

Watson & Hillhouse

Unrivalled Service in Piling Equipment Supply Since 1972



2020

REMOTE HIRE

OVER 9000 MILES AWAY -
TO SOUTH GEORGIA!

GALLERY

LATEST PROJECTS

AT THE CUTTING DREDGE

BESPOKE SOLUTION TO LOGISTICAL PROBLEM



Welcome - from the Managing Director

Welcome to the latest edition of the Watson & Hillhouse newsletter.

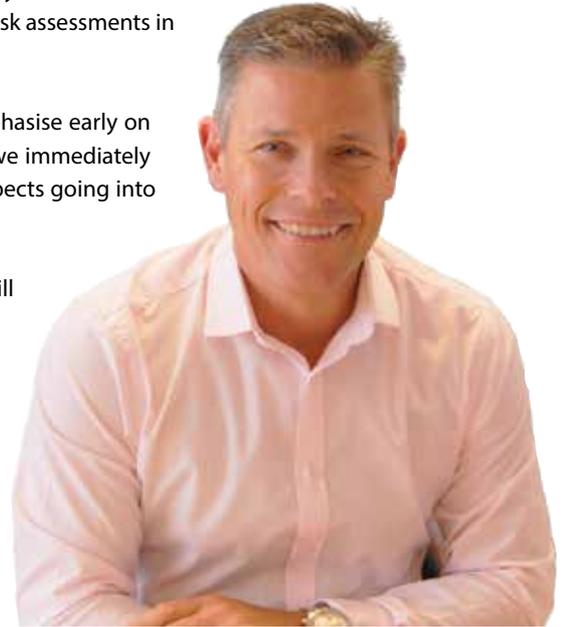
Well what a year it's been so far. I'm sure none of us have ever experienced anything quite like this pandemic. It's certainly been a very challenging time although we have been relatively fortunate in that so far, we haven't had any illness within the company. We have strict procedures and risk assessments in place and are doing all we can to keep everyone safe.

Whilst of course business has been affected, it was good to see the government emphasise early on the importance of construction continuing. Once the new guidelines were in place we immediately saw an upsurge in work which has continued month on month, with very good prospects going into 2021 - not least HS2!

The recent news that a vaccine is potentially only weeks away will hopefully mean it will not be too much longer before we can all get back to some sort of normality! In the meantime, please stay safe.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our customers and suppliers for their support during 2020.

Phil Bell



Colne Maintenance Dredging



McCarthy Piling



Sheet Piling (UK)



Story Contracting

2020 SALES

The year got off to a flying start sales wise with January and February being quite busy. Things then, understandably, went a little quiet as the UK went into lockdown. As it began to ease in May, things started to pick up a little with June returning to some level of normal trading.

We've had many Movax enquiries with eight conversions so far including seven side grips: an SG-40N to Story Contracting, an SG-50V to Burnside Plant, an SG-60V to Sorensen Civil Engineering, two SG-75V's - one to McCarthy Piling and one to J T Mackley, two SG-75's - one to Elite Sheet Piling and one to Interdrive Piling, and last but not least a hydraulic hammer DH-25 to Ivor King.

It's also been a good year for sales of Kowan Still Workers - our noise and vibration free pile pressing machines. International sales include two ZU-100s into The Netherlands - one new and one nearly new; a WP-150 into Switzerland and a WP-150 into Poland. In the UK, Jones Crawler Cranes entered the piling equipment market by buying a used WP-150. Sheet Piling (UK) increased its extensive range of

modern specialist sheet piling equipment and invested in its third new ZU-100 in four years, as well as a PVE 38M crane suspended vibrator.

Other sales included: a Bell 150 dredge pump with cutter head to Colne Maintenance Dredging - delivered sixteen days after the initial enquiry; a used Ozkanlar OVR S-50 EMV to Nigeria and a used Movax SG-75 to Russia.



Grund-und-Tiefbau



Elite Sheet Piling

AT THE CUTTING DREDGE

At the start of the year we hired a Bell 200 dredge pump to 23 Degree Renewables, a nearshore and onshore power installation contractor and marine consultancy company.



They were awarded the contract for the dredging of the intake screens at Awe Barrage for SSE in late 2019. The works were required to improve the water flow and production at the nearby power station and to mitigate fish kill. There was a large accumulation of sediment upstream of the intake screens at the barrage, and this needed to be removed

outside of the fish pass season.

Due to access restrictions for floating plant and weight restrictions on the nearby bridge, 23

Degree Renewables used their in-house team to design, manufacture and test a bespoke aluminium live remote dredging pontoon with hydraulically operated rams to raise and lower the dredge pump system.

Business development director at 23 Degrees, Ed Woodrow, approached us at the Seawork exhibition where we had Leon van der Bell from Bell Dredging with us on our stand. With his extensive experience and knowledge the three companies were able to discuss options and

we were chosen as providers of the pump for the project. Our technician was on site for the duration of the project which lasted two weeks. The material was dredged on the upstream side of the floodgate, which was then opened to allow the material to be pumped downstream along the river Awe.

Ed said, "It was a unique and challenging project with equipment being used in an innovative way never before attempted - as well as working through two named storms Ciara and Dennis! However, all parties came together to successfully complete the project on time and on budget".

REMOTE HIRE TO SOUTH GEORGIA

Watson & Hillhouse has been hiring piling equipment to BAM Nuttall (formerly Edmund Nuttall) for over forty years and at the end of 2019, we were asked to supply piling equipment for their contract to build a new wharf at the remote Sub-Antarctic island of South Georgia.



The contract was part of a major investment programme to modernise the UK Antarctic Infrastructure. The new £11 million wharf was commissioned by the Natural Environment Research Council (UKRI-NERC), the Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and the Government of South

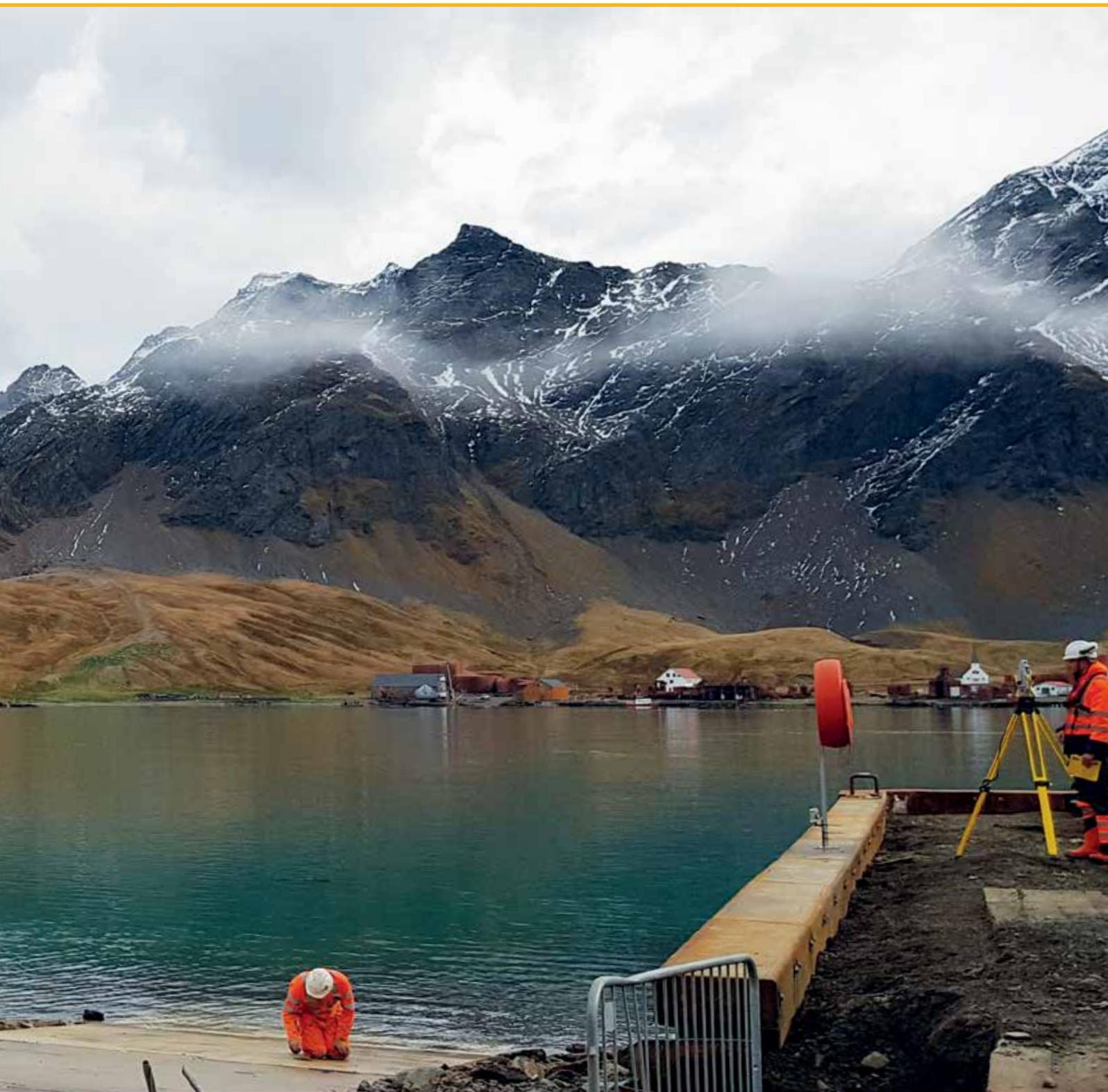
Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI). The objective of the works was to enhance the safety and efficiency of ship operations at King Edward Point Research Station and provide a safe berth for the next fifty years. An additional dolphin provides the extra capability required to berth the new polar

research vessel, the RRS Sir David Attenborough, and provide a safe berthing platform for the GSGSSI Marine Patrol vessel, the Pharos SG.

We hired BAM Nuttall a PVE 52M vibrator and BSP CX110 hydraulic hammer, with their associated power packs, and worked very

closely with them for three months before the equipment left the UK to ensure all their specific requirements were met.

As the site was so remote it would have taken considerable time to send anything, or anyone, if there were any issues. Consequently, we had to ensure the equipment



met the exact standards required and supply a very detailed spare parts package. We trained their engineers over a period of three days on how to maintain and repair the equipment, if necessary, to ensure any potential downtime was kept to an absolute minimum. We also had to make sure that all

the equipment was bio secure. It was very important that no non-native species (bugs, seeds, soil etc.) were introduced to the island, as this would have a severe impact on the local species and ecosystems. Every single aspect of the equipment was thoroughly cleaned and all crevices and gaps were filled

with sealant to prevent any introduction. All hoses were replaced with brand new, as bugs etc. could be hidden in the spiral wrap of any existing hoses.

Because of the extensive preplanning, the five-month programme of piling works was completed ahead of schedule

and without a single breakdown of the piling equipment, much to the satisfaction of BAM Nuttall.

GALLERY

Here's a small selection of our hire equipment working on various sites all over the UK and Europe this year.



BSP CG240 driving tubular piles in Scotland



PVE 200M in Hartlepool



Movax SG-75V installing tube piles in Lincolnshire



Kowan Still Worker WP-150 in Denmark



Movax SG-75V driving sheet piles under a bridge in Kent



BSP CX579 driving raked sheet piles in Wales



PVE 20VM with pile handling brackets in London



Kowan Still Worker WP-150 in Scotland



BSP CG300 in Yorkshire



ICE 1412C extracting tube piles on the east coast

WELCOME TO Watson & Hillhouse:



Plant Engineer

Lee Smith joins the company with a wealth of experience having worked in the piling equipment industry for over sixteen years.



Plant Engineer

Ben Peet joins the company having worked in the piling equipment industry for seven years. Prior to that he worked in the general plant hire industry.



Finance & HR Director

Peter King joins us with over twenty years experience in financial roles. His more recent post was with a local print company where he was financial director designate.



CPA STAR OF THE FUTURE

Corey, one of our apprentices, was recently put forward by his education centre, the National Construction College East, for the CPA Stars of the Future. This is an award scheme for trainees in the plant industry, set up by Construction Plant-hire Association (CPA). He was nominated for the Plant Mechanic of the Year and Best Personal Statement and was highly commended for both. As recognition for his hard work, he was presented with a tool set of his choice. Well done Corey!

PHIL'S LONG SERVICE

Phil has reached another milestone as he celebrated 40 years at Watson & Hillhouse in May. It was a quiet and lonely celebration as he was working from home at that point! He joined Watson & Hillhouse as a trainee hire manager in 1980 and worked his way through the ranks before becoming managing director in 2004. In this time he has seen the company and the industry go through many changes. When this photo was taken he had been working at Watson & Hillhouse for six years!



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