

BUILDING UPDATE

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Redefining best practice in the external wall insulation sector

Approved and recommended by leading manufacturers, Swifix Ltd offer the most cost-effective solutions to enable the fitting of external furniture through external wall insulation and rain screen cladding, with the added benefit of being specifically designed for the job. Its solutions are held in high regard for the future of retrofitting and the Modular housing sectors as well as being the ideal solution for a longer-term maintenance provision.

Previous best practice called for timber pattresses to be installed prior to the insulation being installed, however due to introduction of PAS2035 to enable improvement in the quality of installation, timber is no longer accepted in the sector.

Swifix Ltd has engineered and designed the innovative range of products to eliminate the use of timber when installing external wall and rain screen insulation systems, and an environmentally friendly solution as manufactured from partially recycled materials and a fully recyclable product.

The company's proven multifaceted solutions are designed to help customers working across a number of industries.



These include System Manufacturers, Main Contractors and Installers, Local Authorities and Registered Social Landlords, Architects, Homeowners and Private customers, as well as those involved in the Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) sector.

No matter the problem, Swifix Ltd maintains a strong and dependable ethos to deliver a service that is consistently high-quality and reliable. And, will always strive to keep its message clear of having the most innovative and cost-effective products currently available on the market, to produce products that are highly robust and technically better than that of any competition, and to accelerate its efforts towards keeping the maintenance of all products risk free and easy to install.

Its extensive portfolio of products includes a solution for



securing, rainwater goods, satellite fitting plates, tap fittings, connection point fittings, canopies. Lights, alarms, fences providing a solution for both lightweight and heavier items, and all its products are recommended and also available from many leading system designers across the UK and Ireland ensuring that your investment is protected.

For more information, please see below:
T 01884 560477
info@swifix.co.uk
www.swifix.co.uk



INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS TO ENABLE FIXING THROUGH EXTERNAL WALL INSULATION

Our products are one of the most cost-effective solutions to enable the fitting of external furniture through external wall insulation and rain screen cladding, with the added benefit of being designed specifically for the job. Fully Pas2035 complaint for the future of retrofitting and the Modular housing sectors and the ideal solution for a longer term maintenance provision.

All fittings meet stringent technical requirements by preventing the compression of insulation and providing a watertight seal. They are also approved by many leading manufacturers and organisations developing modern methods of construction to support the requirement for new homes in the UK.

To find out more, please visit www.swifix.co.uk, call **01884 560477** or email info@swifix.co.uk



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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.



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.

Ground Source Heat Pumps
We are award winning installers of Open-Loop

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

Horticultural One-Stop Shop

Plants and Sundries to the Trade



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.



Plants & Sundries for the Trade

Hedging - Topiary
Buxus - Laurus Nobilis
Shrubs & Trees

Huge range of shrubs from 3 Litre - 15 Litre
Alpines & Perennials. Seiont Nurseries
Young Plants. Pack bedding & Vegetables.

Added Value Lines - April onwards:-
Superb range of Hanging Baskets,
Planted Patio Pots, 13cm potted Zonal Geraniums,
Fuchsias, Osteospermums, Marguerites & Standard
Fuchsias in 10 litre pots.

Sundries - Garden Stoneware
Yorkshire Flowerpots - Draper Tools

We now stock Garden Furniture
NEW Italian and Spanish Stock
Extensive Pot Range available

The largest horticultural "One Stop Shop" in the UK

FOUR OAKS CASH & CARRY
Longshoot Road, Lower Withington, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 9DX
Tel: 01477 571797 Fax: 01477 571314
marlon@fouroaks-nurseries.co.uk www.fouroaks-nurseries.com

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 of the exciting addition to our ever-growing product line.

T 01477 571797
www.fouroaks-nurseries.com



Construction Materials

Waterproofing you can rely on

Carlisle CM Europe (CCM Europe) manufacture high quality EPDM waterproofing membranes for flat roofing, façade systems and building solutions for the construction industry. CCM Europe is a dynamic company with ease of installation and durable roofing systems including EPDM & Liquid Waterproofing. As a leading manufacturer of waterproofing membranes and sealants, our market leading products are suited for a wide range of flat roof substrates for both new build and refurb.

One particular product worth noting is the ARBOFLEX® PU, a single component liquid made from pure polyurethane, which, once cured, forms a seamless elastic membrane without any joints. The material properties of ARBOFLEX® PU enable it to be air tight and waterproof on a range of substrates. Alongside its high performance and wear-resistant membrane, ARBOFLEX® PU can adapt to any surface: uneven, curved or irregular, and with its fast-curing properties can be walked on in 24 hours.

Comprised of one component that can be applied straight out of the tin, it allows for fast and easy installation, is green roof compatible and weather resistant, so it can be used all-year round. CCM Europe is not only dedicated to offering state of the art EPDM flat roofing seal solutions, but to also extend its expertise and knowledge to other professionals through its dedicated EPDM and PU Liquid system roofing training courses at the CARLISLE®



ACADEMY. Designed by professionals for professionals, with a view that knowledge is sustainable material. The more you share it, the more you get back. The training content is intended to enable attendees to learn of the proven advantages of EPDM waterproofing solutions relating to roofs, façades and building in an up-close and hands-on manner. For more information, visit: www.academy.ccm-europe.com

T 01623 627285
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CM EUROPE

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





ModConCabins
Manufacturer of Modular, Containers & Cabins

Steel AV Cabins • Smoking Shelters • Chemical Stores & Storage Units
Staircases & Steps • Effluent Tanks • Water Bowsers • Turnstiles



INTRODUCING



MODCONCABINTRADER
www.modconcabintrader.com

ModCon Cabin Trader, the Modular,
Portable Building & Plant Industry
related, **Resale/Auction** website!

alan@modconcabintrader.com +44) 0333 404 8822 07842 318869

Lighting Protection Risk Assessment



**South West
Lightning
Protection**

www.lightningconductor.org

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.

Whatever your requirements - we are always pleased to help

- Lightning Protection risk assessments
- Installation & Design by accredited engineers
- Test & Inspection (BS EN62305, BS6651, NFC 17 102)
- Safety Line systems testing

Tel: 07807 33 44 41 Web: www.lightningconductor.org

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

Airport Business Centre
Estover
Plymouth
PL67PP

Also located in Scotland,
& London




Stay safe with lightning protection

South West Lightning Protection provides a number of services throughout the UK including lightning protection, early streamer emission systems, upgrades of older systems, earthing services and design, safety line testing and inspection of horizontal safety line systems and PPE. Established in 2014, South West Lightning Protection was created by Gary Libby who has over 40 years' experience in the industry. Located in Plymouth, the company also has an office in Scotland.



In recent news, South West Lightning Protection has commenced testing of roof mounted horizontal cable based mansafe systems, permanent ladders, guard rails, and safety anchors. These services are provided individually from the company's lightning protection services, and to save the client money, can be combined. South West Lightning Protection work throughout the UK to assist its clients with their project requirements regardless of their location. Within its lightning protection service, South West Lightning Protection is able to offer a full installation and testing service, including BS EN62305 systems, BS6651 upgrades, NFC 17 102 early streamer emission systems and BS7430 earthing systems. Some recent projects have included chimney upgrade works in Cumbria, new air termination networks in London and a new roof tape system in Plymouth. South West Lightning Protection record all test conditions and results, and a reminder is sent out before the next test is due.

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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

"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.

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.



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.

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(Managing Director)
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www.tomorrowsforests.co.uk
www.creatingtomorrowsforests.co.uk





www.tomorrowsforests.co.uk

Tomorrow's Forests can assist with the supply and planting of high quality local trees as well as sundry products required for your woodland creation project.

Our professional and dedicated team will carry out all the necessary surveys of your property, produce detailed designs and, with our skilled planters, implement the new woodland creation to the highest standard to meet your exact requirements.

We will provide help and advice throughout the process and ensure that specific government funding requirements are met. Following the completion of your woodland creation project, we can offer ongoing maintenance, upkeep and professional advice.

There are many advantages to the planting of trees on less productive or unused land areas and farmers and landowners can now obtain a number of government grant and funding options to help with establishing new woodland areas.

Woodland creation projects can be undertaken on suitable land from 3 hectares up to larger areas of over 10 hectares and can provide substantial environmental and financial benefits.

Woodland Creation Benefits Include:

- Timber production
- Increasing land value
- Providing shelter for crops and livestock
- Providing new wildlife habitats
- Stabilising river banks
- Game cover
- Improving the amenity value

Contact 01258 818003 or email office@tomorrowsforests.com



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Prompt delivery



More than 50
decking species

Photo © Dieter Dejonghe

Endless possibilities for
decking and cladding

Contact

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Number one choice for recycled plastic building materials

Kedel is a family business founded on ethical and ecologically sound principles. Dedicated to making sustainable living attractive, Kedel believe that by incorporating sustainable recycled plastic products into personal and working environments, it can create a happier, healthier and infinitely more sustainable future for generations to come.

Established by three brothers, Kieran, Dermot and Lewis Walch, Kedel is based in Burnley and supplies nationwide. We spoke to Lewis, who explained more about the company. "We manufacture plastic wood made from waste polystyrene, and we are also suppliers of many other types of recycled plastic profiles from other manufacturers. We stock tongue and groove boards, plastic sheet materials, decking, cladding, ground reinforcement and drainage grids, fencing and gates. In addition, we make a wide range of outdoor furniture often combining different types of recycled plastic into one product. These products

include benches, tables, picnic tables, notice boards, to name just a few. We also offer design services and have a large flatbed CNC (computer numerical controlled) machine for cutting and shaping to the CAD design parameters supplied by our customers or created for them by our in-house design team."

As specialists in building supplies and outdoor furniture, one of the main benefits of the products and services provided by Kedel is the long-term investment advantages of recycled plastic. "It never rots, so if you build fencing or decking with it, you only do the job once in a lifetime. There's no cost of ownership, no maintenance - no costs for labour and materials, or for that matter, replacement costs.

Timber merchants are our main competitors, but wood is becoming increasingly expensive and difficult to source, due to the war in Eastern Europe, Brexit, and COVID-19 causing driver shortages leading to increased transportation costs.

And as everyone knows, the problem with wood is that it needs constant attention to avoid deterioration. Recycled plastic needs nothing more doing with it. Yes, the initial costs are higher, but over a 25-year period, a study by WRAP (Waste Resources Action Programme), in 2000 resulted in recycled plastic proving a more cost-effective material due to the product's extended longevity and zero maintenance properties," Lewis explained.

'Your Housing Association' in South Manchester installed plastic fence panels made from Kedel's recycled plastic about 10 years ago. They haven't had

to replace a single fence panel since!" said Lewis.

Kedel's plastic wood was named 'Best Recycled Product' at the National Recycling Awards in 2015 and is an ideal maintenance free replacement for wood and other traditional building materials. Suitable applications include cladding, gables brackets, pediments, fascia boards, rafter tails, finials, fencing and decking. Kedel has over 1,000 products in recycled plastics available on its website with a wide variety of profiles to choose from that could save you a lifetime of maintenance and replacement costs.

A notable product in Kedel's sustainable product range is fencing, that comes as fixed or portable panels, or you can buy the materials to make your own. You'll never need to replace a fence again. They are rot-proof and non-absorbent making them very hygienic and easy to clean. They don't chip, crack, or splinter, and are water and frost proof.

Ideal for education establishments and facilities management are Kedel's maintenance-free benches and picnic tables. They look like wood but perform like plastic, and the tables last at least five times longer than wood, making them a very attractive long-term investment. Key advantages include no splinters for little fingers, more hygienic and easier to clean with



standard household cleaning products, no painting or preservative applications, and they are very robust and vandal resistant.

"Recycled plastic products are carbon positive, because the waste plastic is reused rather than being thrown into landfill or used as EfW (energy from waste) i.e. burned like any other fossil fuel. They also reduce the use of traditional materials such as wood, leaving the trees in our precious forests where they belong, absorbing the CO₂ emitted by fossil fuels, and concrete whose production is highly polluting and makes the building industry a major contributor to global warming," said Lewis.

Since 2010, demand for Kedel's products have risen by about 30% each year. To accommodate such growth, Kedel has recently acquired additional computer controlled plastic extrusion lines to increase production of its plastic wood. We asked Lewis what Kedel's future plans are, "We plan on continuing to increase production and expand our buildings to house the additional machinery we need to meet this seemingly insatiable demand for recycled plastic products."

For more information, please see below:
T 01282 861325
www.kedel.co.uk



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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. With RapidSpec everything is instant. Long gone are the days of spreadsheets, RapidSpec offers instant quotations that include all of the auto generated



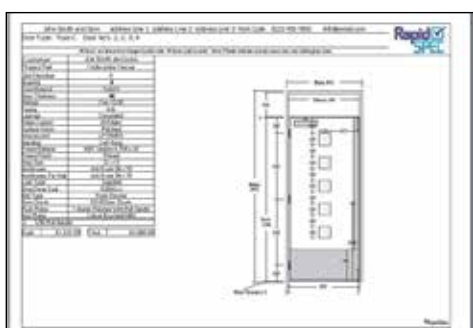
**Robin Bell, Sales Manager
at Rapid Spec**

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.

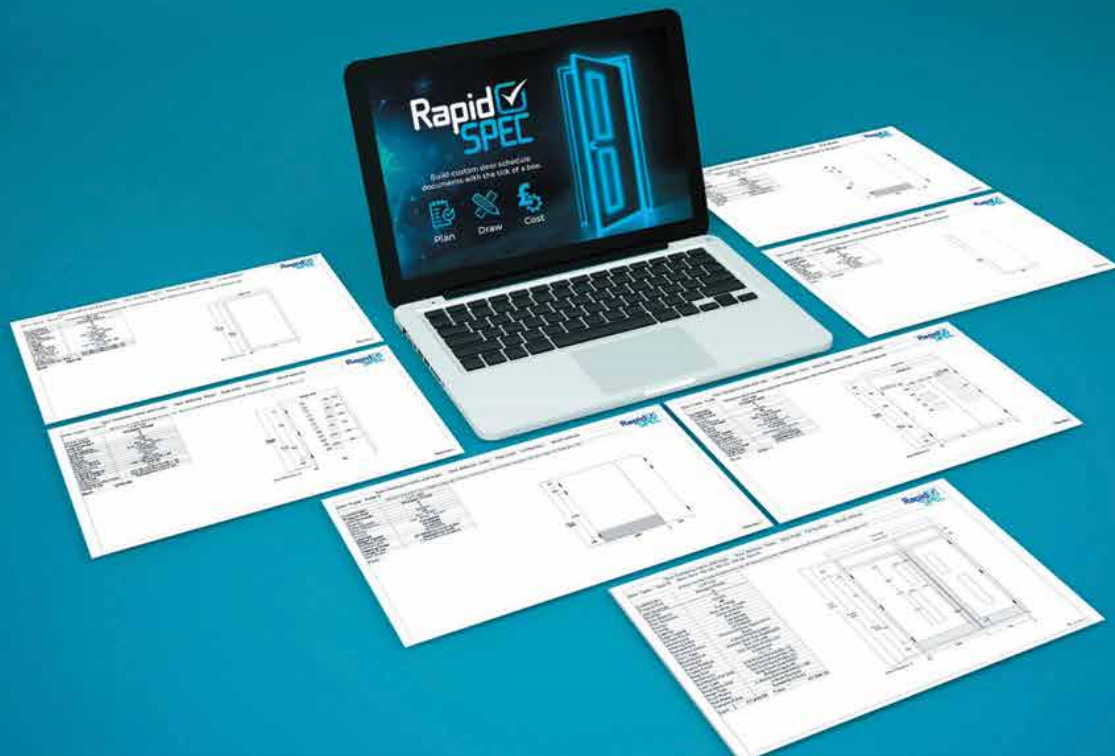
Over the years, RapidSpec been continuously developing its software to offer the best solutions to its customers. Despite the pandemic, the company has achieved further growth and has big plans for the future. Robin Bell, Sales Manager at Rapid Spec commented, "We are expanding internationally, with 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."

Contact
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robin@rapidspec.co.uk
www.rapidspec.co.uk



Free phone: 03337 00 00 17
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Make your project possible

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
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www.dconsafety.com

Quality, bespoke joinery since 1991

In this issue of Building Update, we have selected Bluerun Ltd as the recipient of our Industry Excellence Award for custom made joinery.

Joinery experts, Bluerun Ltd, was originally established by the current Managing Director, John Jones, and Peter Clayden back in 1991. Peter Clayden resigned a few years later and the company is now owned by John's family - his wife Doreen, son Jeremy, and daughter Dee Newman, and Dee took over the reins in December 2019, when John semi-retired.

Based in Wimbish, near Saffron Walden in Essex, Bluerun manufactures quality, bespoke joinery items, and everything is made to order, nothing is 'off the shelf.' Dee commented, "We manufacture items for the commercial market from door and window packers, to shopfronts, reception desks, mainframes, pub doors, and years ago we even made a trebuchet for Stansted Mountfitchet castle!"

In the 7,000 sq. ft. factory, Bluerun can produce work using both hard or softwoods, and veneered and painted panels. It has a modern spray paint and lacquer facility, enabling products to leave the factory in a fully finished state.

For domestic clients, Bluerun manufactures everything from windowboards to windows, thresholds to doors, shelving, wardrobes, bi-fold doors, French doors, staircases, indeed most things in a property that are made of timber. It has even made a child's Wendy house and a mansion for cats!



Bluerun will take on projects of almost any size, Dee continued, "The only size limit is whether a finished item can be removed through our workshop doors! Staircases for example, would be made in a kit format, for ease of delivery and installation. We use couriers for deliveries, and they have access to all sizes of vans and lorries." The only thing that is sometimes out of range are installations due to a small workforce, but Dee keeps a list of recommended installers for anything, which is manufactured.



In a crowded marketplace, Bluerun works very hard to be at the forefront of the industry. It is a supplier to Dovista for items such as packers and mainframes, and the company corporate branding is on its vans, emails, and social media presence, along with promotional items, and this has helped recognition and growth of the company in recent years.

Dee remarked, "We are still working old school, and everything is designed using pencil and paper with a dash of imagination. We don't use CAD or CNC, and most items are completed using hand tools for the finishing touches. A lot of love and care is included within our

work, and this has really helped our customer base to grow."

So whether you are looking for a one-off custom made gate, a staircase, or a production run of doors and windows for a new housing development, or a new interior for your pub, restaurant or office, Bluerun can deliver exactly what you are looking for.

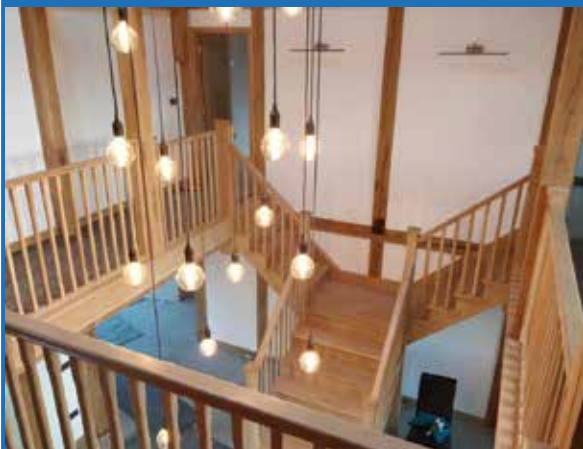
For more information, please see below:
T 01799 599995
dee@bluerunltd.co.uk
www.bluerunltd.co.uk



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f bluerunltd @ bluerun_joinery

Steel Construction Specialists

Clarke Construction Essex Limited (CCEL), based in Essex was founded in 2009 by owner David Marriott, and has since built up a wide portfolio of services and an excellent quality of service to all customers.

CCEL's wide range of products and services that are available to clients include bespoke design, creative roof design and complex structural & architectural structures.

CCEL site team are specialists in heavy and contract lifting, as well as rigging and the erection of steel structures. The company offers a full construction service as a one stop, and this adaptability has enabled it to add

further services to the selection of facilities in which it now specialises. These include steel sculptures, architectural metalworks, and glass systems.

In 2014 & again in 2021 CCEL were employed to handle high value specialist equipment into an existing building, this project required the company to design and install a high weight bearing temporary scaffold loading platform, as well as removing, then replacing external cladding before moving the equipment into the building. This project required logistic coordination and detailed lifting plans in advance, and CCEL successfully facilitated co-ordinated transport & handling of the equipment,

geometric scanning of existing structure to integrate new designed support steel and services.

In September 2012, CCEL undertook one of its most rewarding projects when the company was involved in a venture which gave for the first time electricity and water to a village in Kenya. The village of 3,000 people were without both, when two trucks from the UK arrived, and seven days later the lights came on. CCEL remember this event as, 'an enormously satisfying moment for the whole team.'

An unusual roof design brought a number of challenges for the main contractor, CCEL were contracted, The roof



CCEL
Clarke Construction Essex Limited

STEEL CONSTRUCTION SPECIALISTS

We pride ourselves on delivering an excellent quality of service to all our customers. Our diverse portfolio proves we achieve high-end results to any project we endeavour, our association with structural engineers – draftsmen & specialist factories enable us to provide such diverse services from designing and construction of steel structures through to design and production of bronze railings, stairs & balustrades. Our site teams are specialists in heavy & contract lifting, rigging & erection of structures. We can offer a full construction service as a one stop.

- Bespoke Designs
- Specialists in Diversity
- Architectural Metalworks
- Complex Architectural Structures
- Creative Works
- Integrated Steel & Timber
- Specialist Lifting
- Temporary Works



Please visit the website: www.ccel.org.uk
Tel: 01375 360605 • Email: office@ccel.org.uk



made up of different coloured tiles on a curved and shaped panel, CCEL designed, built and installed the sub structure for Brighton College in 2015. This task required a full geometric survey of the preceding roof, to which the CCEL detailed and built the sub structure to support the prefabricated tiled sub frame assemblies. As part of the package CCEL designed and manufactured the lifting and handling equipment that allowed this specialist installation to be undertaken for the final roof structure.

CCEL are a company that specialises in diversity, therefore in 2015 it was called upon to facilitate the specialist removal of an important art work 'Seizure' by the artist Roger Hiorns from a building in Elephant & Castle. The Art work had to be carefully removed from the inside of an dwelling building requiring strengthening the existing art work structure and then to move it onto a purpose on site constructed transport carriage before being lifted onto a lorry using a 220-tonne crane. It was then removed from its old home to its new home at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

Understandably CCEL take Health and Safety very seriously as the company undertakes high end projects with heavy machinery to the fore. CCEL has CHAS certification alongside the necessary accreditation to the requirements of the CDM regulations. This means that clients can engage with the company knowing that the Health and Safety of both customers and the workforce is paramount to the organisation.

For further information, please see below:
T 01375 360605
office@ccel.org.uk
www.ccel.org.uk

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.

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Restoration

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.



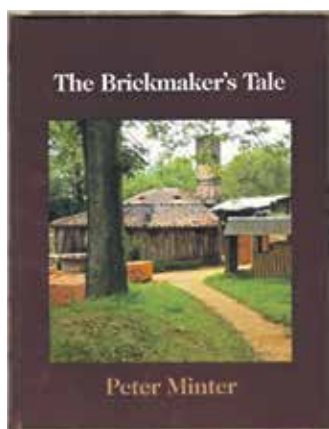
Aside from offering a wide range of clay brick solutions, The Bulmer Brick and Tile Company further offers a select number of additional materials. It is a stockist of Singleton Birch Natural Hydraulic Limes and Lime Putty, available in a range of strengths – NHL2, NHL3.5, and NHL5 – and sold in 25kg 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.

T 01787 269232
www.bulmerbrickandtile.co.uk

Peter Minter: The Brickmaker's Tale



Peter Minter and his son Tony are well-known for their father and son business, Bulmer Brick and Tile. The family-run business has successfully been running for over 80 years and is extremely proud to say they have excellent expertise and knowledge in this industry.




Peter Minter wrote his own book, The Brickmaker's Tale, which entails a unique history of the Bulmer Brickyard and the craft of brick-making. Bulmer Brick and Tile pride themselves in saying that they are the most traditional in the UK that still uses methods to make bricks which dates all the way back to 1450. The first section of The Brickmaker's Tale focuses on the early history of the site, the second part of the book explores from 1936 onwards when the Minter Family acquired to the company.


Finally persuaded by family and friends, Peter Minter wrote a book that recorded some of his unique knowledge and memories in a book. The book highlights the story of the Brickyard and the people that have worked there throughout the years. The Brickmaker's Tale touches on the recreation of historic bricks for National Trust properties which include Hampton Court Palace and Blickling Hall in Norfolk, not to mention the bricks for the extension of St Pancras Station in London.




The Brickmaker's Tale is available from local bookshop Kestrel in Sudbury Suffolk or direct from Bulmer Brick & Tile Co Ltd.

T +44 (0)1787 269232
bbr@bulmerbrickandtile.co.uk
www.bulmerbrickandtile.co.uk





The Bulmer Brick & Tile Co Ltd











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THE BULMER BRICK & TILE COMPANY LTD

Bulmer bricks are made from the finest London Clays, dug from our seams almost continually since Tudor times. All Bulmer bricks are hand made, using traditional methods of making, drying and are fired in a coal burning, down draught kiln. We are a small family business continuing the traditions of brickmaking on this site dating back to the Middle Ages.

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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Complete compliance solutions

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.

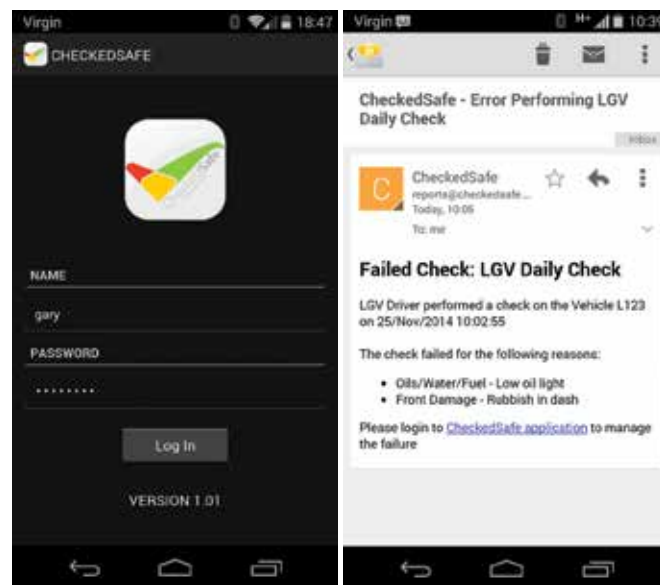
Both Darran and Gary's individual expertise has resulted in CheckedSafe being a nationally recognised company. "I am a transport professional with 30+ years in commercial transport, and Darran has 25+ years as a solicitor, so our individual skills set us apart from other 'IT' providers in the industry,"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

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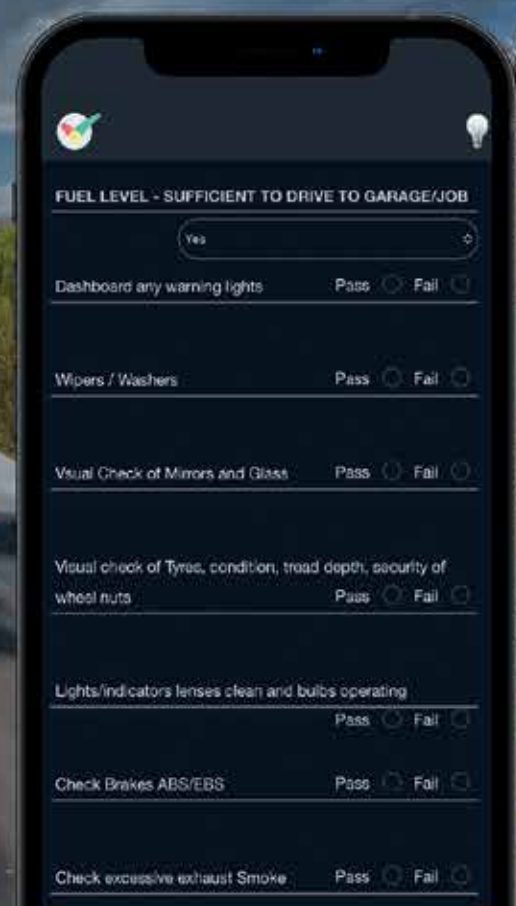
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Demon Designs: Experts in glass

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 since its inception eight years ago.

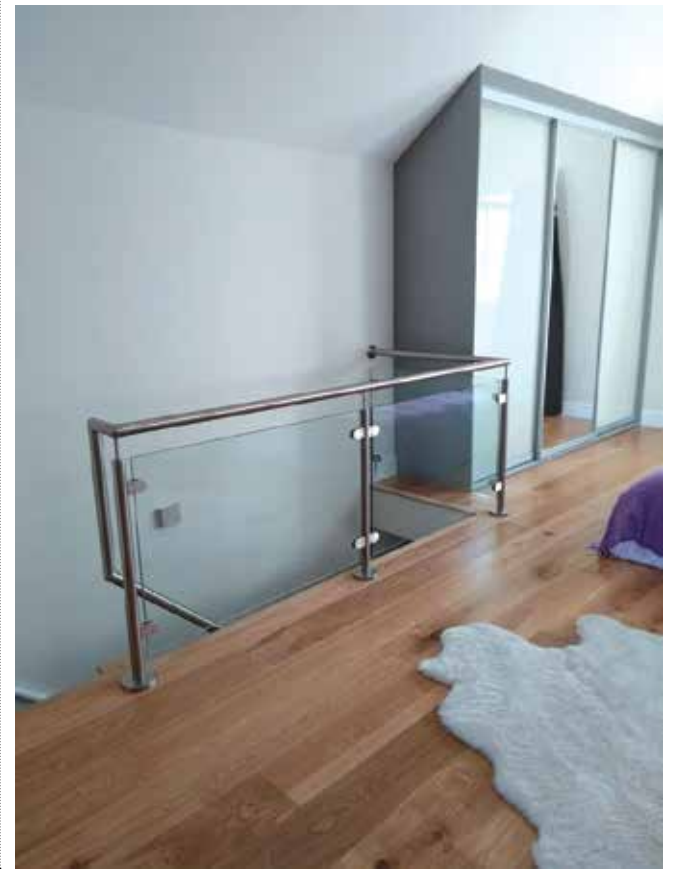
"We want to take on more bespoke projects, big or small.



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.

T 01903 733206
info@demon-designs.co.uk
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When you're looking for top quality work, Demon Designs is here to help. Our construction professionals are available to provide a wide range of customizable options, all guaranteed to meet and exceed expectations. Contact our office today to learn more about this and our other available services.



Eco Clipper FM4 Sport for sporting grounds

eco clipper®

Eco Clipper offers large area mowers that help Field Managers minimise mowing costs while producing a clean cut result. The Eco Clipper mowing system was originally developed to replace the cylinder mower in turfgrass production. The goal was to maintain the cutting performance of a properly tuned cylinder mower, but not the high maintenance requirement and sensitivity to mowing conditions, like wet grass and weeds.

The system

The smooth cutting decks with fast rotating small blades ensure a high quality of cut and a good distribution of the clippings. The clippings are also well spread in wet grass. This makes it possible to schedule this mower almost independently of the weather.

Due to the electrically driven blades, the mower is very economical and quiet. The large wheels and clever deck linking system ensure good contour following and enable high mowing speeds.

Municipalities and sports field and park managers have also discovered the advantages of the Eco Clipper mowing system. For them, Eco Clipper offers the EC-FM4 Sport. This 4.11m wide mower has four independent



cutting decks. The forward position provides excellent visibility and comfort for the tractor operator.

The benefits

Users report high productivity gains, a factor two compared to 5-gang self-propelled cylinder mowers, and appreciate the low maintenance and the ability to schedule the mowing even under less favourable mowing conditions, such as early morning dew and wet autumn.

For more information, please contact:
info@vanmac.co.uk or visit:
www.ecoclipper.com



'Dedicated to offer the best mowing system for maintaining large area turfgrass'



Eco Clipper FM4 Sport
 for sporting grounds
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eco clipper®

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

Providing an exceptional combination of versatility and durability. Quick to lay, with no need to strip or re-deck a roof, this fast-curing system saves time and money.

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



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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.

Substantial investments have been made over the years to be able to realize this future perspective. "You cannot achieve this goal overnight. This is a long-term job, in which all partners must be included. If we want to assure our customers that we keep our promise to only trade timber that comes from well-managed, certified forests, we need to be sure that all our trading partners share the same strictest certification and sustainability processes as we do."

This has resulted in several actions within the company. "First of all, we were assisted by external experts to get the procedures and protocols in order within our company. For example, we apply a responsible purchasing policy that must be signed by every supplier." Secondly, the team at Vandecasteele was reinforced with a forest engineer in Brazil. "That way we can keep a finger on the pulse of every shipment and we are able to accurately apply the ever-changing legislation in Brazil with great precision."

This sends an important signal to our suppliers. They know that doing business with Vandecasteele Houtimport means: complying with a procedure that is continuously refined and adapted. Every timber transport requires approval. When in doubt the timber is not accepted by us."



Digitalize

Last year another important step was taken in the partnership with 11 Foundry and their product Fibertrace. "This is in line with our intention to digitize all processes within our company. Fibertrace allows us to register all processes related to compliance in a structural and transparent way," says Isabelle Polfliet.

"The choice for certified timber does not mean that we push all non-certified suppliers aside. We have a preference for certified wood. By working together with external auditors, we can carry out field audits and share the results and the expenses with colleague importers. This enables suppliers to gain insight into their processes and where there are areas for improvement. In this way, we will gain certified suppliers in due course."

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.

"This wide range of wood species is also due to our support for the LKTS program of FSC Denmark. With this we want to help promote the use of lesser known species. We keep these lesser-known types of wood in stock and offer them as an alternative. Too often, regulations refer to the known types of wood. From the point of view of good forest management, one must dare to choose the right durability class for an application instead of a specific type of wood."

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.

"Importing tropical wood goes further than just asking for certified wood. Internally, the processes and procedures must also be in order. Say what you do and do what you say. This means a continuous evolution within our company, because there are always

new insights and legislation does not stand still ('the new Deforestation Law'). Due to our collaboration with external experts, we are broadening our internal knowledge and continuing to make progress."

Considerable steps have already been taken with the arrival of the EU Timber Regulation, but we can and should do even better. "We want to see and monitor a stronger application and support for certified timber. Vandecasteele communicates continuously with the users via the website and campaigns in order to get that message out. This is necessary, because the purchase of FSC® certified wood contributes to 14 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (or SDG's) of the United Nations'. Since the year 2000 Vandecasteele Houtimport has committed itself through the Corporate Durability Charter by signing up to environmental objectives exceeding the applicable legislation. In 2018, the charter started a partnership with CIFAL Flanders, the local HUB of UNITAR, the Training and Education centre of the UN. In 2021, Vandecasteele Houtimport was the first timber company in the world to have obtained the international recognized 'SDG Pioneer certificate' from UNITAR CIFAL.

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