

BUILDING UPDATE

ISSUE: 667 August | www.solutionspublishing.co.uk

Protecting your investment, with award-winning, sustainable products

In this issue of Building Update, we are delighted to feature SWIFIX as our External Wall Insulation Company of the Month.

External wall insulation (EWI) is one of the fastest growing areas within the UK construction industry. For time immemorial, timber pattresses have been used to secure the fixing of satellite dishes through to utility boxes upon reinstatement. This was until SWIFIX: an Exeter-based company came up with a brilliant, innovative design range that bypassed traditional timber methods in 2016.

Paul Brown is the Director and brains behind the operations, with an extensive background in leadership in senior management, starting his career as a plasterer completing EWI.

SWIFIX is a multi-award-winning company that designs cutting-edge solutions for securing external furniture through External Wall Insulations (EWI). Since its inception in 2016, the range has been extensively extended, including a recent, exclusive design partnership with SKY telecommunications for a new product for securing cables and small pipework.

"We work with a broad range of customers from Architects, Local Authorities (LA's) to major contractors and system designers providing surefire solutions for securing external wall furniture, through insulation and cladding, across a range of properties, including retrofit, new build, and the off-site modular sectors.



"Our unique design approach has brought robust solutions to market, for securing external furniture through EWI. These include: satellite dishes, rainwater goods, canopies, light alarms, signage, cables, pretty much any item that needs reinstatement," explained Paul.

The SWIFIX range are PAS2035-compliant for quality assurance and with easy installation and added cost-efficiency, it's easy to see why they are the leading choice for many customers.

The products are regarded as industry-leading, shortlisted for the National Energy Efficiency Awards (2016):

with many other accolades recognising innovation and Excellence in the Energy Efficiency Sector, and more recently, The INCA Innovation Award Winner in 2021. The Insulated Render and Cladding Association (INCA) is the recognised trade association for the EWI industry across the UK and awards are given for exceptional work in the industry. We asked Paul, in his own words what made SWIFIX products so special, "SWIFIX are recommended by many system designers as a product of choice, due to the fact that by using the solution and the way in which they are installed, they protect warranties and guarantees for the systems installed."

"The range provides a robust and watertight solution preventing ingress of water, which is damaging to systems. It truly offers a unique solution, unsurpassed by competitors, as it is suitable for many different formats and can hold greater weights. Overall, it is significantly cheaper than its competitors, offering considerable cost savings."

"I'm very proud of our green credentials: it is a very eco efficient-range, made from partially recycled plastics with all the parts are fully recyclable, along with the packaging, making our products very attractive in the age of sustainability."

For more information on this award-winning range, please see below:
T 01884 560477
info@SWIFIX.co.uk
www.SWIFIX.co.uk



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CM EUROPE

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Sewage Treatment Systems

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.

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.



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

Roofing

Waterproofing you can rely on

Carlisle Construction Materials Europe (CCM Europe) manufacture high quality waterproofing systems for new build and refurbishment flat roofing projects, along with the ARBO® range of sealants and EPDM tapes for façades, providing complete building envelope solutions for the construction industry.



CCM Europe is a dynamic company, driving innovation in speed and ease of installation, sustainability, and waterproofing performance across a variety of roofing technologies, including EPDM, bitumen and liquid Waterproofing. Offering expert technical advice to specifiers, CCM Europe supports optimised specifications, leveraging the variety across the company's waterproofing and sealants ranges.

CCM's RESITRIX® single ply waterproofing for flat roofs is the only roofing system that combines the properties of EPDM synthetic rubber and polymer-modified bitumen to create a durable hybrid membrane. An extremely flexible, single-layer waterproofing membrane, it can be applied on almost all substrates and provides fast and neat installation, with each section of membrane welded together quickly, easily and safely using a hot-air device without any need for naked flames.

Suitable for mechanical installation using induction technology, CCM's HERTALAN® EPDM system enables roofs to be made watertight quickly, with the company able to produce EPDM membranes up to 30m in length and in various widths up to 20m, thanks to its vulcanisation factory in Mansfield.

Another hero product within the CCM range is the ARBOFLEX® PU single component liquid waterproofing system. Made from pure polyurethane, which, once cured, forms a seamless elastic roof covering without any joints, ARBOFLEX® PU delivers air tightness and waterproofing on most substrates.

A high performance and wear-resistant membrane, ARBOFLEX® PU can adapt to any surface, including uneven, curved or irregular substrates. With its rapid-curing properties, it allows foot traffic within 24 hours. The single component liquid waterproofing can be applied straight from the tin, allowing fast and easy installation, and it is green roof compatible.

In addition to offering state of the art flat roofing and façade solutions, Carlisle supports expertise and knowledge sharing with the company's training courses at the CARLISLE® ACADEMY. Designed by professionals for professionals, CCM's training courses enable attendees to learn about the proven advantages of EPDM waterproofing solutions in an up-close, hands-on manner, ensuring construction industry professionals can maximise the products' performance benefits on site. For more information, visit: <https://www.ccm-europe.com/gb/academy>

Anticipating change creates opportunity for innovation and exceptional customer service. CCM has recently strengthened its sales and distribution network for the UK and the ROI market, welcoming new professionals to the company's sales team, with appointments including Charlie Patrick, who looks after the Eastern region, and Crawford McAllister who looks after the North and Scotland.

Contact
T 01623 627285
info.uk@ccm-europe.com
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You can watch installation videos for CCM Europe products here:



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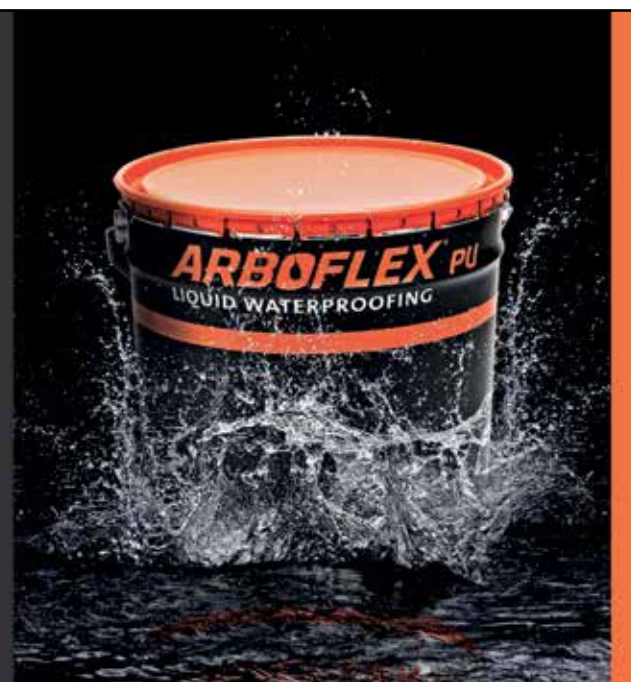


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www.ccm-europe.com

ModCon Cabin Trader Ltd

ModCon Cabin Trader was formed in 2017 by Alan Willetts 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.

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INTRODUCING



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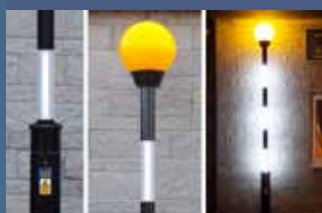
AmberGL08

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OlympiadIPB

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Lodestar

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Sentinel26

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The Environmental Assessment Specialists

Founded in 2007 by Graham Parry and ACCON GmbH, ACCON UK is one of the UK's leading niche environmental consultancies, specialising in air quality, noise, vibration, lighting, flood risk environmental assessment, odour, contaminated land, and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

"We are an Environmental Consultancy committed to serving our clients with the highest standards of consultancy advice with our services variously provided for new development proposals and also as part of nuisance investigations. We provide specialist environmental technical studies which assist developers in obtaining planning permission and we also provide specialist review services to local authorities," stated Graham.

Located in Reading and Brighton, ACCON UK offers focussed solutions for its clients supported by its team of specialist technical assessment consultants who are trained to provide the most up to date service that includes knowledge of the most relevant and latest revisions to the planning system.

ACCON UK prides itself on producing the highest level of service to a range of sectors including housing, commercial, retail, leisure, industrial, mining and quarrying, petro-chemical, energy and wind farm developments. And within these sectors, ACCON has the capabilities and specialist expertise



to serve clients who work in major infrastructure projects, transportation – road and rail, residential and commercial development, sports stadiums and recreational facilities.

At ACCON UK, a commitment to excellence means much more than just ticking the right boxes. ACCON UK is accredited and registered with ISO9001, RISQS, ANC, SMAS as recognised by AAIP, and is a member of Constructionline. ACCON's entire approach combines the unity of the expertise and experience from each member of staff to ensure the delivery of its service to its clients is exceeded above expectations and remains within the guidelines of its accreditations.

"Our services are fully integrated across each team and the main offices, ensuring that a holistic approach to environmental assessment is provided. From developers and architects to town planners and local authorities, we work with many industry professionals. Our services aim to provide clients with exceptional value for money, bringing to bear 50 years' experience across all environmental topics and a very good understanding of EIA," mentioned Graham.

ACCON UK is able to complete every aspect of EIA including screening requests, scoping and methodology and the preparation of the EIA and Non-Technical Summary (NTS). Keeping the client as its number one



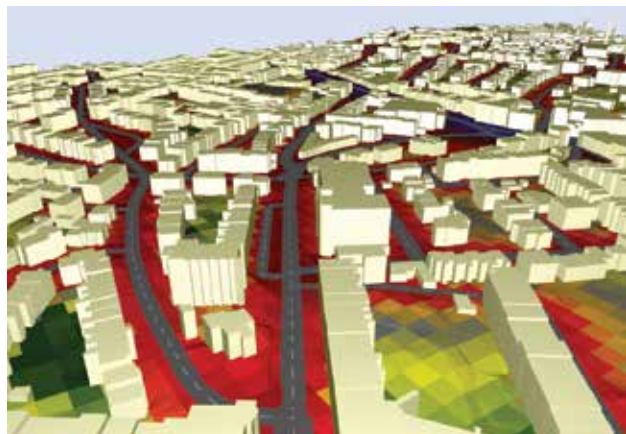
priority, the EIA can be completed by either ACCON UK's in-house team of technical experts, or by using the client's external technical specialists.

The company's dedicated EIA manager has a wide range of experience that is vital given the level of

scrutiny that EIAs face during the planning process. Clients can rest assured the process will be as smooth as possible, and that ACCON UK will work hard to avoid the need for EIA altogether if at all possible throughout the planning process.

In closing we asked Graham what the company's plans were for the future, he answered, "Since COVID-19, measures for home working were put in place, and those measures have continued alongside our normal office working. We have an ambitious expansion plan programmed to cement our position as a small but niche environment consultancy. We are excited for the future!"

For more information, see below.
T 0118 971 0000 (Reading Office)
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ACCON UK

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS



We are one of the UK's leading niche environmental consultancies, specialising in air quality, noise, vibration, lighting, flood risk assessment, contaminated land, daylight & sunlight assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Our standards of EIAs, technical reports and planning proposals ensure you get the most robust and reliable results. ACCON UK's wealth of experience and efficiency enables us to produce cost-effective air quality, noise and EIA reports for our clients. We maintain a wide range of noise, vibration and air pollutant measurement equipment to ensure the very best outcomes for our clients.

We offer focussed solutions for all our clients provided by our team of experts, all of whom are specialist environmental assessment consultants and are up-to-date with the most relevant and latest revisions to the planning system.

Contact ACCON UK today to discuss your individual requirements with one of our consultants.

Our range of sector expertise includes:

- Major Infrastructure Projects
- Transportation – Road, Air and Rail
- Residential and Commercial Development
- Sports Stadia and Recreational Facilities
- Industrial
- Energy and Wind Farm Developments
- Mining and Quarrying
- Petro-Chemical



Please visit our website www.accon-uk.com

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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 and

CDM Advisor in various sectors across the Irish construction market. No project is too simple or too complex for the company's construction safety 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.

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High-capacity mowing systems

In this issue of Building Update, we are pleased to announce that we have selected LS Products BV as the recipient of our Product Innovation Award.

As a response to the increasing market demand for an upgrade to the 15-year-old electrically driven rotary mowers, the company started working on a newer, more improved version. Combining his years of experience and expertise, Syb Leijenaar – LS Products BV owner and Eco Clipper® inventor developed a new line of electric mowers that graced the market in 2018, and this was when the Eco Clipper® was born.

Built from experience, the Eco Clipper® Mowing System has evolved from the mowing system that was originally developed in the nineties on the turfgrass farm of the Leijenaar family in the Netherlands. Since the first electric mower product launch in 2002 to the latest Eco Clipper® range, LS Products BV has developed an extensive portfolio of machinery and equipment that has grown rapidly and been revolutionary to the turfgrass industry.

“Eco Clipper® is a range of large area mowers with a high productivity that help field managers to minimise their mowing costs, while producing a professional cut. Our mowers are electrically driven and use a special mowing deck design with small mowing blades. The mowing decks have good contour following capabilities and disperse clippings well, even in wet grass. This means we have a few important advantages over other mowers. These include delivering the highest mowing speed possible thus producing a higher productivity, they are quieter and more fuel efficient because of the small blades and electric drive, and they are more versatile to schedule because they can deal with wet grass and any other adverse weather conditions,” said Syb.



The Eco Clipper® Mowing System offers many advantages over traditional cylinder and rotary mowers. Because it consists of an independently suspended 106cm wide deck section, it is cleverly linked together in larger, flexible contour following mowing decks. The entire design and development of the Eco Clipper® Mowing System delivers a clean cut, even clippings dispersion and excellent following of the ground contours with minimal soil compaction.

The system also caters for bespoke requirements so customers can attach the decks to different frames, whether it be Carried or Towed. Offering three options, the Front Mower consists of a single deck with 2-6 sections, a Towed Mower consists of three separate decks of 10-14 sections wide, and a Carried Rear

Mower is combined with a Front Mower and consists of 10-14 sections wide.

“If you compare the Eco Clipper with other rotary mowers, you’ll see that the main difference is the greater clipping dispersion of the Eco Clipper. Furthermore the mowing speed of the Eco Clipper usually is a lot higher than the roller mowers and the Eco Clipper mowers are much easier to handle because of the lighter weight and the front mounting that provides a good view on the mower. Another development for mowing sports fields is the use of robots. The idea is to save on labour and costs. In practice the mowing costs with the small mowing robots only go up, because they require a lot of unplanned attention to keep them running. As an alternative,

customers should know that they can cut the costs in half by mowing with the Eco Clipper FM4 sport,” added Syb.

Municipalities, sports field and park managers have taken delight in the advantages that the Eco Clipper FM4 Sport brings. The EC-FM4 Sport is a 4.11m wide mower that has four independent cutting decks. The forward position provides excellent visibility and comfort for the tractor operator. Due to the electrically driven blades, the mower is very economical and quiet. The low noise is not only more comfortable for the operator, but also a delight for the neighbours. The large wheels and clever deck linking system ensure good contour following and enable high mowing speeds.

Launching next year, LS Products will be bringing out a new large autonomous mower based on the Eco Clipper. Syb explains further, “In 2024, we will launch a 3 and a 5m wide mowing robot based on the Eco Clipper mowing system. This autonomous mower is aimed for the turfgrass industry to further reduce the mowing costs. We found out that also robots need quite a high capacity to be able to beat the mowing costs of our larger Eco Clipper models. Therefore the new machines will give a mowing width of 513cm and mowing speed of close to 8 mph for the largest model.”

For more information, please see below:
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www.ecoclipper.com



Expert architectural metalwork for high-profile heritage buildings

Leander Architectural are expert design manufacturers of bespoke signage, bandstands, railway columns, gazebos, street furniture, wayfinding signs with a heritage restoration consultancy. The niche services offered are an eclectic mix of, blacksmithing, iron restoration, clay sculpting, decorative and structural iron, steel, and non-ferrous fabrication, metal casting for commercial trade, heritage and railways and private customers.

The Royal Label Factory was established during the reign of Queen Victoria in 1874 and even manufactured labels for the spectacular gardens of Queen Victoria herself. The prominent company progressively became a leading UK street signage manufacturer.

Leander Architectural was founded in 1986 and in 1998, the two businesses joined forces to become a phenomenal UK powerhouse in the world of architectural metalwork, manufacturing bespoke aluminium, steel, bronze and iron products.

Situated in the village of Dove Holes, near the Georgian spa town of Buxton in the High Peak District: Leander Architectural offers world-leading commissions from its on-site foundry and workshops.

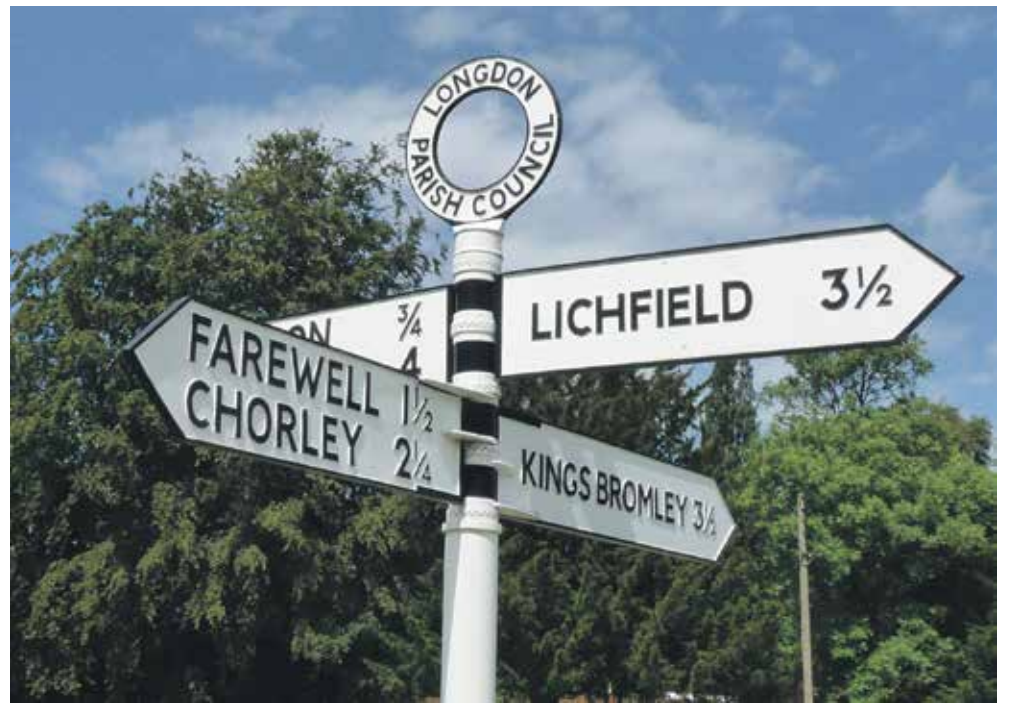
The team at Leander take such artistic pride in their work: utilising both modern techniques like waterjet cutting and computerised graphics, combined with more traditional skills such as clay hand-carving, resulting in a truly unique architectural metalwork portfolio. Many customers

are repeat customers, trusting the highly skilled professional approach and end results.

Recent prestigious projects included designing new cast iron



columns to repair a roof structure and replicate original features at an operational railway station: designed and built during the Victorian era as Managing Director, Gareth Roberts explains, "Several of the cast iron columns were cracked and needed replacement, due to ground subsidence. The damaged sections of cast iron columns were removed, then new ones installed, without removing the roof. Our skilled engineers worked with the prime contractor to carry out the design and manufacture, smoothly and efficiently, allowing the busy commuter station to carry on working without significant disruption."



Leander has an extensive back catalogue of casting patterns and designs for bandstands, structures, columns and many other products, but are always more than happy to offer bespoke services too.

Other high-profile projects include the installation of new canopies at the luxury Savill Court Hotel in Windsor, rebuilding the original staircase balustrading in eight stairwells, with modern adaption of the handrails at the Buxton Crescent Luxury Spa Hotel and installing new bespoke decorative metalwork within the new 'Sprague Terrace' between the Sondheim and Gielgud Theatres in London's West-End.

With a combined history dating back almost 150 years, this leading architectural metalwork company offers unrivalled expertise across a multitude of modern and heritage building designs.

The team use 100% British raw materials and recycled aluminium, supporting the local and national economy and trading with a reduced carbon footprint.

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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.

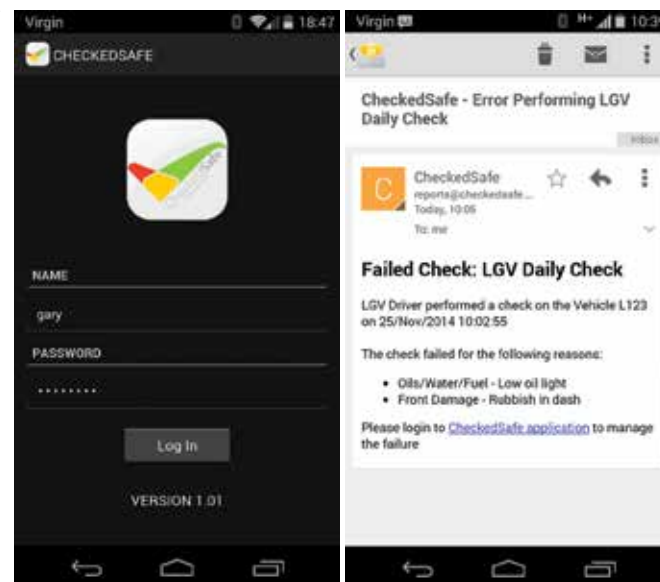
Both Darran and Gary's individual expertise has resulted in CheckedSafe being a nationally recognised company. "I am a transport professional with 30+ years in commercial transport, and Darran has 25+ years as a solicitor, so our individual skills set us apart from other 'IT' providers in the industry," 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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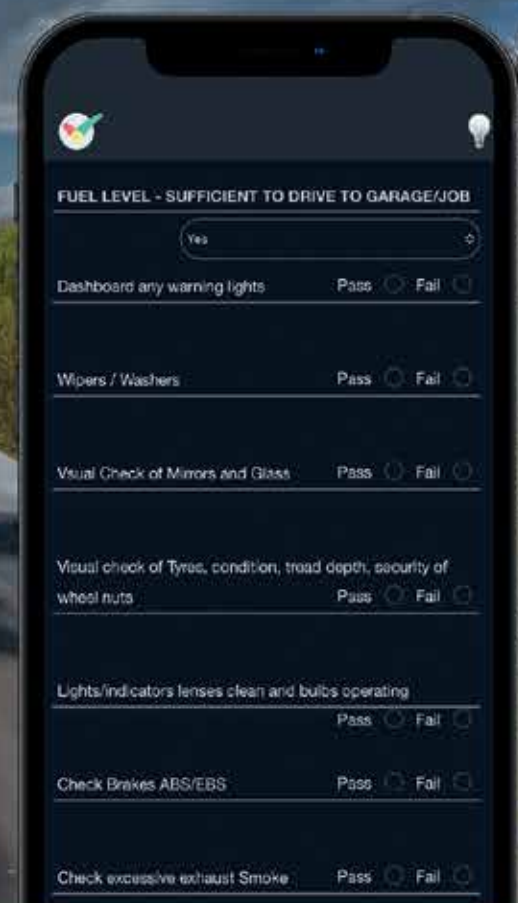
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2025 – our aim is to
trade in Certified
timber only from
2025 onwards



VANDECASTEELE
HOUTIMPORT

vandecasteele.be

Vandecasteele Houtimport are one of the leading European timber importers and have ambitious aims to trade only in certified timber by 2025

The Belgian fifth-generation family company, founded in 1883, Vandecasteele Houtimport specialises in the import, trading and export of tropical hardwood from Africa, Southeast Asia and South America, Scandinavian and North-American softwood, North American and European hardwood.

Sustainability and reliability are an essential part of Vandecasteele Houtimport's DNA. With over 140 years of experience, the company is determined to achieve the goal of trading only certified timber by 2025. The challenge lies with the hardwood and especially the tropical hardwoods. Today they are at 80% certified and have a clear vision: only certified timber has a future.

A long-term goal that can only be achieved by including all partners. Substantial investments have been made over the years to be able to realise this future goal. 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.

Vandecasteele Houtimport has a unique business model. Importing timber from all over the world, keeping in stock for several years, in some cases, even decades. Stock is our strength and our specialty. In times when supply is difficult or tight, we can count on our invested stocks to guarantee continued supply.

To achieve our goal, we have taken several actions within the company. First, we were assisted by external experts to get the procedures and protocols in place.



Secondly, the team at Vandecasteele was reinforced with two forest engineers 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. All timber transport requires our approval. When in doubt the timber is not accepted.

Masters in diversification

Vandecasteele has a long-term commitment to preserving the forests. The family business imports more than 130 different species of timber coming from 40 countries and has over 120,000 cubic meters in stock, mainly certified hard and softwoods. We support the LKTS program of FSC® Denmark with which we want to help promote the use of lesser known species. We keep these lesser-known species in stock and offer them as alternatives. Timber is too often prescribed from a specific well-known species. From the point of view of responsible forest management, we must dare to choose the right durability class for an application instead of a specific timber species.



Rethink everything: A positive evolution in consumer purchasing behaviour

Customers are increasingly asking questions about certification and the



origin of the timber. Buyers are becoming more and more aware of the need to use certified timber. Importing tropical wood goes further than just asking for timber. There is a continuous evolution, because of new insights and new legislation.

We work together with external experts, we are broadening our internal knowledge and we continually make progress. Making progress is an ongoing process. Considerable steps have already been taken with the EU Timber Regulation but we can and should do better. We want to see and monitor a stronger application and support for certified timber. Vandecasteele communicates continuously with the users



via its website and campaigns in order to spread that message. This is necessary because the purchase of FSC® certified wood contributes to 14 of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The purchase of FSC® certified timber contributes to biodiversity.

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 2020, Vandecasteele Houtimport was the first timber company in the world to obtain the international recognised 'SDG Pioneer certificate' from UNITAR CIFAL. In 2022, we were the first timber company in the world to have achieved the 'SDG Champion award.'

Our company continues to make efforts to embed sustainability into the business. We validate our organization's sustainability efforts with the Voka Charter for Sustainable Entrepreneurship (VCDO).

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www.vandecasteele.be



Environmentally friendly plastic lumber

At Building Update, we are proud to announce that we have selected Kedel as the recipient of our Commitment to Excellence Award for its ongoing efforts in producing eco-friendly plastic products for a more sustainable future.

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 Dermot who explained what commitment to excellence means to them and how they feel they achieve it. "Commitment to excellence is an attitude towards work. You're only as good as your weakest link, so we try to give our staff an autonomous responsibility around servicing our customers and through this we are achieving service excellence."



Because of this, people can make quicker decisions and our customers end up 100% satisfied much quicker. Eco-Friendly Plastic is what we do. Not many people believe plastic can be green but it can. We manufacture plastic wood made from waste polystyrene, and are also suppliers of many other types of recycled plastic profiles from other manufacturers, which allows our customers to keep their carbon footprint down. We maintain excellence throughout our business through our sustainable products, sustainable supply chain and sustainable manufacturing policy."

Winners of the Feefo Trusted Service Award, Kedel's range of recycled plastic lumber reflects the future of the construction industry. From plastic fencing pales and edging board pegs to round posts, boards and



planks, tongue & groove planks, decking, and so much more, Kedel's extensive product range comes with a number of benefits. Of course, the largest advantage of plastic lumber in general is that it does not rot, absorb water and is highly resistant to damage. This much more versatile material means it has a life longevity to be placed in all weathers and climates making it a perfect material for use in construction, leisure, education, gardens and any water applications.

Some could claim that plastic wood is bad for the environment, however, Kedel would argue that yes, initially the cost of plastic wood may be higher but the outcome is that you have a product that will last a lifetime due to its extended longevity and zero maintenance properties. To add to this, Kedel only uses recycled plastic that would otherwise go to landfill, therefore, its contribution towards a circular economy is something to be highly commended.

Moving forward, Dermot explained what the future holds for the company. "We are about to increase the working hours of our extrusion plant to be operating 24 hours



a day 5 days a week which will double our production time, and to support this we are recruiting more extruder operators. In the future, we plan to build a

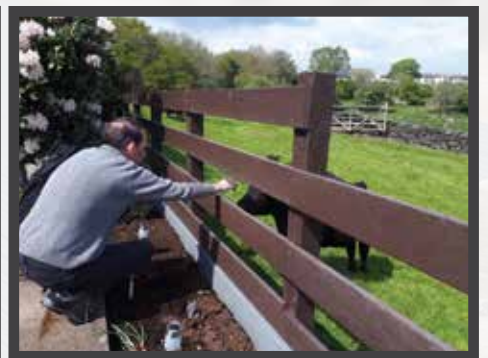
network of resellers around the UK, as the current cost of transport is at an all-time high so we are looking at ways around this for better business practice and to allow for an eco-friendlier way of working."

In closing, we asked Dermot how he felt receiving our award, he responded, "We are thrilled. It shows we are doing all the right things and going in the right direction and we will endeavour to live up to it."

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Innovative 'floating' solutions



Bartels & Vedder BV is known as one of the best interdisciplinary engineering and consultancy agencies that specialise in innovative solutions for the construction, industry and offshore sectors. Bartels & Vedder BV is a collaboration that has led to a strong team of specialists who use integrated and interdisciplinary approaches to traditional construction, infrastructure, non-residential construction, and floating projects.

Over the years, Bartels & Vedder has created some innovative, ground-breaking infrastructures on both land and water. Using our expertise to

develop 'flood proof' buildings that float on water, here are just some of these referenced 'flood proof' projects:

- Floating houses and villa's
- Floating parks
- Floating offices
- Floating islands
- Floating neighbourhoods and cities
- Floating solar
- Floating jetties
- Mooring structures
- Fendering
- Bridges

Some practical examples of projects are the floating ferry terminal in Malaysia of 6,000m² and the largest floating

office in the world, The Floating Office Rotterdam (FOR), in which we engineered the floating foundations and superstructure and were the lead engineer of the project.

We also engineered the floating structures and buildings for Schoonschip in



Amsterdam. The brief was to create a large-scale floating residential area that existed of all floating villas arising in the Johan van Hasseltkanaal, a branch of the IJ-canal in Amsterdam. The floating 'district' called Schoonschip is now marked as one of the most sustainable floating housing projects in Europe and comprises of a total of 30 houses, 46 households and over 100 residents.

We are engineering and floating building/structure experts, and have been developing floating techniques since 2004. We have extensive experience with a diverse and competent team, handling the nautical aspects (stability of these structures, calculating drift forces from waves, current and wind, etc), engineering access bridges, mooring facilities, and the buildings itself. We do this all over the world and have engineered everything from floating parks to houses, hotels, ferry terminals, and much more.

Bartels & Vedder BV offer an extensive end-to-end service that comes completely unrivalled in the current market. Whether you're needing structural calculations, 3DBIM drawings, structural advice, monitoring and guidance, or just general structural advice, Bartels & Vedder BV can help.

For more information, please visit:
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www.bartelsvedder.nl



The seriously multi-purpose GRP Roofing System

Established in 2012, Tuff Waterproofing Ltd is the UK's premium designer, manufacturer and supplier of heavy-duty GRP waterproof flat roofing systems. TuffStuff® has a dedicated product development team that work closely with customers and its own UK based manufacturing facility to produce an evolving product range that is suitable for multiple flat roof applications.

From its base in Sherburn in Elmet, North Yorkshire, TuffStuff® is the UK's premier GRP flat roofing system and supplies its products through a dedicated stockist network throughout the country.

The advanced TuffStuff® formula uses the latest liquid polyester resins, glass fibre mat reinforcement and flexible trims, to create a fully integrated waterproof, seamless attractive finish with a 25-year guarantee on materials.

Tuff Waterproofing has further expanded its TuffStuff® product range and is now offering its latest GRP roofing innovation; TuffStuff® flexible GRP. This is a single resin solution that provides an exceptional combination of versatility and durability. It is 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.

Managing Director, Greg Gimenez commented, "Standard GRP is rigid when it is cured, and it is specifically designed for flat roofs. However it can only be applied to OSB3 (Timber), and while this has been very successful, contractors have been looking for overlay systems which can go over other substrates." TuffStuff Flexible GRP can go onto many substrates including felt, asphalt, single-ply, GRP, concrete, timber and metal.

While other companies have standard GRP, TuffStuff® knows that this flexible GRP provides



an exceptional combination of versatility and durability. TuffStuff® flexible GRP has become a very important product already, for a number of reasons. It is a one-pot system, whereas standard GRP comes with a base coat as well as a top coat, and this saves a contractor plenty of time and, comes with a 20 year product guarantee on the full system.

However, the major advantage is that while it is curing, it is actually showerproof, and Greg commented, "If contractors experience a rogue shower while installing, they may have to go off-site, but upon returning they can carry on knowing that their work is not ruined (showerproof whilst curing), as it would be with standard GRP. This aspect of our product will really excite contractors that work with GRP regularly." This plus the fact that it is crack resistant, with no weak points has meant that facility



companies have also begun using the flexible GRP for patch repairs too.

TuffStuff® Flexible GRP will form a highly flexible, extra tough and seamless waterproof membrane – an ideal solution for areas of heavy-duty foot traffic.

Tuff Waterproofing Ltd will be exhibiting at the UK Construction Week in October in Birmingham, during which clients can find out more about this amazing new product.

**For more information,
please see below:
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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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Bespoke aluminium gates

In this issue of Building Update, we are pleased to announce Alugate UK as our Bespoke Aluminium Gates, Fencing and Doors Company of the Year.

Family run and based in Sheffield, Alugate is a leading supplier of welded aluminium gates, fencing, and doors working alongside with a network of installers throughout the UK.

Alugate is partnered with Spain's leading welded aluminium gates manufacturer; Grupo Marver, that has over 20 years of experience and the ability to manufacture and distribute over 300 gates a month throughout Europe.

In recent developments, we spoke to Stewart Phillips, Managing Director of Alugate who explained what the company has been up to.

"Over the past 12 months, we have been working with a number of suppliers to bring our customers some of the best gates in the UK market. We now source our gates from across Europe to provide a unique collection of styles, designs and price points to our customers. We realise that everyone's budgets and needs are different and we have adapted our portfolio over the past year



as a result. We've added a collection of bespoke screwed profile gates and fencing which are a more cost-effective option than our premium welded gate and fencing range. As we continue to adapt to the changing environment, we will be evolving our product range over the coming months and years – but our key aim will remain to deliver quality gates, fencing and doors to our customers."

As specialists in premium quality fully welded aluminium gates, Alugate offers something to the market that comes completely unrivalled. Alugates welded aluminium gates use 3mm aluminium profiles so they're extremely strong, meaning it can manufacture larger gates up to a 10m opening on swing gates and 8m on sliding gates.

"Our innovative manufacturing processes combine an internal weld so that water is not retained. We also use a 3-step sanding process that ensures a smooth surface; perfect for powder coating and super durable Qualicoat class 2 powder coating so they are fully resistant. We pride ourselves on being able to manufacture almost any style of gate or fencing bespoke to our customers' needs. Whether that is a flat top gate, an arch top gate, a steel style gate or a unique design created by a customer or architect or to match a design they might have seen – we can make almost any design

a reality and create the perfect gate," stated Stewart.

Alugate's bespoke design service is completely free and comes at no extra cost. Customers can rest assured that every welded aluminium product comes with a full 10-year warranty and will stand the test of time.

Sustainability is always at the forefront for Alugate, which is why aluminium is used for all products. Marked as the most eco-friendly metals available, it is infinitely recyclable and better for the planet. It also comes with many other benefits such as being the perfect material to use for gates as it is durable, reliable and strong but also deceptively lightweight compared to other gate materials. Alugate has a wide selection of designs to choose from in

its current collection, therefore if you require something more personalised to your needs its bespoke design service is the perfect option.

In closing, we asked Stewart how the company felt receiving our award.

"We are overjoyed to have been selected as bespoke aluminium gates, fencing and doors company of the year. After seven years in business this is a true accolade of our commitment to providing bespoke, quality aluminium gates and fencing to our customers across the UK."

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Wallbed Systems Ltd. is a London-based global business established by Managing Director, Jeremy Waller, who has extensive experience selling mattresses and beds across Asia, who saw opportunities for sensible designs of reliable, safe and flexible wall beds, which could feature comfortable mattresses. With the latest designs and accessories (such as with the Alpha bed and Studio desk pairing) small or odd shapes rooms are transformed into multi-use spaces with cleverly concealed sleeping areas.

Taking inspiration from the original models, which originated in the USA in the early

20th century, the company has been manufacturing in-house spring balance systems over a 20-year period, allowing for precise tension adjustments and easy lifting, so there is no compromise on comfort or convenience.

All are easy to install and fit full height mattresses up to 300mm, meaning there is no compromise on an excellent night's sleep. The full wall bed design includes the bed counterbalance mechanism (SBLM), bed frame rails, mountings, pivot system, springs and fasteners. The powder-coated

parts are ergonomic and durable, offering assured longevity. Even more remarkable is the 'finger-tip' control mechanism with minimal effort to open and close each bed.

The Alpha bed system is the most popular product globally, available in standard and special sizes, vertical and horizontal mounting, with a choice of leg options and even a desk. The lightweight design comes with robust steel bed frames, with strengthened steel stiffeners for a strong platform. Alpha bed frames are available in single, double, queen or king sizes and

come with the adjustable SBLM, allowing perfect balance and easy, safe 'finger-tip' operation every time.

Latest designs include the NeXT bed which gives an immediate, ready to use solution with or without cabinet, and which still delivers comfort levels indistinguishable from a conventional bed. All products are stocked at multiple locations globally with advice provided around options and sizes.

For more information on the full product range and cabinet designs:
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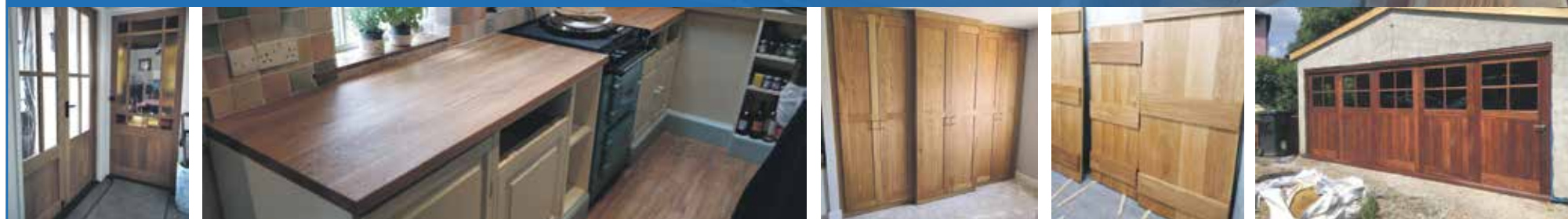
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