

RAIL SERVICES EXPAND Full steam ahead on growth strategy

Two years investment in a strategy for major growth in the burgeoning rail market of the UK has begun to pay big dividends for Robert West Consulting as it expands its range of services and depth of expertise to both overground and underground rail operators.

The result is a doubling in size of the business with the majority of that growth being in the rail sector.

Today the Company generates over half its turnover from rail and the future looks set to accelerate that trend as the marketplace continues to offer further challenges and opportunities.

‘Robert West has taken a long term view in developing its services to the rail sector, whilst maintaining the Company’s other core skills and markets, such as, traffic, highways, infrastructure, building structures and M&E services’, says West’s Managing Director, Tim Williams. ‘It seems that our hard work in specifically targeting the rail sector and in honing the skills of our team is now beginning to pay off, and the Company is reaping the rewards’.

Now the Company boasts major commissions with Tube Lines, Metronet and a number of specialist contractors working on the LUL and Network Rail networks and assets. Included in recent projects are the Connect PFI, a new temporary ticket hall at Stratford Station for the London Olympic bid, and a major new train depot that extends to 1.5kms length alongside the Chiltern Line at Wembley.

To its range of services, Robert West has added electrical engineering skills and it also has a team of assurance agents working within Tube Lines to secure assurance for assets on the network.

BUILDING SERVICES NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Robert West has recently strengthened its in-house capabilities in providing building services advice and design.

Mike Cookman has rejoined the business, having



previously been part of its Mechanical and Electrical Division until 2000, since when he has advanced his career with Hurley Palmer Flatt and RW Gregory LLP.

As an Associate Director and a Member of CIBSE, Mike will use his wide experience in the healthcare, education, residential and commercial development sectors to extend the service offer to clients in these and other markets. Mike is based at Orpington and the Company already has significant mechanical and electrical engineering involvement within its rail sector commissions.

PRESTON BARRACKS, BRIGHTON



Robert West has been appointed by Wilson Bowden Developments alongside architect, Broadway Malyan, to provide feasibility and preliminary design advice for a major innovative mixed-use development in Brighton, on a former Ministry of Defence barracks site.

The scheme provides 14,000m² of commercial floor space, around 480 new homes, a 20-storey apartment tower and a landmark Innovation Centre dedicated to the promotion of community and academic entrepreneurship. 166 affordable homes will be managed by Hyde Housing and integrated with homes for sale within a sustainable communities framework. There will also be a number of bars and restaurants as well as some retail outlets. A variety of quality public spaces have been designed to complement and reinforce the particular uses of the development proposal.

GORSE STACKS

Design for the redevelopment of the Gorse Stacks area of Chester is well underway.

Robert West is providing structural engineering services for Watkin Jones Construction, on this mixed use residential, retail, hospitality and commercial scheme, which also incorporates underground parking. Pedestrian linkages will be provided via a series of public courtyards, forming attractive new spaces.



HOMES REPLACE HOSPITAL

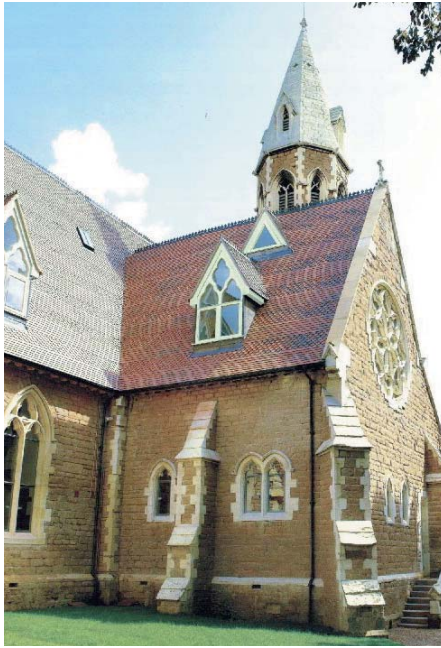
The Barratt Homes Connections project on Bromley's old hospital site is now nearing completion, with many apartments sold.



The residential development provides apartments and townhouses selling at between £230k and £380k, in a sought after location near Bromley South Station and the town centre.



EDGBASTON CONVERSION



BURSLEM MARKET HALL

The historic market hall in Burslem, near Stoke-on-Trent, was built in the 1830s, mainly of stone with a rustic basement and wrought iron palisades.

The Manchester office has been appointed to carry out a structural condition and material survey, in preparation for refurbishment works.



TWIN VALLEY HOMES

Wates Construction, Manchester, has enlisted the help of Robert West as engineer on a new 55-house development for Twin Valley Homes in Blackburn, to be built in two phases.

West's engineers are carrying out slope stabilisation, drainage, earthworks, road access works and foundations on this steeply sloping and highly contaminated site.



Robert West's Worcester office has just seen the completion of the St James residential development in Edgbaston, Birmingham, a visionary conversion of a gothic church into 12 luxury apartments on behalf of the Astley Towne Group.

MAGOR BREWERY NEWPORT

The Magor Brewery is owned by Interbrew, famous for brewing Boddingtons and Stella Artois, to name but two of its products.

Robert West is providing structural engineering services for the expansion of the bottling hall and associated warehouse, thereby increasing production capacity to around 75,000 bottles per hour. The project is expected to cost £3.5m.

AWARD FOR CHATHAM

SEEDA, the South East England Development Agency, was recently delighted to receive a Building Magazine 'Regeneration Award' for a 'Challenging Regeneration Project', on the back of work carried out at Chatham Dockyard.

Robert West was engineer for the scheme alongside architect Richard Loren.



SPORTS HALL IN HERTFORD

The former Grammar School in Hertford, now known as Richard Hale School, is to upgrade its facilities with the development of a new £2m sports hall.

As well as designing the scheme, Robert West's engineers carried out preliminary geo-technical and geo-environmental studies on the steeply sloping site chosen for the facility, an area of fairly dubious, historic landfill material.

The spectacular new sports hall will be an enormous improvement on the facilities enjoyed when Company Chairman, Peter Pawsey, was a pupil there!



PUMP HOUSE RESTORED

A Victorian pump house has been restored and reopened after lying dormant for several years. Water treatment ceased on the site in the early 1990's.

Robert West's Worcester office acted as Engineer on behalf of the City of Worcester and the Duckworth Worcestershire Trust for the overall refurbishment, including the introduction of first floor offices and a lecture theatre within the pump room.

The original crane lifting beams were assessed and utilised to support the new internal structure. The surrounding area has also been upgraded and returned to public open space.



KINGS SCHOOL CANTERBURY

Another school looking forward to upgrading its facilities is Kings School in Canterbury.

Robert West has managed CCTV surveys, designed remedial works to drainage, carried out structural assessments and designed refurbishment works to a number of historic buildings that comprise one of the school's residential 'houses' - Broughton House.



SPECIAL CARE FOR BIRT

Together with Bournville Architects, Robert West's engineers have designed a special care unit for the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust, near Horsham, West Sussex.

As part of a major expansion in the Trust's brain injury services offer, this new 18-bed unit, known as Wellcross Grange, will provide community-based assessment and treatment.

The facility is expected to greet its first patients in Autumn 2006.

BIRT is Europe's largest independent provider of brain injury rehabilitation services, providing much needed support to around 400 people in the UK, including intensive and long term rehabilitation and community support.

www.birt.co.uk



NEW APPOINTMENTS

Lovell Homes

£7m contract for 120 houses in Worcester, plus new half kilometre access road for Lovell Partnerships Ltd and Nexus (Midlands) Housing Association.

Slough Estates

Civil and structural engineering services on D & B contract with Wates Construction for 1,800m2 piled warehousing and offices complex for builders merchant, Bradfords, at Weston-super-Mare.

Barratt Southern Counties

A 78-home residential development for Barratt Southern Counties, on the site of the old Kenley Aerodrome, Surrey.

Cryoservice, Rainham

Survey of electrical services with respect to the proposed redevelopment works at a depot distributing liquid nitrogen, carbon dioxide and other gases.

City West Homes

Structural and M&E services for the refurbishment of tower block lifts and structures.

Bakerloo Line Track Work

Inspection of cable racking and fixings in track sections.

Viacom, Earls Court and Baron's Court

Design and assurance services for new advertising hoardings on LUL trackside.

Waste Sector

Robert West is working closely with Nuttall Hynes on a number of waste related facilities around the country.

FISHING LAKES BY MALVERN HILLS

Worcester office engineers have designed three additional fishing lakes to supplement three others constructed previously. The lakes are now being stocked in readiness for fishing next year. The scheme also includes an access roadway and the initial infrastructure for 24 timber holiday lodges.



NEW FACES

As well as Mike Cookman, Orpington welcomes Linda Gibbens, HR assistant and Kevin Wielding, CAD Technician, reinforcing an already strong team.



Joining the Worcester team is Lauren Neathway, Administrator.



WORCESTER MOVES ON

Peter Blackham steps down as a Director in Robert West Consulting at the end of June but will continue to play an important part for some time to come in the Worcester office that he established as Peter Blackham Associates in 1973.



In line with plans set out two years ago when the business was acquired by Robert West, Associate Director, Peter Wilkins, has taken over the day to day management of the Worcester office.



Peter Blackham will continue to have a key role in business development and in overseeing civil engineering projects across the Midlands region.

PROMOTIONS

Robert West recently announced the promotion of Oliver Engleback and Jonathan Howard to Associate Director, at the Orpington office.



TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION

Newly promoted Associate Director, Jonathan Howard heads a dedicated transportation team at Orpington. From the analysis and resolution of traffic generation and routing problems, to the design of multi-modal transport interchanges, the team assists planning and architectural practices, developers and local authorities.

Current projects include the design of parking schemes, town centre enhancement and public transport interchanges for local authorities. The team is also providing Transportation planning advice to developers on large mixed use projects in Brighton, Canterbury, Bicester and Loughborough.



WEDDING BELLS

Congratulations to Kevin Wielding, who married Andrea on Friday 27th May, at High Rocks in Tunbridge Wells.



BABY NEWS

Congratulations go to John Coupe at the Orpington office, and his wife, Kate, proud parents again, this time to a daughter, Maria.



CHARITIES

Orpington Staff participated in several charity events in June. Amanda Recknell walked all night for 26.2 miles, for the Playtex Moonwalk in aid of Breast Cancer, whilst Gareth O'Sullivan and James Ballard took part in the 56 mile London to Brighton bike ride for the British Heart Foundation.



If you would like to contribute to either of these good causes, please contact the Orpington Head Office.

IT OUTSOURCED

Robert West recently signed an outsourcing contract for maintenance and support of its IT systems and processes with Bromley Business Systems.



Consulting Engineers & Project Managers

HEAD OFFICE:

West House
46 High Street
Orpington
Kent BR6 0JQ

Tel: 01689 820216

Fax: 01689 831582

Email: orpington@robertwest.co.uk

MANCHESTER:

The Tower Business Centre
Portland Tower
Portland Street
Manchester M1 3LF

Tel: 0161 238 4916

Fax: 0161 238 4917

Email: manchester@robertwest.co.uk

WORCESTER:

4-6 The Moors
Worcester WR1 3EG

Tel: 01905 28288

Fax: 01905 22942

Email: worcester@robertwest.co.uk