

VolkerView

Proud together



Artist's impression of Southwark Waste Treatment Facility

Work starts on London's first inner city waste and recycling facility

VolkerFitzpatrick and clients Veolia Environmental Services and Southwark Council attended a ground breaking ceremony to celebrate the start of works on a multi million pound waste disposal centre, the first of its kind in inner London.

The state of the art facility is being built on a former gas works on the Old Kent Road in the London Borough of Southwark and will assist with the aim of doubling the council's recycling rate by 2014.

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VolkerFitzpatrick has been awarded the £45m design and build contract to carry out both the initial remediation and site preparation works (phase 1) followed by the design and construction of the treatment facilities (phase 2).

The integrated waste management facility includes a mechanical biological treatment (MBT) centre which will extract recyclable material from domestic residual waste including metals and plastics and then break down the remainder using a process similar to composting. A Material Recovery Facility (MRF) will also make possible standardised mixed collections of recyclables across the borough by providing a new capacity for sorting.



Partners at the ground breaking ceremony

Site preparation works are now well underway including site clearance, demolition of existing buildings, remediation of parts of the site, bulk earthworks and major utility diversions. This phase also includes the construction of the access road into the facility, street lighting and landscaping.

The second phase of operations comprise 280,000 sq ft of buildings including a visitor and waste education centre, weighbridges, re-fuelling areas, workshops and all associated infrastructure.

Keith Maplethorpe, project director at VolkerFitzpatrick, said: "We are pleased to be involved in this innovative project for Southwark, which will set a benchmark for other waste facilities in urban areas. Due to its position and the nature of the project we have ensured the design features and the construction techniques and controls we are using will minimise potential disturbance to neighbours."



Alan Robertson

Foreword from the Chief Executive

Chief Executive, Alan Robertson, reflects on the last year:

"I am delighted that VolkerWessels UK is now becoming well recognised in the UK construction market. Our recognition in the recent New Civil Engineer Contractors File as a 'major contracting force' is a positive reflection on what everyone at VolkerWessels UK has achieved over the last 18 months.

"In turbulent economic times we have transformed the group in the UK into an integrated, multi-disciplinary organisation, which is delivering many technically complex and challenging civil engineering and building projects.

"We will continue to protect the culture and ethos of each of our businesses who will retain their own brands and market responsibilities in each of their specialist areas having already built up good reputations.

"Our order book for 2011 is solid with many opportunities still presenting themselves, but we cannot be complacent. We must all be aware that the current trading environment will not get any easier and is likely to become significantly more challenging, specifically in the public sector.

"We must maintain the entrepreneurial flair and energy that is an integral part of each of our businesses against the backdrop of comprehensive risk management and corporate governance.

"In the last year we have re-branded, re-positioned and strengthened our group, developed more integrated solutions and project teams as well as adapting to market conditions and ensuring our financial stability.

"The group is performing well and I am proud of what we have achieved; these achievements are in no small way down to our employees. We should all be looking to the future with confidence."

"In turbulent economic times we have transformed the group in the UK into an integrated, multi-disciplinary organisation, which is delivering many technically complex and challenging civil engineering and building projects."



Part of Carlisle Flood Alleviation Scheme

VolkerStevin completes flood protection for 3,455 homes and businesses on behalf of the Environment Agency

Following the devastating floods in Carlisle in 2005, VolkerStevin was quickly mobilised to begin work on a comprehensive flood alleviation scheme, which was already being planned by client the Environment Agency. Now both the client and VolkerStevin are celebrating completion of the Carlisle Flood Alleviation Scheme, one year ahead of schedule.

The work, as part of the Environment Agency NCF2 Framework, was split in to two contracts; Eden and Petteril and Caldew and City Centre. The total contract value for VolkerStevin was £30m.

Working with the client team and designers Atkins (Eden and Petteril) and Jacobs/Halcrow/Axis (Caldew and City Centre) the VolkerStevin project team provided value engineering advice as part of Early Contractor Involvement (ECI). This led to early procurement of long delivery items, alternative sourcing and concurrent running of different phases of the schemes.

The Eden and Petteril scheme involved a combination of brick clad insitu reinforced concrete walls and the upgrading of the existing earth embankments, which only provided a one in 70 year flood defence, to provide properties with protection from a one in 200 year event.

The Caldew and City Centre scheme used a complex combination of pre-cast units, brick and stone clad insitu reinforced concrete walls, sheet piles and earth embankments to provide flood protection in an area of high-density housing and industrial land. Sites along the 8km of the scheme were restricted due to the presence of industry, rail corridors, potentially contaminated land, high voltage services and environmentally sensitive habitats.

During this part of the scheme, floods hit the north west again and, despite the defences still being under construction, Carlisle suffered less than it may have done otherwise. VolkerStevin was praised for the work which had been carried out and the

way the site reacted during the 2009 floods. The company's staff worked tirelessly throughout the night to ensure that the Caldewgate area of Carlisle, where the defences were incomplete, was protected. In addition to safeguarding residential and small business properties, VolkerStevin's efforts prevented flooding of the McVitie's factory, which is a major employer in Carlisle.

Environment Agency project manager, Keith Roddy, added: "The £38m capital investment spent was recouped during the 2009 floods when £48m of damage was avoided, so the scheme has already paid for itself and helped to protect Carlisle."

The whole project provided 10km of raised flood defences, 30 flood gates, two automated pumping stations, two raised footbridges, the removal of a derelict bridge, five new river level telemetry stations, seven CCTV cameras, 1,500 metres of improved cycleway and a riverside art trail.

The Carlisle Flood Alleviation Scheme won Project of the Year in the 2008-2009 Environment Agency Project Excellence Awards and was officially opened by the Environment Agency Chairman, Lord Chris Smith, on 10 June 2010 who commended the VolkerStevin project team on their work.

VolkerHighways one year on



VolkerHighways winter maintenance depot

In July 2009, four VolkerWessels UK companies came together to form VolkerHighways; combining their specialist highways skills and forming a company which provides better value, integrated services to its clients.

John Crowley Ltd.; predominantly a London term maintenance business, Gabriel Ltd.; a high quality public realm and civil engineering contractor, Mews; a street lighting and communications specialist with a fencing division and the highways division of Fitzpatrick Contractors Ltd., which carried out significant highways maintenance contracts, all joined forces to create a highways contractor with a wide range of skills.

Managing director, Peter Hyde, reflects on VolkerHighways first year: "It has been a rollercoaster of a year for everyone involved in the business, but one year on everybody should be proud of what we have achieved together.

"Over the last year the business has performed well, exceeding budget expectations and building a reputation for the new brand in the market place. As VolkerHighways we have a greater presence in the market and we have the opportunity to bid for larger jobs, which we are delighted to be winning.

"The £4m Woolwich Squares project for London Borough of Greenwich is a great contract win for our projects division; a complex hard and soft landscaping town centre regeneration scheme which is a showcase for many of our specialist skills.

"Our single largest contract last year was the Super Highway contract in east London where our turnover exceeded £26m, comprising of highway infrastructure and maintenance works.

"Our site teams continue to deliver exceptional service for our clients; testament to this is that we continue to be awarded contract extensions.

"We have now also outgrown our existing office space in Brimsdown, Enfield; head office will be re-locating to Hoddesdon next door to our parent company's (VolkerWessels UK) offices. This will ensure we not only have additional space as we build the business, but it also brings together all our support staff with those of our parent company creating a much more efficient service to support our site delivery."

Peter sums up: "The benefits of providing an integrated service for our clients and creating one brand in the market place are reflected in our figures for the last

year. Despite the current economic climate and the uncertainty about public sector spending I am confident that VolkerHighways is well positioned to continue delivering for our clients, both existing and new."

There are four core areas of the VolkerHighways business; term maintenance contracts, high quality public realm and civil engineering projects, street lighting and specialist services e.g. surfacing, traffic management, road marking and fencing.



Peter Hyde



Thermal desorption plant ready to begin work

Ducting for off gases, part of the thermal desorption plant

The largest thermal desorption plant ever to be used in the UK is about to start work on site at the former Avenue Coking Works near Chesterfield, following six months of construction by contractor VSD Avenue.

Joint venture partners VolkerStevin, DEC and Sita Remediation (collectively VSD Avenue), have begun testing the plant which has been custom designed and constructed for the clean up of this former industrial site for client East Midlands Development Agency.

The former Avenue Coking Works is known as one of the most contaminated sites in Europe; VSD Avenue won the £82m contract to remediate the site in August 2009 following three years of site investigation, testing, sampling and further design work to provide the client with the best solution.

“Thermal desorption is a technique that uses high levels of heat combined with sophisticated cleaning systems to break down and capture the components of the hydrocarbon chemicals contained within the soil,” explained Marcus Foweather, project director at VSD Avenue.

“There are many substances contained in the ground at the Avenue, such as heavy metals and petrol based chemicals, which if left untreated could be harmful to people, wildlife and the environment. Much of this contamination is a result of the site’s industrial heritage, and it is our job to clean this up in a safe way.”

The plant, once fully operational, will run 24 hours a day, seven days a week treating the most heavily hydrocarbon contaminated materials on the site. This process will last for more than two years and will process around 500,000 tonnes of soil.

The contaminated soil will be hauled from the two large lagoons at the northern end of the site to the thermal treatment area. There it will be loaded onto a conveyor belt and then transported into a gas fired kiln which will then heat the soil to more than 500°C, causing the hydrocarbon contaminants to become a vapour. The vapour will then be heated to over 1,000°C when it will be “cracked” down into its constituent components (carbon dioxide and water). The off gases will then be cooled before being passed through a ‘bag house’ filter to remove airborne particles.

The gases will then be treated to remove other potentially harmful contaminants.

Bio-remediation has already commenced on site with two large aerated beds operating to treat any organic contaminants; a local species of micro-organism is being used to digest and break down the hydrocarbon contamination in the soil.

It will take around five years to complete the site works including final landscaping and restoration. The works will involve the excavation of around two million cubic metres of material, the clean up of two silt lagoons, the processing and removal of a registered asbestos containing waste tip and the removal of ground pollution caused by heavy metals and waste chemicals. On completion the remediation of the site will provide around 25 hectares of mixed use development land with the remaining land being landscaped by VSD Avenue to provide new public open space, new wildlife habitats and sporting facilities.

Funding for the £172.3m remediation scheme is coming from the Homes and Communities Agency’s National Coalfields Programme.



Part of the thermal desorption plant

Management changes at VolkerFitzpatrick



Richard Offord



Jonathan Suckling

Richard Offord has been appointed managing director of VolkerFitzpatrick, overseeing both the civil engineering and building divisions. Richard will now take over duties from Alan Robertson, who will concentrate his efforts on his role as chief executive of VolkerWessels UK.

Richard has taken on this role for VolkerFitzpatrick as a whole following his success in delivering results for the civil engineering division, for which he has been

director for the last four years. Richard will be supported by Jonathan Suckling who will also oversee both divisions as commercial director.

The changes in market conditions and client demand over the last year has seen the building and civil engineering divisions of VolkerFitzpatrick working closer together than they have before; often bidding for work on an integrated project team basis. Richard will now be overseeing the growth of this market sector for the company.



The new development at Anglia Ruskin University

An Educational Challenge

VolkerFitzpatrick is currently undertaking the re-development of the Anglia Ruskin University campus in Cambridge coming face to face with the challenges that this historic urban environment provides.

Not only is the site situated in the busy city of Cambridge but the existing campus includes student halls of residence, 24 hour library facilities, public optometry facilities, a public theatre and catering facilities not to mention more than 7,000 students passing and interacting with the site every day.

The £21.5 million construction contract is at the centre of the existing campus, the aim of the project is to bring together the different parts of the campus, providing coherence to the educational facilities, maximising space and creating a high-quality, modern learning environment. This must be achieved without disruption to the university, other organisations on site or the adjacent primary school.

Richard Ramsdale, senior project manager for VolkerFitzpatrick, said: "Forward planning has been a vital part of the project, particularly to ensure each stakeholder knows what is happening, when and how it will affect them. We have had to take into account things like exam timetables or theatre performances in terms of monitoring noise. The major service disruptions required when relocation was taking place was also

only achieved by understanding the diverse requirements and extensive prior preparation like arranging alternative sources of power and water.

The team started on site in May 2009 preparing the site for the main building works to commence in October 2009. A complicated enabling works scheme was designed to include the demolition of existing buildings ensuring safe public and emergency access was maintained, a complete overhaul of the drainage, gas, water, data and power infrastructure and the re-design of the main campus delivery entrance to accommodate the new buildings.

The new three storey building is built using reinforced concrete with a flat soffit throughout. Each piece of the timber formwork is carefully crafted by onsite joiners to create five circular pods which will hold the 9,000m² of teaching, research and catering areas. Twelve lecture theatres will be constructed with capacities ranging from 40 to 400.

Richard added: "We are building on to existing structures on campus; on one side a theatre and the other a library. In order to do this we have to spend time in these facilities to not only investigate the properties of the existing structure, but in some cases to demolish and re-build due to the requirements of the new structure. Of course

this can only be done when the facilities can accommodate our works."

Once complete, the building will be clad in a range of treatments including ceramic and brick tiling, timber, curtain walling, punched and ribbon windows and a bespoke mesh Brise Soleil. Some of the concrete will be left exposed and therefore the quality of finish is vital.

Internally, the VolkerFitzpatrick team will undertake a £5.5m building services installation, which includes a £1m audio visual fit out. The highly technical scheme will provide the client with a multitude of teaching methods, whilst delivering an extremely energy efficient and future proof building. The new campus has been designed to achieve a BREEAM rating of very good. The design includes additional elements like self monitoring lighting, photovoltaics, a combined heat and power system (CHP) and a passive ventilation system with chilled beams.

This design and build contract for client Bishop Hall Properties (BHP), the development arm of Anglia Ruskin University, will be complete in May 2011, when the VolkerFitzpatrick team will hand over a modern and improved learning environment. So far teaching delivery has not experienced any disruption; and the team intend to keep this way.

VolkerRail management changes



Steve Cocliff

In February this year, former chief operating officer, Steve Cocliff, took over as managing director of VolkerRail and since then has undertaken a restructuring of the business to reflect both a desire to enter new markets and the change in the company's existing markets.

Steve is supported, as part of the management team, by Paul Nolan, commercial director and Andrew Wilkins, finance director (see photographs above).



Andrew Wilkins

Steve says: "VolkerWessels UK was re-branded to present a much clearer representation of the integrated project services we can provide as a group. Similarly, VolkerRail is now providing more 'whole project' solutions to clients utilising the skills of both its UK sister companies and VolkerRail International alongside the skills of its in-house signalling, power, communication and plant teams.

"Whilst we have an excellent reputation in the light rail market sector with large



Paul Nolan

contracts such as Manchester Metrolink and the Docklands Light Railway (DLR) extension, the changes in our business will enable us to put more focus in the heavy rail sector."

The team at VolkerRail has been restructured to help strengthen the company's core competencies and capabilities in heavy rail as well as providing strong leadership to help deliver its aspirations for the growth of the business.

VolkerRail wins Manchester Metrolink Extension Work

VolkerRail, as part of the M-Pact Thales (MPT) consortium, has been awarded the contract to provide the new Manchester airport link and extensions through Oldham town centre and into Rochdale town centre as part of the ongoing programme to deliver a world-class tram system for Greater Manchester.

Construction work for this additional £522m extension has already begun with MPT carrying out all the design, construction and maintenance work for the new lines. VolkerRail and Laing O'Rourke, jointly M-Pact, will deliver all the civil and rail infrastructure requirements and Thales UK will provide all the electrical systems engineering works, including power and overhead line equipment, and the tram operating system under a stand alone contract.

The works follow on from the original contract awarded in June 2008 for the first phase of the extensions, which was further extended in March 2010 to provide an additional 3.9km line to Ashton and 4.5km line to Didsbury.

Steve Cocliff, managing director of VolkerRail, said: "This is an extremely exciting project and we are very proud to be playing an integral part in what will be the largest tram network in the UK. It is not only incredibly positive for Greater Manchester as a region, but also for the consortium. This additional contract shows the client's confidence in MPT's ability to deliver such a large scale multi-disciplinary project."

It is anticipated that trams will be running to Oldham and Rochdale town centres during spring 2014 and to Manchester Airport during mid 2016.



Metrolink contract signing



One of the new trams



Bronze Age barrow and Iron Age enclosure

Archaeological dig nears completion at East Kent Access

An eight month long archaeological survey is nearing completion at phase two of the East Kent Access scheme, where VolkerFitzpatrick is now beginning to prepare the site for the major works.

The major highways scheme, for client Kent County Council, required archaeological works along the full length of the scheme due to the area it sits within. More than 130 archaeologists were employed at the peak of the work to undertake a full intrusive exploration of archaeology from all ages.

Twelve prehistoric monuments (round barrows) have been found on the project, the largest monument is approximately 40 metres in diameter. Once these monuments have been cleared VolkerFitzpatrick can start work in earnest on the £62.5m contract in joint venture with Hochtief.

The scheme comprises eight kilometres of dual carriageway construction in two separate lengths and the link between these strategic highways including all the

required infrastructure and earthworks. The two key elements of the scheme though are two structures; the first a three span bridge over the high speed railway line in to Ramsgate and the second a jacked box structure over 125m in length to take the road under the railway line.

The team is currently 10 months into the project with archaeological clearance, earthworks, service diversions, and piling works all well under way.

The East Kent Access project has involved extensive stakeholder engagement with services and utilities companies and Network Rail, with whom an outside party agreement was made to ensure its needs were met. Alongside this the project team has a continuing dialogue with the two main residential areas close to the site, providing regular updates and information to ensure any potential disruption is minimised.

Mick O'Hare, senior project manager for VolkerFitzpatrick, said: "Earthworks and



Iron Age horse burial

archaeological clearance is progressing to programme and the piling works for the two key structures has now commenced."

"We will construct both structures at the same time to ensure that we keep disruption of the railway to a minimum. A number of railway possessions will be required when the bridge beams are being lifted into place, but the jacked box has been designed so that no possessions are required during this work despite the box being less than eight metres from the underside of the track. This will be the most difficult, but also the most interesting part of the project."

Work started on site in October 2009 and is expected to be complete in spring 2012.

VolkerHighways wins contract for Woolwich Town Square Scheme



Artist's impression of the Woolwich Squares Scheme

A contract to regenerate two public squares in Woolwich town centre has been awarded to contractor VolkerHighways by client Greenwich Council.

The contract is part of a major regeneration scheme in Woolwich, which is funded by the Homes and Communities Agency with additional funding from Transport for London. It will see the transformation of these two areas of public open space with

the additional aim of hosting public events and festivals in years to come.

Specialist contractor, VolkerHighways, started work on the Woolwich Squares project in April 2010. Home to the town's market, this work will involve new hard and soft landscaping, a new layout for the market and new street lighting. Improved pedestrian routes are part of plans for both squares.

Work on General Gordon Square will include the construction of a new water feature suitable for children's play, improved hard and soft landscaping, including new seating and terraces, and much improved access to the DLR and railway stations.

Peter Hyde, managing director of VolkerHighways, said: "This type of specialist regeneration scheme is now a large part of our business. Whilst we continue to hold Term Maintenance Contracts for nine London Boroughs as well as other public bodies, civil engineering environmental enhancement schemes fit well with our skills and the way our teams work.

"Greenwich Council and its designers have high aspirations for the transformation of these public spaces, so we are pleased to be working with them to make these a reality."

Cllr Peter Brooks, Deputy Leader of Greenwich Council, said: "The regeneration of the town squares is an important part in the wider regeneration of Woolwich. The scheme will improve the environment in the very heart of the town centre, and serve as an important gateway for visitors, particularly in 2012 when Woolwich is set to host the Olympic and Paralympics shooting events."

VolkerHighways expect the contract to be complete by April 2011.

Project team succeed in opening flyover early

Specialist contractor VolkerLaser has completed works on the Gallows Corner flyover and junction more than a month ahead of schedule meaning traffic can get back to normal in the London Borough of Havering.

During routine maintenance work on the bridge in east London heavy and unexpected corrosion was found on the parapet rails, which act to safely contain vehicles on the flyover in case of a collision. VolkerLaser was commissioned to carry out a comprehensive structural survey to determine the best possible solution that would cause the minimum disruption.

Working closely with Amey and Transport for London (TFL) through an Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) process, the initial analysis identified that the parapets themselves needed to be replaced, and the two lane flyover would need to be reduced to one lane.

Bespoke replacement parapets were required for the scheme due to the

unique structure of the flyover. Once the design had been agreed the VolkerLaser team carried out the removal and full replacement of the parapet rails and splash panels as well as the provision of all access, scaffolding and associated concrete and civil engineering works.

Initial problems associated with procurement of the design steel grade were overcome with fabrication accelerated and site activities adjusted to remove any programme impact. An innovative scaffold design was produced by a VolkerLaser supply chain partner in association with the Amey design team to minimise the impact on the travelling public.

The works were carried out seven days a week in an effort to minimise disruption and to enable reinstatement of two-way operation of the flyover and restrict the need for further large scale maintenance work.

The team also replaced more than 25 tons of handrail and 36 posts with another 150 posts painted and blasted, taking 220 litres of paint and 60 tons of plastic sheet.



Gallows Corner

Dave Williams, VolkerLaser associate director, said: "The feasibility and ECI stages of this project were crucial to ensure comprehensive planning of the work. As is the case with many projects like this, unexpected situations arise which can only be dealt with effectively and without disruption to the programme when the original project is running smoothly. Our initial work with client Amey gave us the opportunity to hand this structure back at the earliest time possible."



VolkerRail Win Contract to Operate Stoneblowing On-Track Machines

Stoneblowing On-Track Machine

VolkerRail has been awarded a new contract to operate three Stoneblowing On-Track Machines (OTM) for Network Rail National Delivery Service (NDS).

These machines can drive on open lines at up to 60mph but normally operate within possessions, where they inject remediation aggregates into the rail ballast, to improve track alignment.

The works are valued at £0.5m and are due to be completed by October 2010.

Mark Jackson, general manager at VolkerRail Plant, commented: "The team has worked hard to earn this award through our continued focus on a safe, reliable and cost effective delivery across our current contracts with Network Rail.

"Our clients have indicated that they fully appreciate our core values, which has allowed VolkerRail to continue to grow and increase the breadth of our service despite the industry-wide economic difficulties. This award validates the hard work, dedication and commitment from all the team at VolkerRail."

The award covers both London North Eastern (LNE) and Scotland regions using a bespoke form of contract and paves the route for VolkerRail to secure significant further work associated with Network Rail's Stoneblower fleet.

The skills required to deliver this contract complement the already comprehensive knowledge and experience within VolkerRail Plant; 18 new colleagues bring over 100 years of combined expertise in OTM Driving, route awareness and stoneblowing operations.

VolkerStevin combines skills in new head office



Rob Coupe

VolkerStevin has combined the skills of its Morecambe and Gateshead offices into one new head office in Preston, Lancashire.

Staff from both offices have moved into a modern office building which provides flexibility of space and a more vibrant working environment. This more integrated approach improves team working, efficiency and allocation of resources.

The new office will be headed up by a new management team; Rob Coupe joined VolkerStevin as managing director in May 2010, he will be joined by commercial director Jonathan Humphries and business development director Alan Gerrett.

As part of the move, the company's specialist piling business, VolkerSteel Foundations has also relocated to Preston. VolkerBrooks, another VolkerStevin

subsidiary, will remain at the Morecambe office where it continues to have its steel and timber formwork fabrication workshops, pontoon manufacture and specialist plant and equipment hire depot.

The new office will service the whole of the UK, supported by a number of local offices to meet customer demand.

The new office details are:
 VolkerStevin Ltd
 The Lancashire Hub
 Preston City Park
 Bluebell Way
 Preston
 PR2 5PE
 Tel: 01772 708 620

VolkerLaser makes investment as part of expansion programme

Following its re-branding last year as part of the VolkerWessels UK group, VolkerLaser has prepared ambitious growth plans for its business, in particular to expand its mainly civil engineering based portfolio into the construction, rail and London Underground markets.

The specialist contractor has kick started its plans by helping to secure the continuation of employment and the existing contracts of Talepine Ltd. (trading as Quickseal) following an announcement that the company went into administrative receivership on Friday 7 May 2010.

Mike Weaver, managing director of VolkerLaser, said: "Whilst it is a sad day when smaller companies like Quickseal have to make the tough decision to end their struggle against the existing market conditions, it is our intention that we retain the majority of staff and also honour the contracts held with long term clients.



"It is also an excellent opportunity for VolkerLaser to realise its expansion plans.

"VolkerLaser and Quickseal work in similar sectors and in some cases the same sectors.

What this asset transfer will do is provide VolkerLaser with additional skills and experience in the building/construction side of the market, where our existing portfolio concentrates on the civil engineering market.

"I trust we can offer clients and suppliers some comfort in that VolkerLaser has similar values and work ethics to Quickseal. Having started out as a small company we retain our 'family values style' of working, along with very loyal employees, the difference being that we have the stability and support of a large parent company in the shape of VolkerWessels UK."

Kim Wilde opens Pinewood School's Sensory Garden

Eighties pop sensation, turned horticulturist, Kim Wilde opened a sensory garden at Pinewood School in Ware, Hertfordshire in May, designed for pupils with autistic spectrum disorders and additional sensory needs.

Kim Wilde, who attended school at Presdales School just up the road, opened the garden designed by local artist Sarah Rintoul and built by local contractor VolkerFitzpatrick as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme.

Kim said: "I called at my old school earlier and it brought back lots of memories of growing up dreaming to be a pop star. And after spending the last ten years as a horticulturist it is so lovely to be here to open such a fantastic garden. It definitely receives a gold medal from me, as it would if we were at Chelsea Flower Show.

"What a sensational garden, built for a deserving school and what an amazing company in VolkerFitzpatrick to bring the community together like this to help ensure the school's aspirations come true."



Kim Wilde in the sensory garden

The sensory garden was designed in close consultation with the pupils, staff and parents at the school to provide an interactive, outdoor, sensory experience for the children at the school, especially those with autistic spectrum disorders and additional sensory needs.

The garden features three tactile, reflective, light and shade, and eco sculptures, mosaic steps, patterns and treds, a relaxing hammock area and a seated hill feature designed to help pupils fully appreciate the plants and wildlife in the garden.

Nick Nieder, chairman of VolkerFitzpatrick's CSR Community Group, said: "We have always been conscious that we don't want our CSR efforts to simply involve writing a cheque. We like to get the whole community involved to create better value for everyone. We had support from many companies and community organisations including Groundwork Hertfordshire as well as volunteers from our workforce and students from Hertford Regional College. Not only did everyone learn new skills, make new friends and develop on-going community partnerships, but we also created a beautiful, practical and educational space for local children with learning difficulties."

VolkerWessels UK strengthens its management team

Since the re-branding of all six VolkerWessels' companies in the UK in March 2009, parent company VolkerWessels UK has been strengthening the support services it can provide for each of the businesses.

Alongside this a core management team will support all UK operations; Alan Robertson remains as chief executive, Naomi Connell joined the business from London Underground earlier this year as chief finance officer and Matt Woods has moved from VolkerFitzpatrick to VolkerWessels UK as commercial director.

Providing shared services

In order to maintain efficient delivery of contracts for our clients, VolkerWessels UK has been developing a shared services model, which can provide support to the businesses with reduced overhead and maximum service levels.

This has been done through the use of existing skills within the six businesses. The main professional disciplines from each business meet regularly to pool ideas and resources to refine the service they can offer and develop new opportunities where available.

Each VolkerWessels UK business can tap into the shared services required, which are headed up by a core team of people based in Hoddesdon:

Health, safety, environment, quality and sustainability

Adrian Shah-Cundy

HR and Training

Elaine Stroud

ICT

Melanie Nurse

Facilities and Fleet Management

Geoff Varey

Supply Chain Management

Graham Davey

Company Secretary

Alison Foster

Finance

Ceri Humphrey

Corporate Communications

Emma Young



Matt Woods



Naomi Connell

The model is still developing; the above team is currently looking at service level agreements, undertaking a systems review and working with each business to understand their requirements.

Volker View is a publication of VolkerWessels UK. There are six VolkerWessels companies in the UK; VolkerFitzpatrick, VolkerHighways, VolkerRail, VolkerStevin, VolkerLaser and VolkerInfra.

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Protect our People

In March VolkerHighways launched a safety awareness campaign called Protect our People with the aid of the campaign's mascot, a 6ft traffic cone named Kerby.

The VolkerHighways team, the Protect our People mascot Kerby and VolkerHighways Managing Director Peter Hyde launched the start of the safety awareness campaign in Hackney. The campaign aims to protect all people that come into contact with roadworks in Hackney, which are carried out by the company.

The Protect our People campaign is supported by Hackney Council and community groups Disability Hackney, London Cycling Campaign in Hackney and Hackney Living Streets; all of whom have been consulted about the campaign. Officers from Hackney Council Highways Team and two inspectors from the HSE were also in attendance to show their support.



Kerby the Cone