

BUILDING UPDATE

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Demon Designs: Experts in glass

Established in 2011 by Dominic Meakins, Demon Designs specialises in bespoke solutions for glass structures, offering consultancy, design and build services to exceed its clients' requirements every time. Fuelled by a commitment to excellence, the team at Demon Designs always goes the extra mile to ensure complete customer satisfaction, no matter what the project size.

One of Demon Designs' key advantages is its comprehensive service, offering everything the customer might need for their project. "Many of our customers want the hassle removed. For example, if they want a walk-on glass floor installed, they don't want to get a builder in to cut the hole, a plasterer to make good and a decorator to finish it off.

We can do the lot, including engineers' calculations." Recently, Demon Designs joined Check-a-trade, with a view to obtaining more domestic customers in preparation for the uncertainty of the current commercial market. "This has had some success, but we still find that the vast majority of our customers are either returning customers or new customers by recommendation, and you can't really get a better endorsement than that!" Indeed, as well as a loyal customer base, this commitment to customer satisfaction has resulted in impressive successes for Demon Designs over the past eight years, and this year has been no different. "It's been an interesting year for us," Dominic told us. "We have seen a shift in the type of projects we win, moving away from large commercial fit-out projects towards domestic 'Grand Designs' type projects and installations.

In the coming years, Demon Designs is looking to complete more complex projects, to help the company grow even further and build upon its achievements



WATCH VIDEO

since its inception eight years ago. "We want to take on more bespoke projects, big or small. I personally believe that you can only improve by pushing your boundaries, and this is true for business also. We are constantly taking on more challenging projects, often from other companies who don't want the risk. The great thing about this is that we often work for companies that would be considered competitors in other fields."

Indeed, Demon Designs' future ventures are highly anticipated as it continually develops and improves upon its capabilities. The company is always interested in taking on new customers, either commercial or domestic, so get in touch using the details below or head to the website if you wish to discuss your ideas.

Contact
T 01903 733206
info@demon-designs.co.uk
www.archglass.co.uk



Davison Forklift
see them on.....III



Tomorrows Forest
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Harlequin Flooring
see them on.....V



Tuff Waterproofing
see them on.....XII



Checked Safe
see them on.....XIV



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Based in Lower Withington, Near Macclesfield only five miles from junction 18 M6, Four Oaks Cash & Carry is now the largest Horticultural 'one stop shop' in the UK! Since day one, we have attained our impeccable range and service to our customers propelling us far in front of our competitors. The Manager, Marlon Kent, who has over 30 years of plant and tree knowledge, handpicks our stock.

Pre-COVID-19 restrictions Marlon would travel to Italy

and Spain in the early months of the year, ensuring only the best quality of stock is acquired. This stock would include specimen trees, plants and sundries to the trade. Nowadays, as with most things, this is done via the internet, quality is not compromised as the stock is now 'visually picked.'

Four oaks is a specialist supplier of Mediterranean plants, our stock includes Olives and Palms in pots from 1 litre up to 1,000 litres and these are available all year round.

We have an extensive product line of over 1,500 lines of trees and shrubs on display from starter plants to specimen sizes, as well as young bedding and basket plants for which we are historically known.

Catching site of the recent demand for outdoor seating, specifically from the leisure industry, Four Oaks made the recent decision to begin to stock high quality garden furniture, and this decision has been a resounding success through its sales. Furthermore, we have extended our range of pots, which include terracotta, glazed and authentic wooden half whiskey barrels, just a few



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Water Treatment tanks and systems

2021 was a successful year of Concrete Washout and Water Treatment Systems for Kelly Tanks across the UK, Ireland, New Zealand, Sweden, Spain, France and Denmark, affirming their solid reputation for providing innovative and cost-effective solutions to the construction industry.

The well-established CWS Concrete Washout has remained the product of choice for washing off concrete wagons and equipment onsite whilst demand for Water Treatment tanks and systems for filtration and/or separation has continued to grow. Kelly Tanks remain consistent in releasing new products to help

ensure safe and compliant wastewater treatment on building sites across the UK and overseas including a range of modular Dosing Units used for monitoring and controlling pH & TSS levels and/or providing proportional chemical dosing.

The hybrid solar & wind unit is ideal for

generating power in remote areas in all seasons and the systems Wind Solar Hybrid MPPT Controller with dump load provides protection functions such as overcharge, over discharge and overload to guarantee peace of mind that power is successfully generated and stored ensuring the user is never left without power.

If you'd like to find out more information on Kelly Tanks' full range of products, head to the website or get in touch using the contact details below.

T 01889 508944
info@kellytanks.co.uk
www.kellytanks.co.uk



Forklift Sales & Hire

Your partner for material handling



Davison Forklift was established by John Davison back in the mid-sixties, and was sold to Malcolm Harrison in 2018. Based in Shifnal, Shropshire the company maintains a rich history and has grown significantly since its inception, seeing impressive growth year on year.

"We are a machinery hire company specialising in the hire of forklifts, tractors and telehandlers. We sell, repair and hire the aforementioned machines. We are also dealers for Clark, who invented the forklift in the early 20th century. We take pride in providing a very personal service, which is second to none," said Adrian. Throughout the years, Davison Forklift has explored new sectors and moved its focus into the hire and sales of new product ranges. By consistently expanding upon its product range, has enabled Davison Forklift to be able to discover and move into new sectors and enter higher markets, developing a broader customer base. Davison Forklift has positioned itself firmly at the forefront of the material handling sector, offering a broad range of products, complemented by a highly skilled team of trained forklift engineers that carry out on-site repairs, servicing and health checks. The company specialises in the hire and sales of forklift trucks and is the authorised UK dealers for Clark, Haulotte and Ausa. In addition, Davison Forklift is also part stockists for Clark, Hyster, Samsung, Doosan, Linde, Lansing, Ausa and many more.

In terms of recent developments, Davison Forklift has seen a recent relocation, moving to a new rural location in Yew Tree Lane in Shifnal, Shropshire. This move has helped the company explore new markets and helped to facilitate an investment into new equipment. As such, Davison Forklift has turned its attention to the hire and sale of tractors and telehandlers.

Included in its telehandlers range, the company offers two telehandlers; JCB 540-140 and JCB 535-125. Through JCB's commitment to providing outstanding products for its customers, the brand has flourished, growing from a one-man business into Britain's largest privately owned manufacturer of telescopic telehandlers and industrial forklifts. Both the JCB 540-140 and JCB 535-125 models are equipped with the latest technology and advanced design capabilities, with features such as: low fuel consumption, reduced noise, high torque and power output, total reliability and minimal maintenance.

Regarding its tractor range, the company currently offers one tractor manufacturer available for hire; the New Holland T7.210. New Holland is renowned as a Clean Energy Leader for its active promotion and development of sustainable agricultural technology, offering solutions that enhance efficiency and productivity, while respecting the environment. The T7.210 is a great addition to the company's range and offers a power range of 140 to 210 HP, with a rated engine speed of 2,200rpm.

If you would like to find out any further information on the company, please see the details featured below.

T 01902 420 123 (Wolverhampton)
T 01952 915 060 (Telford)
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Varnish

Unbeatable Varnish for a range of uses

Le Tonkinois Varnish is a specially designed varnish that was first formulated back in China almost three centuries ago. The natural oil based yacht varnish comes with a range of excellent benefits, including being permanent, removing brush marks, not cracking or flaking off.

On top of that, the varnish boasts exceptional corrosion protection for metals and has a durable coat too, meaning it can withstand impact without peeling or cracking.

The highly raved about varnish can be seen on yachts and boats, whether in fresh water, sea water, or sludge up and down the country. Not only that, but you can also use Le Tonkinois Varnish in kitchens, outdoor and interior woodwork.

As a result of being fully waterproof and non-microporous, the varnish is resistant to boiling water, alcohol and has even been classified as safe to use in food areas.

Le Tonkinois Varnish can also be used to stain wood, and pigments can be mixed in with the varnish if



a particular colour is desired, whilst still allowing the wood to breathe, a feature not typically found among other varnishes.

The varnish is also naturally glossy and can be made matt or satin with an additional coating of Gelomat.

If you would like to find out how you can get your hands on some of the remarkable Le Tonkinois Varnish, or would like to find out how you can use it for your own needs, then be sure to get in contact using the number below.

Alternatively, more information can be found by checking out the website.

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www.letonkinoisvarnish.co.uk
01628 548840

Together we can restore biodiversity and rewild our world

In September 2020, Creating Tomorrow's Forests was established by Nick Hollingworth and Liz Boivin, with the mission to fight climate change and restore biodiversity across the UK. Creating Tomorrow's Forests enables businesses and individuals to actively invest in the natural environment, by channelling their funding into high quality biodiversity restoration and afforestation projects. Sister company, Tomorrow's Forests, which was established in 2014, specialises in high volume commercial reforestation, and provides the planting expertise linked with scientific research, to make sure the right species of trees are planted in the right areas, and additional habitat such as ponds and meadows are created alongside to maximise the biodiversity at each site.

So as well as offering tree planting services for our customers, we have now launched a totally new biodiversity banking programme which empowers businesses and individuals to fund active ecosystem restoration. For the first time investors can channel their funding into specific high quality habitat creation projects including wetland, meadow, woodland, or marine seagrass ecosystem restoration."

In return for their investment, customers of Creating Tomorrow's Forests will then receive detailed updates on the progress of their project and can visit the site in person, engaging them with the whole restoration process from start to finish.

And it is certainly true what Liz says – during the lockdowns across the world due to COVID-19, nature reclaimed many areas and people had more time to take stock and really discover what state the world was in.

"Oceans were cleaner, animals were wandering the streets where they hadn't been before – it really put things into perspective for people. It's important we take care of what we have. Scientists have been saying for years that we need to protect our climate, but

it's easy to forget about this in day-to-day life. Putting a break on everything we were used to during the lockdown switched many people's focus to nature, with more of us taking walks in nature and in woodland.

For this reason and because of the push for carbon capture schemes and biodiversity restoration, Creating Tomorrow's Forests has been getting more and more interest from businesses and individuals.

We are looking forward to developing the company further throughout the year and are already working on a number of exciting projects. We currently plant 2 million trees each year with Tomorrow's Forests, and we want to reach the same point with our sister company, while also restoring biodiversity and creating new ecosystems throughout the UK."

As well as offering expertise in restoring habitats, Creating Tomorrow's Forests also offers professional biodiversity offsetting services for businesses and construction projects required to demonstrate a biodiversity net gain.

"We started acquiring land, offering businesses and individuals the chance to give back to nature and create biodiversity in places where it has been lost," explains Liz. "We are very excited about this project, and it is going well because businesses are prioritising sustainability and examining their environmental impact. We have already completed tree planting on a new wet woodland site in North Somerset and are currently working on new habitat creation projects in the North Devon Biosphere.

A lot of people are becoming more interested in biodiversity restoration and tree planting and the benefits it has, sequestering carbon and increasing biodiversity and habitats for animals. I think COVID-19 has brought things into perspective for a lot of people in this sense."

Indeed, although the pandemic halted many of Tomorrow's Forests' operations in line with the construction industry, it meant they had more time to focus on developing their new venture. "We wanted to work on expanding Creating Tomorrow's Forests, acquiring more sites and diversifying what we offer.



You can contact the team to discover more about their full range of flexible habitat creation services.

If you would like to find out more information on either Tomorrow's Forests or Creating Tomorrow's

Forests, head to the websites or get in touch directly using the contact details below.

T 01258 818003 Head Office
M 07824 673239 Nick Hollingworth
(Managing Director)
M 07760 263548 Elisabeth Boivin
(Managing Director)
hello@tomorrowsforests.com
www.tomorrowsforests.co.uk
www.creatingtomorrowsforests.co.uk



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For further information:
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dancing@harlequinfloors.com
www.harlequinfloors.com



Timber

Vandecasteele Houtimport receives the Voka Charter Sustainable Entrepreneurship (VCDO) certificate for the 21st time in a row!

On Wednesday, the 29th of June, we attended the inspirational award ceremony of the Voka Charter for Sustainable Entrepreneurship.

The award is a recognition of the sustainability efforts of the participating companies.

We received our award for the 21st time, along with 38 other West Flemish companies.

International reference

The VCDO is linked to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations and thus has an international frame of reference.

The external validation and the structure of the VCDO support companies in making efforts to embed sustainability in their business strategy.

The balance of all sustainability aspects,

ranging from the well-being of employees to the environmental impact of the company, is more relevant today than ever.

We are also nominated SDG Champion with our strategic transition project 'trading 100% certified wood by 2025.'

T +32 56 43 33 00
www.vandecasteele.be



L-R: Stefaan Vandecasteele – Owner, Geneviève Standaert – Export Manager, Isabelle Polfliet – Compliance Manager

30 years of joinery excellence – Happy Birthday to us!

Bluerun Ltd is dedicated to manufacturing top quality, bespoke custom-made joinery for the domestic and commercial markets. All of our joinery is manufactured on premises using hardwood, softwood or sheet materials. As well as offering finished goods sprayed to a primed or painted finish, Bluerun Ltd also offer other treatments and installation services for some products.

Bluerun Ltd is a family run business and was established in October 1991 by its current Managing Director,



John Jones. Based in Wimbish, just outside Saffron Walden in Essex, its factory covers 7,000sq. ft.², and can manufacture in hard or softwoods, and veneered and painted panels. Its modern spray paint and lacquer facility enables products to leave the factory in a fully finished state. The ethos surrounding the company boasts comradery, team work and dedication to the customer. Here at Bluerun Ltd we promote quality, family and pride in all that we do. The bespoke items manufactured in our workshops are made to a high standard thanks to the joiners who make them. The whole team take pride in their work.



A proud moment, in 2019, John Jones' daughter was the most recent addition to the board. From humble beginnings, the company has gained remarkable growth within the building trade and is well known for its top-quality joinery. Our bench joinery team is small and has extremely high standards. Whilst we use power tools and machinery, there is no CNC or computer aided design, or drawings used. We pride ourselves on being 'old school,' and still use hand tools to finish off many of our bespoke items. Everything is designed in-house, that is if no drawings are supplied by the clients.

For the commercial industry, the majority of its production is for commercial builders and manufacturing. Bluerun provides all type of commercial joinery products from large-scale repeat production runs of windows, frames, and doors, to both large and small-scale customers for internal and external projects.



October 1991 marks the company's 30th anniversary of incorporation – what a tremendous achievement made by all. We are all extremely proud. The company couldn't have made it this far without our joinery team and our loyal clients we have worked with over this time. Some employees have worked with John since the 1970s, at a previous company, and we believe that we have a great and loyal team.

T 01799 599995
dee@bluerunltd.co.uk
www.bluerunltd.co.uk

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+32 56 43 33 00

Make your project possible

Building Update is proud to announce that DCON Safety Consultants Limited has received our Commitment to Excellence Award for 2020.

DCON Safety Consultants Limited offers leading health and safety consultancy and construction statute advice services. The company prioritises and specialises in the highest levels of informed and intelligent advice, senior project resource allocation



and compliance assurance. Informed by industry expertise, DCON Safety Consultants Limited knows that every project has potential risks, no matter what its potential benefits, so its team of highly experienced construction professionals helps to ensure clients' statutory conformity.

Upon gaining understanding of the specific needs, goals and desires of each client and their project, DCON Safety Consultants Limited is dedicated to implementing a design and construction management plan that will meet or exceed these requirements.



And, DCON Safety Consultants Limited ensures that there is honesty, integrity, trust and professionalism underpinning every project.

Moreover, the company's services are centred on three delivery principles:

- **Maximising Quality:** The company implements proven health, safety and wellbeing strategies to help clients achieve high quality and cost-effective work commensurate with the design of their projects.
- **Minimising Risk:** The company effectively manages design and delivery risk on projects to match each client's desired risk level profile.
- **Managing Compliance:** The company relies on its extensive background working on a wide variety of projects to assist clients in developing, monitoring and maintaining compliance performance.

This excellent service would not be possible without the leadership of Diarmuid Condon, a construction industry leader who brings unique perspectives to encourage, support and mentor the abilities of his colleagues. As a construction professional with a surveying background and experience spanning two decades, Diarmuid is emblematic of DCON Safety Consultants Limited's commitment to providing outstanding services to clients.

Diarmuid has contributed his invaluable expertise to over 400 projects over 20 years, with a client list including public sector departments, corporate owners, real estate developers, main contractors, design professionals and infrastructural bodies. With this incredible portfolio, Diarmuid is helping DCON Safety Consultants Limited to become a leader in health and safety consultancy across the construction industry.

Key to DCON Safety Consultants Limited's services is working as a Project Supervisor

for the Design Process (PSDP) in various sectors across the Irish construction market. No project is too simple or too complex for the company's PSDP consultants, all of whom are construction professionals with an average of 20 years' experience in the built environment. The ability to maximise this knowledge and skillset means DCON Safety Consultants Limited can generate distinctive and innovative ideas from traditional PSDP service inputs and outputs.

Additionally, DCON Safety Consultants Limited offers planning compliance assurance services. The ability to strategically support a positive planning decision is exclusive to the company. Its Draft Construction Management Plans (DCMP) inform the overall planning, coordination and control of a project from the beginning of construction to completion. The DCMP also safeguards the obligation placed upon a client to produce a safe, functional and financially viable project.

DCON Safety Consultants Limited also provides its main contractor clients with intelligent, practical, and reasonable physical site safety advice to support compliance and good practice adherence. Behavioural safety outcomes inform how the company approaches each solution with the contractor and their supply chain, identifying opportunities for improvement.



To complement this, DCON Safety Consultants Limited can also help with clients' health and safety strategy. Its holistic and integrated approach can help unlock substantial benefits for clients by providing a structured, objective and SMART framework for full optimisation through the creation of an environment that embraces health, safety and wellbeing.

This means DCON Safety Consultants Limited helps clients to improve their health, safety and environmental performance; enhance staff satisfaction thanks to improved performance; improve risk management and corporate governance with a clear audit trail; gain confidence from long-term planning, better sustainability and

performance; and improve overall corporate reputation, including greater staff satisfaction and a more efficient procurement and supply chain.



Finally, DCON Safety Consultants Limited can offer a safety expert witness service, which is headed by Diarmuid himself. He has extensively supported safety-related matters, and is a certified and competent safety professional who will work with clients to identify exactly what kind of safety expert is needed. Then, he will use an extensive network of contacts to recruit the right person to protect clients' interests.

DCON Safety Consultants Limited's fantastic service offering and proven track record

of offering leading health and safety consultancy services makes the company a worthy winner of our Commitment to Excellence award. Such achievements are proof that DCON Safety Consultants Limited is well-placed to help ensure your safety, health and wellbeing and make your project possible.

If you are interested in finding out more information on DCON Safety Consultants Limited's full range of excellent services, head to the website or get in touch directly using the contact details below.

T +353 (0)1 611 1556
info@dconsafety.com
www.dconsafety.com

Your partner in fire safety



In this issue of Building Update we are proud to announce that we have selected

DB Fire Safety Limited as the recipient of our Commitment to Excellence Award.

DB Fire Safety Limited is situated in Peterborough and was set up in 2013 by its Managing Director, David Black. David is a qualified fire risk assessor with over 30 years' experience working in the fire safety industry, with accreditation including from the Institute of Fire Safety Managers, 'Register of Competent Fire Risk Assessors.'

David first launched DB Fire Safety Limited after gaining experience working for two years as an independent fire safety consultant. Recognising the need for his services, David

launched DB Fire Safety Limited to provide independent fire safety consultancy, serving clients throughout the UK.

"We are an independent fire safety consultancy specialising in carrying out fire risk assessments. Our main operations consist of carrying out fire risk assessments and providing fire strategy documents for new buildings under construction", said David.

"In addition to offices and factories, we specialise in carrying out fire risk assessments of schools, residential care premises, hotels, and blocks of flats. We also assist building contractors and architects in developing fire



& evacuation strategies for buildings under construction or renovation," added David.

DB FIRE SAFETY LTD
TEL: 0800 772 0559
enquiries@dbfiresafety.co.uk

THE FIRE SAFETY ORDER

The Fire Safety Order 2005 requires that all businesses, including schools and all other educational establishments, have an up-to-date fire risk assessment and that staff receive instruction in fire safety procedures. Legislation also requires that fire risk assessments are reviewed on a regular basis (recommended to be at least annually).

It is critical that there is a suitable and sufficient set of procedures for staff to follow in the event of a fire emergency. Therefore, all staff must receive appropriate training in those procedures must be tested by carrying out regular fire evacuation drills.

It is also strongly recommended that all staff should receive instruction in general fire safety awareness. Such training would enable staff to fully understand the fire hazards and risks in their respective areas and, therefore, hopefully help prevent a fire from occurring in the first place.

In many schools, there may also be a requirement for senior staff to be designated as Fire Marshals; to have particular responsibilities in the event of fire.

DB Fire Safety has vast experience in dealing with all kinds of educational establishments; specialising in carrying out fire risk assessments and providing training to staff. Our training courses can be provided on site or can be accessed via our variety of e-learning courses. These are modular and can be accessed remotely as time allows.

From our offices in Peterborough, we cater for clients throughout England and Wales and offer a FREE 24hour consultancy service.

For more information regarding fire risk assessments or staff training, call 0800 772 0559 OR Email enquiries@dbfiresafety.co.uk



DB FIRE SAFETY

Through the company's industry leading expertise, DB Fire Safety Limited understands the difficulties in navigating fire safety legislation, and as such, the company prides itself on being 'your partner for fire safety'.

Under David's leadership and industry leading expertise in the fire safety industry, the company is well equipped to assist its clients and help to provide their client's businesses with a comprehensive document to identify potential sources of ignition, the likelihood of a fire occurring and the potential impact that a fire would have on its occupants. An assessment is then made of the documented procedures that outline actions that need to be followed in the event of any fire incident, and the required level of training and practice needed.

One of the main advantages of using DB Fire Safety Limited's services is its honest and efficient service, as an independent business without any conflicting interests.

David explained, "The benefit of employing ourselves is that we have no potential conflicts of interest in supplying or maintaining fire extinguishers, fire alarm systems, or installing fire doors etc."

The company also provides in-house training for Fire Wardens and Fire Marshals, as well as online courses, to keep staff and businesses compliant and safe. In addition, DB Fire Safety Limited also provides training courses for general fire safety awareness, which can be carried at the client's premises or via its online E-Learning modular courses. The online courses are a great resource for refresher training.

As the company looks to its future, DB Fire Safety Limited maintains its overall goal of continuing to provide its clients with the best support possible. David added, "We want to ensure their premises are safe, and that business owners and managers meet their responsibilities under fire safety legislation."

If you would like to find out any further information on the company, please see the details featured below:
T 0800 7720559
enquiries@dbfiresafety.co.uk
www.dbfiresafety.co.uk



We are an independent fire safety consultancy providing support to schools across the whole of England

SERVICES WE PROVIDE
FIRE RISK ASSESSMENTS
FIRE DOOR INSPECTIONS

Unit 1, Wittering Service Station
 Townsend Road
 Wittering
 Peterborough
 Cambridgeshire
 PE8 6AB



Drainage & Sewage Treatment

H.D. Services Ltd: Sewage Treatment and Water Boreholes

Founded in 1984 H.D. Services Ltd. aim to provide the highest quality percussion drilled boreholes, sewage treatment systems and Open-Loop ground source heat pump installations in the Southeast. Feasibility of any project can generally be confirmed upon receipt of a site postcode.

We offer a one stop shop for self-builders, developers, contractors, consultants and architects, providing waste and drainage solutions, independent water supplies and renewable heating options – all specifically tailored to meet individual needs and suited to the geology of the Southeast.

Sewage Treatment, Boreholes and Soakaways
We have been involved in the design, supply and installation of sewage treatment systems for over 30 years. We can either provide package solutions or we can design bespoke systems to meet individual client needs.

Projects undertaken throughout the southeast range from small solutions for single households to larger scale solutions for estates, business parks, farms, schools, caravan sites, hotels and public houses.

We offer a support service for consent to discharge

applications to the Environment Agency – a requirement when installing sewage treatment systems.

All our boreholes are constructed using the cable-tool percussion method – preferred by the Environment Agency (EA) when drilling the chalk aquifer – and are logged with the BGS. Our underpinning ethic is that we want to protect the aquifers from which we make our living.

Ground Source Heat Pumps

We are award winning installers of Open-Loop GSHP



installations. These systems utilise ground water as a heat source. Groundwater is pumped from a water supply borehole directly to the heat pump where temperature is extracted. The water is then returned to the aquifer, normally via a buried harvesting tank where it can start to regain this temperature. As ground water is utilised, there is the option of a potable water supply (subject to analysis and suitable filtration) or irrigation.

For more information, please visit:
www.hdservicesltd.co.uk

Concrete Channel with Basalt Fibres: New Era Begins for Hauraton

Hauraton makes concrete material even more efficient for modern drainage technology by enhancing the formulation with natural basalt fibres.

The addition of mineral or textile fibres increases maximum stability, strength, and impact resistance. By amplifying the impact resistance, the more robust and durable the product. This is particularly important for components that are exposed to considerable dynamic stresses, in this case, drainage channels subject to vehicles at high speeds or regularly trafficked by heavy loads.

Basalt fibres: Natural and sustainable

Hauraton's new era in concrete production by utilising basalt fibres has not only created a durable building material, but also one that is 100% natural. The basis of basalt rock is available all over the world in large quantities, which is formed naturally on the earth's surface. By combining basalt fibres with the well-known material concrete, both the structure and the service life of the product is increased.

Mineral mixture: Easy to recycle

Since the end product is a purely mineral mixture, there is no need for material separation during disposal. This protects the environment as it is simply fully-recyclable at the end of the product's life cycle.

Convincing strong properties

Basalt fibres have outstanding properties. They can withstand temperatures of up to 800°C and are highly resistant to alkalis, acids, salts, oxidation and radiation.

The effects of adding basalt fibres to precast concrete elements gives even more of a dimensionally stable, resistant and durable structure. Drainage systems made of basalt-reinforced concrete will assure longer performance.

Basalt fibres are versatile and climate-friendly

Basalt fibres are mineral fibres that have a higher melting temperature, better resistance to water, acids and alkalis, and more positive flexural strength. All this makes basalt fibres attractive in drainage technology, but also numerous other applications in construction.

Given the stricter climate targets, the energy consumption during production also clearly speaks in favour of basalt fibres, as basalt it has the lowest CO₂ footprint.

Click here to learn more about FASERFIX
linkable to this URL: https://global.hauraton.com/en/faserfix/?utm_source=bcr_publication&utm_medium=mail&utm_campaign=faserfix_bcr_online

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Steel Buildings

Steel buildings to suit all budgets



Founded by Dave O'Brien in August 2017, Castle Steel Buildings has evolved from a basic start-up, operating on what was essentially a franchise model, to a rapidly growing construction company with a permanent install team and a developing back-office operation. Previous to the company, Dave O'Brien had worked in the steel construction industry as an installer for over 20 years. After many years, Dave was keen to build his own business that offers bespoke steel buildings with a guaranteed installation option. On the search for a business partner who could run the administration and logistics side, Dave approached John Rosling, who had a number of years' experience in public and private sector management. Since joining, the business has grown in strength at a fast pace.

Today, Castle Steel Buildings is well-known as an industry leader in its field. Offering a number of services to suit every budget including steel buildings for agriculture and rural, commercial and industrial, garages and sheds, as well as cladding installation. Understanding that customers prefer a personalised service, Castle Steel Buildings is committed to ensuring 100% satisfaction from start to finish and prides itself

on its; affordability, to offer cost effective light weight composition of the buildings designed to reduce production and installation costs; versatility, with a range of buildings to suit every application; and top British quality, endeavouring to always support British economy. All Castle Steel Buildings materials comply with British Standards BS 6399(pt 2) and exceed ISO9001:200.

"These are among the many qualities that set us apart from our competitors," mentioned John Rosling, Director. COVID-19 has left a dramatic impact on steel production over the last 12 months, with many steel mills across the world shutting down. As such, steel suppliers are running low on stock, the price of steel has risen and there are incremental delays to customer orders. Castle Steel Buildings has worked hard to ensure this implication has not affected its production and most of all, its service to its customers.

"One of the major things we've noticed over the last year is that many people are put off having their steel building because of the cost of raw materials, something that has increased enormously with the pandemic and global shutdown. We've met this

challenge by partnering with Peregrine Finance in York to offer a bespoke finance solution. This is a great option for companies looking to get their projects off the ground quickly while spreading the cost over time," said John. With more to offer in its arsenal, we asked John what the company's future plans were, he answered, "Alongside a determined go for growth mindset, we're focussed on developing our range by introducing hot rolled steel designs. Cold rolled steel is inexpensive and effective but there are some limitations in the scale of building that can be done in cold rolled steel."

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ModCon Cabin Trader Ltd

ModCon Cabin Trader was formed in 2017 by Alan Willets of whom has 25 years experience of working for some major manufacturers in the Modular & Portable Building Industry.

ModCon Cabins as it is also known manufactures and supplies Steel Anti Vandal Portable Cabins, Containers, Modular Buildings and all site ancillary items associated with the Portable Building Industry. Please visit: www.modconcabins.co.uk

Items such as Portable Offices, Canteens, Toilet units, Drying units, Storage Containers, Chemstores, Smoking Shelters, Effluent Tanks, Staircases are regular and repeat

produced items that we manufacture for our clients.

Based in Gloucestershire in the South West we are logistically nicely placed around all the major motorway networks for ease of transportation.

Our workforce are all very skilled and experienced fabricators of whom have many years experience working within our industry and so know the expectancy of our customers requirements so you can be sure that if you approach ModCon Cabins to undertake your work you are in very good hands!

Being that all items produced are mostly built on a jig and

to customers own specification we are open to undertaking bespoke enquiries too so please feel free to engage with us here at ModCon Cabins even if you have a rather random enquiry for certain products.

Why not also take a look at ModCon Cabin Traders other side of the business which is an Auction/Resale website that allows all and sundry to utilise the site to sell new & used Portable Building products which operates very similar to a well-known auction/resale site we are all familiar with, however only for products relating to our industry.

Please visit www.modconcabintrader.com



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Cracking egg processing equipment from 4pe Systems Limited

4pe Systems Limited is an egg handling and processing equipment provider and stockist of Kletec, Nuovo

and is an agent for SANOVO and STAALKAT. Based from its location in Shrewsbury, the company provides a wide range of expert services including maintenance, installation and sales throughout the UK and Ireland. 4pe Systems Limited provides a comprehensive service, establishing itself as a one-stop-stop solution for egg processing equipment.

In terms of its range, 4pe Systems Limited provides sales services for egg handling and processing equipment including: egg stamping, packaging, pasteurization, eggshell processing, breaking, loading, Farmpackers, graders and much more. Furthermore, the company can provide equipment for a wide selection of processes and sizes, from small Farmpackers right up to large egg processing systems; 4pe Systems Limited can do it all!

4pe Systems Limited has gained a reputation for quality, which is reflected both in its products and services. Using Dutch innovation and expert engineering, 4pe Systems Limited's range is fully comprehensive, reliable, robust and efficient. Better yet, the company's range is supported by a friendly and reliable team who is always around and able to pick up the phone, with a positive, helpful reply to assist its customers, whenever they need them.

T 07801 565860
www.4pe.co.uk



New innovation to the TuffStuff® range; TuffStuff® flexible GRP

Tuff Waterproofing is a provider of waterproofing liquid solutions for flat roofs, which are comprised of GRP, flexible GRP and polyurethane. Using its advanced TuffStuff® formula range, which uses the latest liquid polyester resins, glass fibre mat reinforcement and flexible edge trims, it creates a fully integrated 100% waterproof seamless finish. The TuffStuff® product range is used for various applications and across multiple domestic and commercial environments.

With an impressive history which spans across 30 years' experience, Tuff Waterproofing has invested heavily in research and development, company processes and its team to ensure that its TuffStuff® range of products, continue to exceed expectations and set new standards in flat roof waterproofing solutions. From the company's bespoke premises based in North Yorkshire, Tuff Waterproofing maintains its operations on a national scale, supplying its products through a dedicated Stockist network located throughout the UK.

Regarding its progression over the last year, Tuff Waterproofing is pleased to have continued to progress significantly since 2020. With the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic affecting many industries, Tuff Waterproofing was able to remain open throughout and further developed on its product range during the last 12 months.

We caught up with Greg Gimenez, Managing Director of Tuff Waterproofing and asked him about the company's developments over the last year, he stated that, "We have progressed very well. We didn't have to close during the Pandemic because we are in the construction industry, so the government's directive was to stay open. We have mostly remained the same, we're always trying to develop new products and develop our existing products. We're quite happy with the overall year and foresee further progression for 2022."

The company has continuously accumulated growth year-on-year and established an enviable reputation, becoming a key figure in the GRP flat roof market and resulting in TuffStuff® becoming the UK's premium

designer and supplier of heavy-duty GRP waterproof flat roofing systems.

Regarding its team, TuffStuff® maintains a dedicated product development team that work closely with its customers to produce a consistently, evolving product range that is suitable for multiple flat roof applications. This commitment to continuous development is echoed throughout the company and its dedicated team of UK based product developers work with UK manufacturing facilities, with the ambition of pushing and setting new standards of GRP roofing systems, to new levels.

A vital part of the company's business is its exceptional technical support service and Tuff Waterproofing ensures it provides premium quality and agility, in responding to and resolving customer queries professionally, efficiently and to the highest standards. The company prides itself on providing the highest standards of customer service and its main ambition is to instil confidence in its customers, that they feel fully supported.

"As I have always said, the life blood of this company is the service, exceptional training and technical support that we give. It's more than just providing products, it's all about the service and support," Greg added.

In terms of the company's most recent developments this year, Tuff Waterproofing has further expanded its TuffStuff® product range and is now offering its latest GRP roofing innovation; TuffStuff® flexible GRP. TuffStuff® flexible GRP is a single resin solution that provides an exceptional combination of versatility



and durability. It's extremely quick to lay and does not require stripping or re-decking of the roof, saving customers both time and money. It can be applied to a variety of surface types and structures including vertical sections.

Requiring only two coats and 225gsm reinforcing mat, it can be applied within two hours. The TuffStuff® Flexible GRP forms a highly flexible, extra tough and seamless waterproof membrane, making it an ideal solution for areas of heavy-duty foot traffic. The solution can be applied directly to felt, asphalt, single-ply, GRP, concrete, timber or metal. Its highly flexible, extra-tough and seamless waterproof membrane makes it reliable when added to vertical sections without the concern of sagging. Furthermore, the solution is a fast-curing system with walk on time of between 30-60 minutes. Once laid and whilst curing, the product is showerproof.

Specifically designed for durability in mind, the TuffStuff® Flexible GRP is extremely robust with one coat needed for a 10 year system or two coats required for 20 year system, and is crack resistant with no risk of weak points. The 20 year system qualifies for a 20 year guarantee on materials.

On the back of its successful launch of TuffStuff® flexible GRP, Tuff Waterproofing is planning to further feature its new product at various tradeshow throughout 2022. These include: UK Construction Week 2022 in May, in London and UK Construction Week 2022 in October, in Birmingham.

As the company looks towards the future, Tuff Waterproofing foresees many challenges that they will have to overcome, but believes firmly that it has the right structure in place to provide the company with the perfect platform to be able to consistently respond and evolve its product range, while providing outstanding support to its customers.

Indeed 2021 has seen impressive growth and development for Tuff Waterproofing and the company anticipates much more progression, leading on from its new product launch. After what many industries have deemed as a challenging year in regards to



the COVID-19 pandemic, Tuff Waterproofing has showcased its industry leading expertise and is pleased to have been acknowledged for their hard work.

For more information about the company or to view its range of products, please see the details below or alternatively, contact them directly on the number stated.

Contact
T 01977 680250
www.tuffstuff.co.uk



FLEXIBLE GRP

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It's a single-resin solution which can be applied to a multitude of surface types and structures including vertical sections.

With two coats applied within one hour, TuffStuff® Flexible GRP will form a highly flexible, extra tough and seamless waterproof membrane - can be a solution for areas of heavy duty foot traffic.

TUFF STUFF FLEXIBLE GRP



www.tuffstuff.co.uk

T 01977 680250
orders@tuffwaterproofing.co.uk

Whatever your requirements – we are always pleased to help

South West Lightning Protection, is a leading provider of lightning protection installations and testing services throughout the UK. Established in 2014, by Gary Libby, Gary has 40 years of experience in the industry and maintains a team of lightning conductor engineers and designers accredited by the Association of Technical Lightning and Access Specialists.

"South West Lightning Protection holds Health and safety accreditation by Safecontractor, which audits the company training and safe systems of work, all our engineers are CITB card holders for the works they undertake and are DBS checked." Gary Libby stated. "Our core service is lightning protection installations and testing; we also design new systems, as we are accredited designers."

With two office locations based in Plymouth and Scotland, South West Lightning Protection is ideally situated at both ends of the country, enabling them to be able to provide services throughout the UK.

Maintaining a comprehensive range of expert services, South West Lightning Protection provides an abundance of specialist electrical services including lightning protection risk assessment, design & installation, test and inspection of all lightning conductor systems, test and inspection of safety line systems, early streamer systems design, installation & testing, earthing services and rope access.

The company maintains a diverse portfolio of clients, spanning across several industries including Commercial clients, Electrical contractors, Ministry of defence, NHS, Water companies, Telecoms & Facilities Management companies and individuals.

Dedicated to providing outstanding levels of customer services, South West Lightning Protection prides itself on providing a truly personalised service.

"As we are a small company in comparison to our competition," Gary explained, "We strive to provide a personal service to our clients. For instance, the client has direct access to the South West Lightning Protection point of contact and can contact inspection and installation engineers directly which speeds up client response times. We do not have different company contacts for quotes, works or accounts, our clients only have to deal with one person."

Regardless of project size, South West Lightning Protection is well equipped to provide technical assistance on any aspects of its clients lightning protection systems.

A noteworthy project for the company, South West Lightning Protection were asked by the RNLI based in Poole, Dorset to provide lightning protection for their new Explosive Store. In addition to this, the company also carried out repairs and testing, to the Main College and associated ancillary buildings on the site.

In terms of the latest developments for the company, Gary told us that, "We have recently commenced testing of Roof mounted Horizontal cable based mansafe systems, permanent ladders, guard rails and safety anchors. We provide these services independently from our lightning protection services or combine them which can provide a cost savings for clients."



With the on-going COVID-19 pandemic effecting many industries, there have been many challenges for company's especially surrounding lockdowns, furlough and delays and decreases in production and sales. South West Lightning Protection has also faced challenges, Gary remarked, "COVID-19 has caused disruption to the Lightning protection industry, however as South West Lightning Protection provides safety critical works to the MOD, we are classed as essential workers so have maintained a reasonable level of works throughout the pandemic."

We have produced a company COVID policy which protects both our operatives and clients, and we work with clients to ensure we are in compliance to any restrictions on works which may be stipulated by customers."

Able to maintain its services throughout the pandemic, South West Lightning Protection has not only maintained its working levels, but the company has also managed to grow and adapt to new procedures and regulations. Moving into the company's future, South West Lightning Protection plans to continue its growth within the lightning protection sector and is dedicated to its preservation of providing long term employment to its existing work force and additional, new employees.

With such an array of expertise and dedicated services, South West Lightning Protection is perfectly positioned with the skills to ensure that whatever your requirements, the company is here to help and carry out all work in an efficient, professional and safe manner.

For any other information, head over to the website below or alternatively, to speak to the company directly, please see the number stated.

T 07807 334441
www.lightningconductor.org



Airport Business Centre
Estover
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PL67PP

Also located in Scotland,
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Formed in 2014, and having over 40 years of expertise in the lightning protection industry, South West Lightning Protection, provides a full range of services from our office locations in the UK. With our trained operatives we are able to provide a full range of services, from conception to completion, and with our Safecontractor accreditation you can be assured works will be carried out adhering to all relevant health and safety requirements.

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Email : North@lightningconductor.org — South@lightningconductor.org

Complete compliance solutions



We are pleased to announce that CheckedSafe has been selected as the recipient of our Commitment to Excellence Award.

Since 2014, CheckedSafe has provided simple and inexpensive tailored compliance solutions. Established by Gary Hawthorne and Darran Harris, CheckedSafe is a SaaS platform compliance provider providing several apps and a web-based reporting system that is multi-functional and secure.

The CheckedSafe system offers organisations a complete solution, enabling them to manage and protect their workforce and comply with legal compliance requirements whilst reducing cost and liability. "We can provide you with a fully integrated solution – you can be completely paperless – also by using our system properly you will have a legally defensible product. We bespoke templates on the app to suit individual requirements, our latest release now means that the client can also do this themselves," said Gary.

Located in Burnley, its system is global and can be accessed from anywhere as long as you have an internet connection for the management portal, the app itself works off line and on-line so there is no restriction on using the app.

Both Darran and Gary's individual expertise has resulted in CheckedSafe being a nationally recognised company. "I am a transport professional with 30+ years in commercial transport, and Darran has 25+ years as a solicitor, so our individual skills set us apart from other 'IT' providers in the industry," said Gary.

CheckedSafe has a range of services from



vehicle compliance solutions, compliance and regulations, risk assessment and incident reporting tools via the App that enables them to offer the client a complete solution. Gary explained, "We constantly develop our product from user feedback. We release new features at least every quarter and a new app probably every four months depending on what features we have developed. Customer feedback is critical to us, we know a lot about transport, but the end users have great ideas that we take on board and use to develop free of charge and push out to the CheckedSafe community."

CheckedSafe's web-based reporting system is accredited by DVSA and the FLTA and utilised across all fleet types of HGV, PCV, VAN, plant or utilities. If it needs a checklist, CheckedSafe can digitise and catalogue it, providing you with a cost-effective compliance solution.

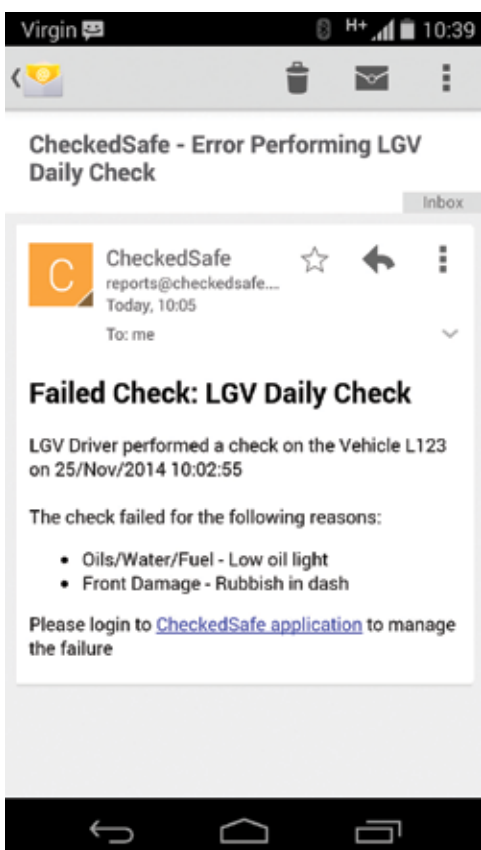
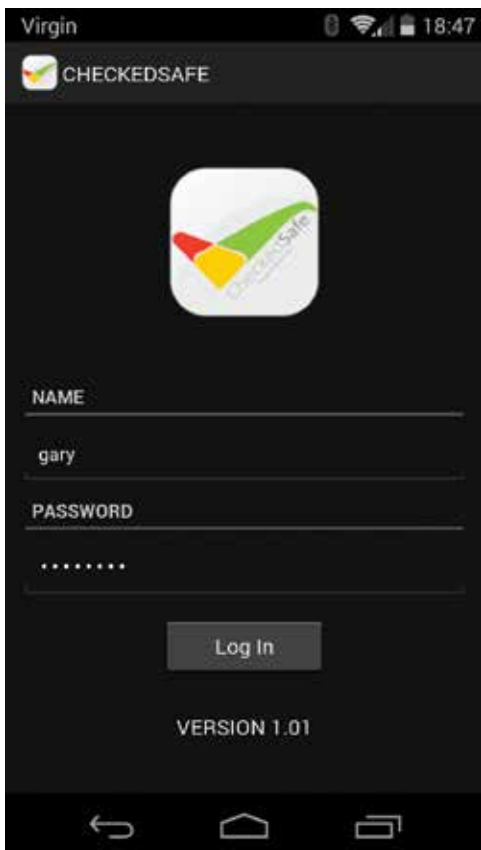
With much of the industry yet to explore, over five million commercial vehicles in the UK and over 20 million pieces of plant, there is a huge market for CheckedSafe to expand into. "Our plan is to furrow into the fleet industry and develop new

features, and if from this market we get new ideas then we will look to develop them further. We have recently developed our API to link with Dynamic 365 for a large crane operator which will come into development later this year/early 2022," stated Gary.

Despite COVID-19, CheckedSafe has managed to outsource all marketing resulting in an increase in in-bound enquiries. Utilising platforms such as Zoom and Teams, less time has been spent travelling and more focus has been on growing the business from home.

Eight years ago, CheckedSafe was an idea, that today, has flourished into a fully successful business. Gary and Darran are passionate about what they do and provide a skill set that boasts professionalism and expertise. "We know our industry and our clients have an immediate infinity with us and put faith in us," said Gary.

Contact
T 01282 908429
info@checkedsafe.com
www.checkedsafe.com



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Traditional brick production specialist

The Bulmer Brick and Tile Company, based in Suffolk, is a family-run business established in 1936. With

over 80 years' experience in the industry, the English company truly is a master of its craft.

The Bulmer Brick and Tile Company is renowned for its traditional handmade bricks which, fired in a down draught kiln, have a distinctive finish that blends well with the original London clays bricks. The beauty of the Suffolk company's bricks lies in their traditional production method. The bricks are made from clay dug from the same clay seam used since Tudor times. The wealth of experience amassed by the company

coupled with their respect for the process is what separates The Bulmer Brick and Tile Company from the competition.

Having produced bricks for reputable clients such as the National Trust, English Heritage and Historic Royal Palaces, the company is able to lend its services to both private and commercial developments. Its facings and specials can be made with almost any texture; with 150 different sizes of facings and a range of over 5,000 special shapes, including all standard plinths, squints and copings and extends to purpose made chimney bricks, terracotta, mullions, jambs, floor bricks, paviours, decorative plaques, garden edgings and a full range of rubbing blocks.

Aside from offering a wide range of clay brick solutions, The Bulmer Brick and Tile Company further offers a select number of additional materials. It is a stockist of



Singleton Birch Natural Hydraulic Limes and Lime Putty, available in a range of strengths – NHL2, NHL3.5, and NHL5 – and sold in 25kg bags or 1 tonne bulk bags. Lime has proven to be the material of choice when laying the brick specialist's bricks and especially in the case of conservation work, with its natural strength and tendency to give 'movement' in the construction process favourable.

Among the additional materials offered are lath, chestnut lath and riven oak supplied in bundles, used for plastering or for roofing and the application of shingles. Further, The Bulmer Brick and Tile Company offers sheep's wool insulation, an efficient and eco-friendly insulation solution.

T 01787 269232
bbt@bulmerbrickandtile.co.uk
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The South West's Number One Timber Building Company – MAC Cabins

MAC Cabins Limited is a fast-growing Timber Building company based in Okehampton, Devon, with over 30 years' experience in the construction industry. Proud to be the providers of one of the largest selections of; Timber Buildings, Log Cabins, Leisure/Holiday Cabins & Glamping Pods, in the heart of the South West of England.

To complement the extensive ranges of timber buildings, MAC Cabins also offers a vast variety of other Timber Frame & Modular Frame options, providing one of the widest selections of timber building options, within the market-sector.

For all timber frame styles, MAC Cabins works with self-build and custom-build projects, where the initial design has already



been completed with architects. We help to guide small to medium-sized developers, on sites of 1-30 plots, to identify the best way to convert vision into reality.

MAC Cabins continues to expand its vast portfolio of designs and build options, allowing you to select the perfect combination of style, size and price, confident you will find the perfect selection to meet your growing demands.

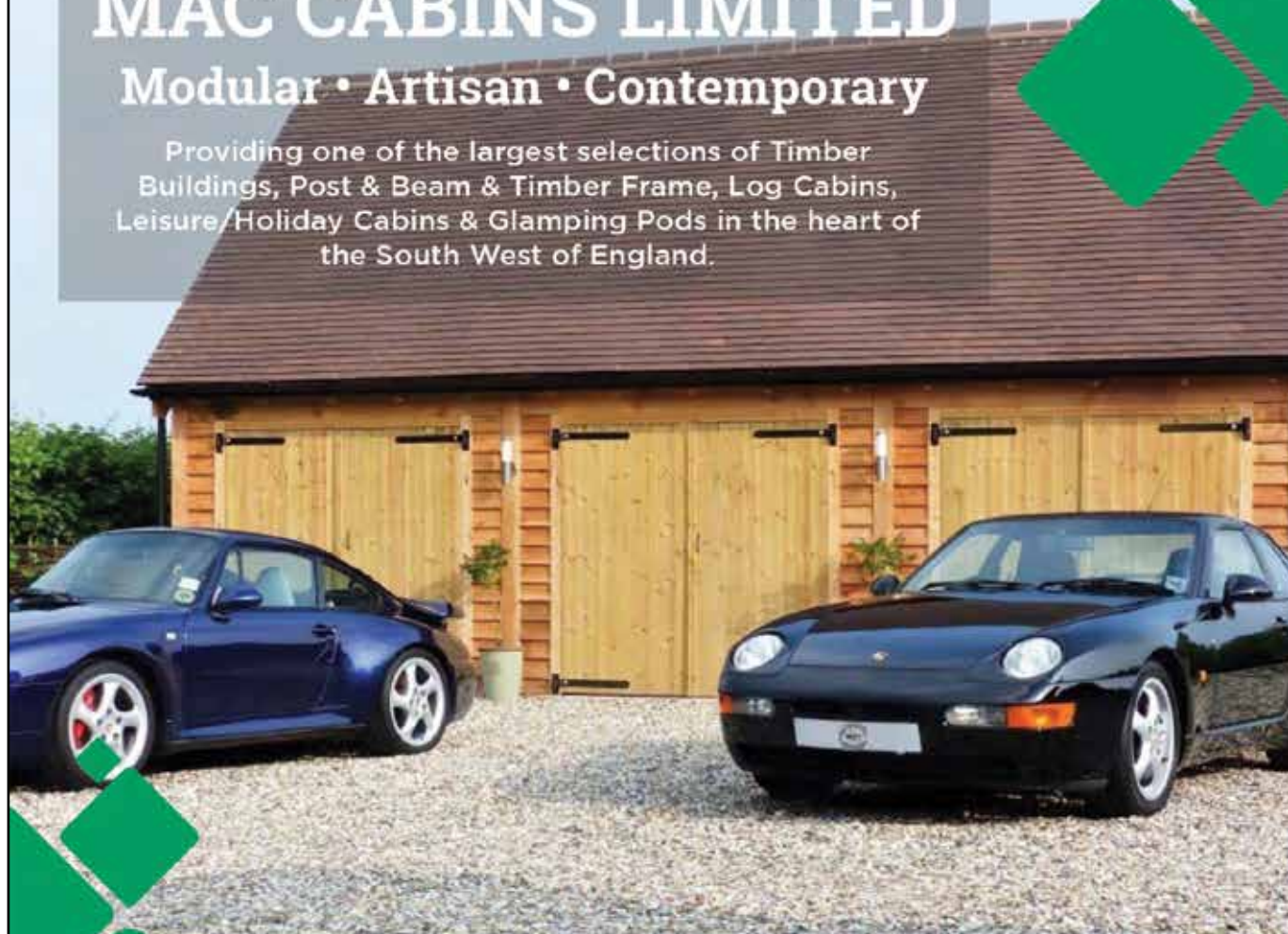
With every building, you will receive a structure that has a higher standard specification than most other comparable products.

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Providing one of the largest selections of Timber Buildings, Post & Beam & Timber Frame, Log Cabins, Leisure/Holiday Cabins & Glamping Pods in the heart of the South West of England.



MAC CABINS LTD

Bringing you the widest selection of:

Glamping Pods, Log Cabins, Timber Lodges, Traditional Post & Beam and Timber Frame Buildings throughout the South West of England.

All our cabins, pods and timber building ranges are extensive in design, layout and configuration and offer many different styles of accommodation.



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MAC Cabins actively supports & promotes the use of Timber as the most environmentally sustainable material for the construction industry.

Door scheduling made easy, fast and error free



Established in 2002 by Derek Brown, RapidSpec is the first software developed for automatically creating door schedules, drawings, project estimates and bills of materials. Designed to eliminate errors in door set specification and the production of door schedules, RapidSpec is an industry leading software product proven to find any doorset's details from any customer and any project within 15 seconds.

"As software specialists for manufacturing processes, we have produced a software system for fire door manufacturing that not only improves productivity, ensures a faster turnaround and is proven to eliminate a greater number of errors, but also results in lower admin costs whilst producing a higher return on investment than other software systems on the market," stated Carol Cole, Business Consultant.



Robin Bell, Sales Manager at Rapid Spec

With RapidSpec everything is instant. Long gone are the days of spreadsheets, RapidSpec offers instant quotations that include all of the auto generated doorset drawings required. Simple to navigate, the operator uses multiple choice, yes and no questions together with the required dimensions and RapidSpec does the rest. The process is time efficient, cost effective and simple to use.

Manual data entry falls victim to human input error, which is both time consuming and frustrating for the employer and the employee. It not only impairs performance and efficiency but can result in higher operating costs and fluctuating levels of performance and continuity. With this in mind, RapidSpec offers two services: Fire Door Scheduling and Door Manufacturing Software.

Door Manufacturing Software allows manufacturers to produce detailed door schedules much more efficiently than traditional spreadsheets, calculators and catalogues. RapidSpec uses the existing skills of your estimator who will be able to create professional quotations immediately with just one hour of training. The orderly input of data ensures that nothing is left out and everything is checked. From the data input RapidSpec then automatically

creates a scaled, detailed, and dimensioned doorset drawing.

Ideal for manufacturers and fabricators of custom, standard interior and exterior doorsets, as well as architects, contractors and fire door manufacturers. "We have now introduced a barcode functionality and we are constantly updating and improving the software to create greater efficiencies for our clients," said Carol.

It is vital fire doors are designed and manufactured to the right specifications to ensure they have the correct

level of fire resistance. Fire Door Schedule is a door specifying and scheduling software from RapidSpec that allows door manufacturers and designers to quickly and simply create accurate fire door schedules from standard specification sheets. The simple process is designed so that the operator only needs to answer a few questions and input the dimensions of the door for the software to then produce an accurate fire door schedule complete with diagrams, dimensions, project estimates and bill of materials.

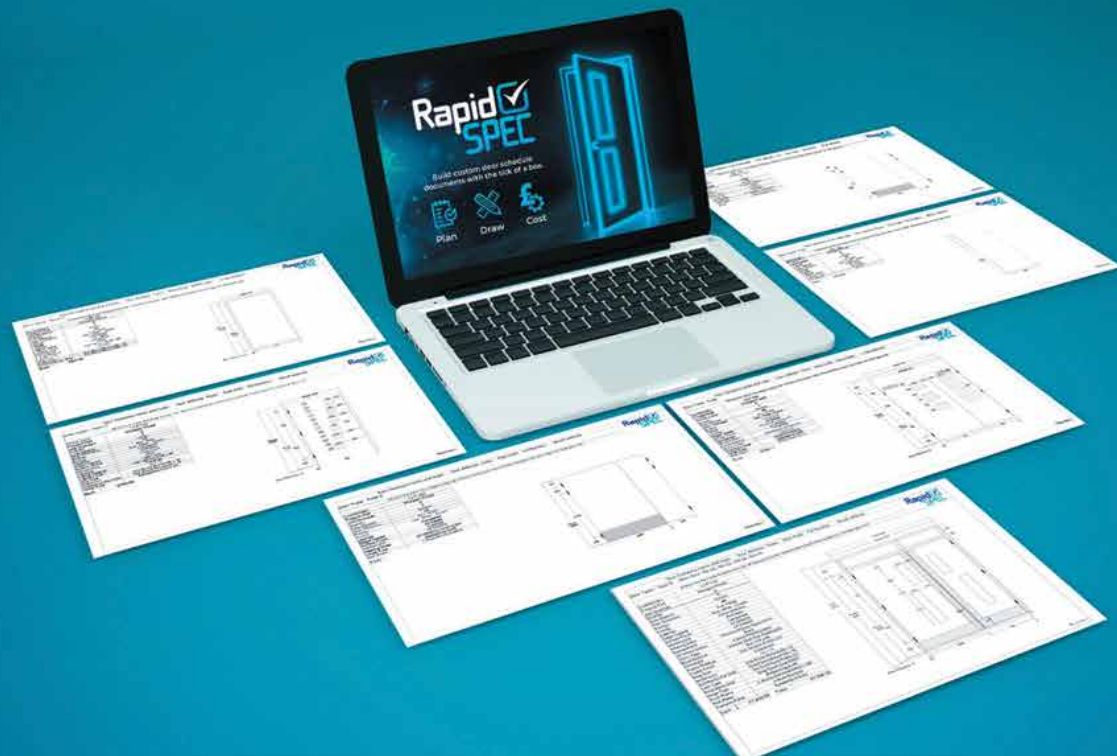
Over the years, RapidSpec been continuously developing its software to offer the best solutions to

its customers. Despite the pandemic, the company has achieved further growth and has big plans for the future. Robin Bell, Sales Manager at Rapid Spec commented, "We are expanding internationally, with a focus on the Commonwealth in the first instance. We have also just recorded a video highlighting the enormous benefits of using RapidSpec on our customers' productivity. This should be available on the website very soon."

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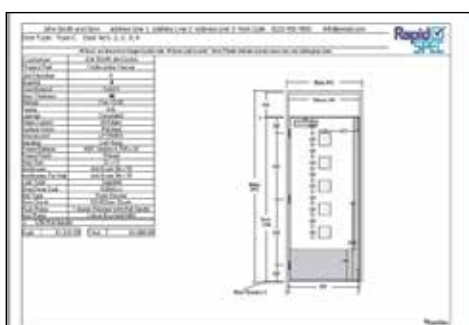
RapidSpec will give you 20 – 30% more quotations from your estimators and at the same time make their work easier and much less stressful.



The savings from RapidSpec's error free automatic bill of materials alone is normally enough to pay for the software.



Take the worry and stress out of scheduling. In the background, as you select items, RapidSpec is making hundreds of checks for you. Less double checking = higher output!



Vandecasteele Houtimport receives the Voka Charter Sustainable Entrepreneurship (VCDO) certificate for the 21st time in a row!

On Wednesday, the 29th of June, we attended the inspirational award ceremony of the Voka Charter for Sustainable Entrepreneurship.

The award is a recognition of the sustainability efforts of the participating companies.

We received our award for the 21st time, along

with 38 other West Flemish companies.

International reference

The VCDO is linked to the 17 Sustainable



L-R: Stefaan Vandecasteele – Owner, Geneviève Standaert – Export Manager, Isabelle Polfliet – Compliance Manager



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Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations and thus has an international frame of reference.

The external validation and the structure of the VCDO support companies in making efforts to embed sustainability in their business strategy.

The balance of all sustainability aspects, ranging from the well-being of employees to the environmental impact of the company, is more relevant today than ever.

We are also nominated SDG Champion with our strategic transition project 'trading 100% certified wood by 2025.'

T +32 56 43 33 00
www.vandecasteele.be

Our goal is 100% certified timber from 2025

The Belgian fifth-generation family company, founded in 1883 Vandecasteele Houtimport still has to deal with old prejudices on the use of hardwood.

"Everyone knows that timber is a sustainable material," says Isabelle Polfliet, Compliance Manager at Vandecasteele, "A lot of users still associate tropical timber with the disappearance of the forests." Nevertheless, Vandecasteele Houtimport is fully committed to certified timber.

Sustainability and reliability are an essential part of Vandecasteele Houtimport's DNA. The company is determined to achieve the goal of trading only certified timber by 2025. Isabelle Polfliet: "As far as softwood is concerned, we are at 99%. The challenge, however, lies with the tropical hardwood and today we are at 66%!" Vandecasteele Houtimport has a clear vision: only certified timber has a future.

Digitalize

Last year, another important step was taken in the partnership with 11 Foundry and their product Fibertrace.

Vandecasteele has a long-term commitment to preserving the forests. The family business imports more than 125 different types of wood from 40 countries and has 105,000 cubic meters in stock, mainly certified hard and soft woods.

Preservation of the forest

In a well-managed forest, only mature trees are harvested, which amounts to one to three trees per hectare. After that, felling will not take place for at least 25 years. In this way the forest is preserved for the future. Mother trees, trees with bee nests and the like are of course not harvested.

Positive evolution

Isabelle Polfliet notes that a positive evolution is noticeable in consumer purchasing behaviour. Customers are increasingly asking questions about certification and the origin of the timber. Buyers are becoming increasingly aware of the need to use certified timber.

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We are a small family business continuing the traditions of brickmaking on this site dating back to the Middle Ages. Our facings and specials can be made with almost any texture, from coarse veined to smooth with some 150 different sizes of facing and a range of over 5,000 special shapes, including all standard plinths, squints and copings, and extends to purpose made chimney bricks, terracotta, mullions, jambs, floor bricks, pammments, decorative plaques, garden edgings and a full range of rubbing blocks.

We work on large projects for the National Trust, English Heritage and Historic Royal Palaces, but are just as proud of some of the small private work undertaken by individuals.

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E-learning for the construction industry



Over the past 12 months, online learning and training have become increasingly more popular as individuals and businesses seek ways to upskill, develop or specialise in key subjects for self-improvement.

The four-stage training and qualifications scheme Concrete Technology & Construction leads to qualifications for the construction industry awarded by the Institute of Concrete Technology (ICT). The training courses range from foundation level through to advanced, and TALENT Concrete Training Ltd., established in 2004, currently provide online distance learning courses in Stages 2 and 3.

The industry-endorsed four-stage qualification framework is directly linked to the professional grades of membership of the ICT, formerly administered by City & Guilds of London Institute (CGLI).



The course outlines are as follows:

Stage 1: Concrete Practice, ideal for those starting in the construction industry. Candidates who complete this course successfully are eligible for memberships of the ICT at Technician grade and to use the designatory letters TechICT after their name.

Stage 2: General Principles, intended for those involved in the production, use or quality control of concrete. Candidates who complete this course successfully are eligible for memberships of the ICT at Affiliate grade and to use the designatory letters AffICT after their name.

Stage 3: Practical Applications, intended for those involved at a supervisory level in the production, use or quality control activities associated with concrete. Candidates who complete this course successfully are eligible for memberships of the ICT at Associate grade and to use the designatory letters AMICT after their name.

Stage 4: Advanced Concrete Technology, this stage leads to the highest award in concrete technology. Candidates who complete this course successfully are eligible for full corporate memberships of the ICT and to use the designatory letters MICT after their name.

Tony Binns, a Director of TALENT, and an honorary Fellow of the ICT commented, "TALENT courses enable participants to enrol and commence their studies at any time, with no dependence on the academic year. We have three fully qualified tutors who are constantly available for assistance, mentoring and discussion."

Stages 2 and 3 of the Concrete Technology & Construction training and qualifications programme are presented by TALENT as online distance learning courses. The course content has been written and designed by John Newman, Peter Domone and Tony Binns. Each tutor is successful in their own field and holds vast amounts of experience and expertise in concrete technology, as well as proven, successful techniques and skills acquired to mentor and teach.

"TALENT courses are well-established and recognised by the ICT. Revised and newly introduced ICT learning objectives are incorporated in the course material. In the future, we intend to introduce the foundation level – Stage 1: Concrete Practice, as an online course using the same successful online training methods as we have in Stages 2 and 3. The course material is updated to reflect developments in techniques and changes in British and European Standards and remains accessible to participants long after they have completed the course, serving as an up-to-date reference source," stated Tony.

The courses available are ideal for all producers of precast and ready-mixed concrete, test consultants, civil engineers and building contractors. TALENT training courses fully prepare participants for ICT examinations and have achieved a successful high pass rate, including a high proportion of Credits and Distinctions upon completion.

COVID-19 has had minimal effects on business for TALENT, and the concept of being entirely online has reaped tremendous benefits for the company. "Being entirely online involving no physical personal contact, TALENT courses have enabled those who seek training

and qualifications to enrol and progress without any adverse effects from COVID-19," said Tony.

Enrol today to receive in-depth and up-to-date information on constituent materials, specification,

concrete properties, production and performance.

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