55-hectare site, including Methil Docks and Methil Docks Business Park and Low Carbon Investment Park.



A marine dolphin structure

Main contractor, Graham Construction, enlisted Murform to construct two marine dolphin structures – isolated structures that extend above the water to provide a mooring facility for vessels.

However, before Murform could complete the job in hand, HBPW had to deliver vital engineering design work.

Managing Partner, Paul Withers, said: "Graham's asked us to design and detail precast concrete permanent soffit formwork to facilitate production of reinforced concrete caps on top of the 1500mm diameter piles driven into the sea bed.

"Each of the piles – six in total, three for each of the dolphins - featured steel yolks at the top of the piles to give the precast structure temporary support during casting of insitu concrete infill and, subsequently, provided support to fenders in the permanent works conditions."

Paul said that the precast structure, incorporating both soffit and wall formwork, had been given the nickname 'bathtub' because of its huge, lumbering shape.

"To some extent HBPW was at the pen and paper end of a very complicated offshore job. By designing the anchors and steelwork frame to facilitate lifting of the so-called 'bathtub', the job was successfully completed."

**Client:** Graham Construction





## A Slick Job in Lindsey

**Just months before it celebrates its 50th anniversary North Lincolnshire's industrial icon, the Lindsey Oil Refinery, has been having an early birthday makeover courtesy of HBPW.**

Associate Paul Jacklin was called in by owners, Total UK Ltd, and asked to produce the civil and structural design for a range of new contractor facilities.

He said: "The refinery entered service almost half a century ago in May 1968 and remains a major landmark in the North Killingholme area.

"Hundreds of contractors make up a key part of the workforce and Total asked us to prepare the drawings for three additional car parks with capacity for more than 230 vehicles."

HBPW also provided foundation drawings for a new gatehouse with medical centre and a restaurant. Once approved modular buildings were then erected on site.

"These might seem like straightforward facilities, however, everything had to have the ability to resist severe blast loads," added Paul.

The site, which employs in the region of 500 permanent staff alongside several hundred contractors, processes approximately 10,000,000 tons of crude oil a year, or 200,000 barrels per day via two pipelines, making it Britain's third largest oil refinery.

It is named after the former Lindsey, a pre-1974 local government area within the county of Lincolnshire.

**Client:** Total UK Ltd

## GEOEDUCATION

# A Desk Study Could Save You £££££!

**Developers spending millions of pounds on large sites ignore environmental desk studies at their peril.**

That is the warning from HBPW Geoenvironmental Engineer, Elin Griffiths, who says that clients and contractors are missing a key part of the development jigsaw if they fail to include geotechnics at an early stage in the process.

"A Phase 1 Desk Study, or Preliminary Risk Assessment (PRA), is a low cost, high-value service which helps identify potential geotechnical and environmental hazards early on.

"Where a development is proposed it is the responsibility of the developer, under the National Planning Policy Framework, to ensure that issues of land contamination are appropriately considered and that, where necessary, remediation takes place so that

land is deemed safe and suitable for use.

However, whilst many Local Authorities specified the need for a desk study as part of a planning condition, the reality was that they were sometimes overlooked, leading to unnecessary costs or delays further down the line.

"Typically, a PRA includes a review of public register data, including historical ordnance survey maps, aerial photographs and environmental sensitivity records to identify potential 'sources' of contamination, 'receptors' which may be affected by contamination (such as end users of the development, groundwater or neighbouring properties), and the 'pathways' by which they may be transmitted.

"From these so-called 'Pollutant Linkages', a Conceptual Site Model is developed to provide



essential information that may be required by regulatory bodies whenever they are consulted as part of the planning process."

But, said Elin, not all developers were fully tuned into the need for environmental desk studies.

She said that late identification of major problems, such as contamination, well into the development phase, could prove extremely costly and result in both lost time and complex remediation strategies.

"A desk study saves time and money and, by evaluating site conditions early on, PRA's can help identify potential risks in a project's development, enabling the appropriate management of those problems identified."

Elin can be contacted at [e.griffiths@hbpwconsulting.co.uk](mailto:e.griffiths@hbpwconsulting.co.uk)



# 007 Secrecy For Partners

**HBPW is fast becoming the engineering company with some of the best kept secrets in Britain!**

Managing Partner, Paul Withers' latest assignment involved a collection of classic sports cars worth millions of pounds. "David Randall at Turnstyle Construction installed the equivalent of an insulated white wall into a rather large shed, doubling as a huge garage to an even larger collection of elite motors," said Paul.

"He asked HBPW to design the structure to enable the suspension of insulated panels from the existing building roof, a fitting interior for this wonderful collection, and

certainly better than an asbestos and cement clad shed! For obvious reasons I can only say that the work took me to Lincolnshire and that Jeremy Clarkson would have been jealous. There was some really Top Gear in there!"

### SWORN TO SECRECY

Last year Paul was sworn to secrecy when he was asked to convert an old bus garage into a high security storage facility 'Down South', a euphemism for south of Retford!

The result was a highly secure, multi compartmental facility which is temperature and humidity controlled, so that high value items such as silverware and paintings can

be safely stored by top collectors!

And fellow Partner, Emyr Parry, was called on to remain tight lipped when Jaguar invited him to their specially mocked up showroom complete with cars, at a secretly located warehouse.

### A VIP TOUR

"I got to see what I was about to design before I'd even put pen to paper!" said Emyr at the time. He was a given a VIP tour of the facility and was able to get a bird's eye view of what Jaguar expected his drawings to deliver.

Paul Withers added: "Sometimes it is impossible to give a location or even reveal engineering specifications for obvious reasons. I am not your typical 007, other than in the looks department, but discretion is fast becoming my middle name!"



Jaguar - fiercely proud of their brand

