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April 2018

The UK's Leading Specialist
Civil Engineering Journal

Belfast piling hints at a bit of Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da

Amidst the Lagan Construction Group putting four of its companies into administration due to delays in the commencement of new projects, protracted contractual disputes on some existing major projects and alleged instability caused by joint venture partner Ferrovial, its piling arm - FL Lowry Piling, are still out there doing the business and have recently and successfully completed a £100,000 (eur. 111,000) valued CFA piling contract for a proposed 14-storey building comprising 36 apartments over a ground floor commercial unit project in Belfast.



Photograph Above. Avoiding the fall-out. Lowry undertaking CFA piling on 14-18 Montgomery Street, Belfast

The specialist were subcontracted by Mascott Construction (Europe) (tel. 028 9075 4090 att: Paul Simpson / Brian McCombe) to design and install 450mm dia. CFA piles to depths up to 25m for axial loads of up to 750kN over a two week period. Ground conditions on the project typically consisted of made ground overlying soft alluvial deposits (Belfast Sleaf), which overlain firm to stiff Belfast Clays.

"The Montgomery Street Project was an op-

portunity to test our new Soilmec SR-95 in Belfast ground conditions," explained FK Lowry's Contracts Engineer, Jonathan Pearson.

"As it had previously been undertaking rotary bored piling on the A6 Road Scheme, we were keen to see how the rig performed in CFA mode. Following the quick-change rig conversion, we were impressed by the rig's CFA capability and look forward to undertaking similar work with it."

■ A £56M (eur. 61.6M) programme of works aimed at improving flood and coastal defences was recently announced by the Welsh Government.

Natural Resources Wales (tel. 0300 065 3000) and local authorities will receive part of the funding to deliver flood risk management schemes, complete new and existing projects, as well as designing future schemes.

The new schemes will include the construction of flood defences at Leckwith in Cardiff, Llanmaes in the Vale of Glamorgan, Machynys in Llanelli, Parc yr Onnen in Aberystwyth, Llanberis in Gwynedd and Llansannan and Mochdre in Conwy.

There are also planned tidal works to the River Cadoxton and works at the Llyn Tegid Reservoir in Gwynedd.

■ Lidl (tel. 0800 977 7766 att: Gary Rafferty) should shortly be kicking off piling and foundations as part of a scheme that will involve the construction of a new 2,125m² store and a 154-space car park off the A1077 Ferriby Road in Barton-upon-Humber.

The supermarket chain has had to relocate as its existing site on High Street was deemed as being too small.

The Leeds office of Lichfields (tel. 0113 397 1397 att: Jonathan Wallace) undertook the planning of the scheme, which got the heads-up from North Lincolnshire Council (tel. 01724 296296) back in December 2017 – however, the project stalled, partly due to concerns with both traffic and flooding and therefore the plans had to be amended.

The scheme will also involve piling to facilitate the construction of a 700m² restaurant and 64-space car park.

■ The Environment Agency (tel. 0370 850 6506 att: Leila Huntington) recently received £3.7M of funding to progress its planned £5M (eur. 5.5M) valued Tyne Mills and Bridge End Industrial Estate Flood Alleviation Scheme in Hexham.