

Challenges:

The nature of Simms Building and Civil Engineering's business is primarily in Civil Engineering and Groundworks, specializing in reinforced concrete projects that are often niche and at times challenging or problematic. Standard concrete mixes overall are not a sustainable product. To ensure the company is as sustainable as possible with the concrete it does use, they:

- Always seek to use maximum percentages of GGBS in the concrete mixes, up to 70% if permitted by the project, which reduces the amount of cement required per cubic meter.
- Eliminate concrete waste by ordering in smaller batches where necessary, which costs more but has less environmental impact, as waste is minimized.
- Use local suppliers for concrete to reduce the carbon footprint of deliveries.

With this being a core product for their business, Simms strives to enhance everything else they do—such as plant hire, sourcing other materials, and their carbon footprint—to help balance the company's performance with its responsibility to the planet.

Skilled Staffing: As with many industries, skilled labour is becoming increasingly difficult to find. There has been a shift in society, and the number of those wanting to take up trades is diminishing every year. Simms is committed to training and education and, in the last year, took on their first apprentice. They also work closely with CITB to continue training and developing the skills of their existing workforce through additional courses and weekly toolbox talks, ensuring that employees have the skills and confidence to work safely and contentedly.

Impact:

Broadened Sustainability Insight: Since becoming members of the Supply Chain Sustainability School, Simms Building and Civil Engineering's core staff have engaged in various enlightening online learning platforms, broadening their knowledge and skills. This has facilitated a better understanding of diminishing natural resources and the importance of recycling, reusing, and resourcing to future-proof the company.

Commendable Environmental Practices: In practice, while recently working with Taylor Woodrow on their EcoPark South project, a case study was carried out as part of their Carbon Strategy for Zero Carbon by 2050. Simms Building and Civil Engineering's work was highlighted as Environmental Best Practice. For this commendation, they committed to working with electric plant equipment during the installation of timber decking footings along the western bank of the River Lee. The benefits of working with electric plant equipment included zero emissions, reduced use of natural

Fact box



Company

Simms Building and Civil Engineering Ltd

No of employees

7

HQ

Bexley , Kent

Website

www.simmscivils.co.uk

Main contact

Nick Simms

Services

Civil Engineering contractor, specialising in all aspects of civils - reinforced concrete, groundworks, earthworks, pigmented concrete, and drainage.

About

Simms Civils are a modern technically focused civils contractor. Set up in 2017 by Nick Simms Ceng MICE. Focused on elimination of waste, lean construction, innovation, social value and doing things differently to achieve the best result. Company turnover is £3m, based in Bexley village, and our services are nationwide.

resources, lower noise levels, and no risk of contaminating the watercourse. However, working with this equipment came with its challenges: it allows only 4 hours of production before recharging is needed, it incurs a significant additional cost to hire, and the size of the plant can limit activity where a larger machine would have more easily handled the nature of the work. Despite these challenges, Simms Building and Civil Engineering remained committed to ensuring that their practices meet the overall needs of their client and the planet and will continue to do so.

Value gained:

Strengthened Workforce Confidence: Being a member of the Supply Chain Sustainability School has helped Simms Building and Civil Engineering secure work. The school's teachings are well regarded within the industry, and being a part of it gives clients confidence in the company's ethos and standing within the industry. Gaining more work has enabled the company to future-proof the employment of its workforce, and with the encouragement of further skills and education within the company's training, there is a level of dedicated, hardworking individuals who remain in the industry.

Future proofing:

Simms Building and Civil Engineering intends to continue their learning and development with the school. All key staff will utilize it for better practice skills, information, and general learning. They plan to take greater advantage of online conferences, workshops, and Business Bytes webinars.