



Cardiff Business School

Cardiff University is developing a £10 million postgraduate centre for its Business School. Designed by Boyes Rees Architects the building will contain two lecture theatres including what is believed to be the biggest Harvard Style lecture theatre in the UK with 250 seats. IT facilities will include a "trading room". It is a Breeam excellent design and will incorporate a double skin façade to block out noise from the nearby main railway line; green roofs; solar photovoltaics; exposed soffits and raised access floors.

Hills will be acting as project quantity surveyors and CDM Co-ordinators. The project is due to start on site in early 2012 and be completed by August 2013.

Debenhams

Not just a cosmetic upgrade

Hills have been assisting Debenhams in modernising their store portfolio. Centrepiece of each of the completed stores is the Cosmetics Hall. They have recently reopened six completed stores including the Trafford Centre (pictured right). Eight stores were completed over the past two years with 20 further stores planned for next year.



Altogether Debenhams have modernised 1.4 million square feet of retail trading space over the last two years.

Lest we forget

The National Memorial Arboretum near Lichfield is unknown to many but deserves a visit. It was conceived as a living tribute to the war time generations of the twentieth century and as a gift to their memory for future generations to reflect upon and enjoy. Planting began in 1997 and now forms 150 acres of wooded parkland with 200 memorials to military, civil services (police, fire brigade, ambulance), charities, local and overseas organisations. Although still a "young" arboretum, there are already in excess of 50,000 trees on the site.

The new Remembrance Centre which will include an Armed Forces banqueting Pavilion and "Heroes Square" will form a fitting venue for the 200 or so Remembrance events held each year as well as providing an improved visitor facility with reception area, interpretation/exhibition area, education centre, restaurant, café and shop which will offer a welcome to visitors, particularly those who have had long journeys to visit the Memorial. Hills have been appointed as CDM Co-ordinator on this project.



Start a new life

Sue Foxall has been Accounts Manager with Hills for 23 years but in September she retired to do something completely different. Having recently married, she and her husband are moving to a village in the Pyrenees near Carcassonne. Her new house looks out over a vineyard and is backed by mountains so she probably won't give much thought to invoices and payment terms in future!



SAFE CONSTRUCTION

Bridgwater College continues its campus development with the Construction Mechanisation Skills Centre which will be a purpose built training facility for site machinery and construction technologies associated with commercial and industrial buildings. There will be a main building with classrooms, a storage area for the equipment and a loading tower for practice with fork lifts. Other machinery used for training will be dumpers, excavators, backhole loaders and ride-on drum loaders. The buildings are on the edge of a ten acre field which forms part of the training area.

SPECIALIST CONTRACT ADVICE

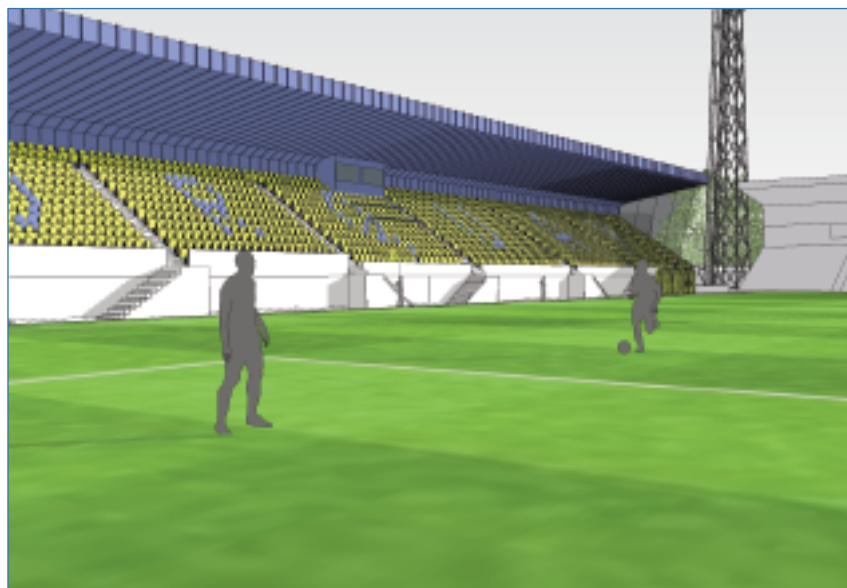
Hills are providing their clients with specialist contract advice for services contracts, PPM Contracts and long and short term specialist contracts.

Contracts can be tailored to suit our clients requirements utilising many different standard forms or bespoke written contracts.

For further information contact
paul.sowden@wthills.com

Torquay United Football Club

Torquay United Football Club is to get a new grandstand for the 2012/13 season and the demolition of the old timber stand has already commenced. The proposed stand will extend the full length of the pitch and will have 1800 spectator seats, space for wheelchair users, press and radio reporters. At ground floor level there will be a fitness suite, changing facilities, media suite, offices and IT suites which will be available for use by Westlands School and the local community.



The £2.1 million project is being part funded by Torbay Council and the Football Stadium Improvement Fund. Hills are the project managers and quantity surveyors. Our role also included assisting with the successful grant application for the FSIF and liaising with the school to ensure their requirements were met.

The site is a challenging one in that work is being carried out right up to the hallowed turf to one side and the school car park immediately to the other side. The tight programme and the need to divert services, set up temporary changing rooms and carry out demolition work in between matches, led to the decision to let an enabling contract whilst the main contract was tendered. The main contract is due to start on site in December 2011 with completion planned for July 2012.

SPORT HELPS THEM RECOVER

The Royal British Legion Battle Back Centre at Lilleshall in Shropshire is a state-of-the-art facility that is being run in partnership with the Ministry of Defence as part of the commitment to the Defence Recovery Capability for wounded, injured and sick Service personnel. Sport and adventure activities are proven to help recovery, improve self-esteem and confidence and promote a positive outlook. Using these techniques, the Battle Back Centre will help personnel to recover and either to return to Service or to successfully join civilian life. The RBL now require the works to the accommodation building upgraded through enhancements to give a WOW factor and Hills are responsible for ensuring that costs for these enhancements are fair and reasonable, represent current market figures and are in line with the original contract pricing.

BESPOKE BEACHFRONT HOUSE AT ST IVES

Staff in Hills' Penzance office work in some enviable places and one of the best must be on the beachfront at St Ives where they are supervising work on a bespoke house. Built on the site of a cottage and beachfront café the house will have a retracting glazed façade on the seaward side.



Construction Act Changes

Some may be aware, but others may not, that as of 1 October 2011 the Housing Grants, Construction and Regulation Act 1996 was amended, following many years of review and debate, by the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act.

So what? We hear you say. Well, if you are an employer of construction works, a contractor or sub-contractor, the amendments will have an impact on the way you administer your building projects.

In brief, the main changes are:-

1. The Construction Act (as amended) will apply to all construction contracts; including oral contracts, letters of intent etc;
2. New payment provisions; requirement for issue of payment notices, replacement of withholding notice with pay less notice;
3. Amendments to statutory right to suspend works.

The amendments only apply to contracts entered into from 1 October 2011.

The changes embodied in the amendments are being adopted in the new JCT 2011 suite of contracts and those of the ACE/CECA contracts.

If you require further assistance or information requiring the amendments please contact Geoff Hanna (email: geoff.hanna@wthills.com).

Olympic Shopping



At the gateway to London's Olympic Park, the recently opened Westfield Stratford City is part of one of the largest urban regeneration projects ever undertaken in the UK. It covers 1.9 million square feet with a dynamic and targeted mixture of over 300 brands. Hills worked on the fit-out of several retail units for a number of clients within the development.

SEWAGE IN THE DESERT

After 29 years working in offshore oil and gas related construction for Hills, Richard Simmons has spent the last two and a half years working as Contract Manager on an onshore sewage project. Richard is seconded to OTV who specialize in desalination and sewage treatment processes and the project is for the engineering, procurement, construction and testing of two sewage treatment plants in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in desert areas.

The plants produce treated sewage effluent which goes into the irrigation networks to support the vast landscaped and planted areas in Abu Dhabi city and Al Ain and also the many farms producing a variety of vegetables as well as fodder for local camel and dairy farms. They also produce dried "sludge", which is further processed for use in agriculture.

Richard is due to retire at the end of this year and looks forward to living in his own house again, seeing the family, riding his horse, travelling and doing some serious tidying of his study (his wife Jenny added this).

HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Funding is still coming through the system, although at a lower level than in the past. Hills continue to work for Guinness Trust, Green Square, Coastline, Wiltshire County Council, Cornerstone and Source and have successfully become part of the Framework South West.

NEW LOOK AROUND THE CORNER

The closest New Look new build project to Hills' Croydon office has opened in the Whitgift Centre, just two minutes walk from the office. The 12,500 square foot brand new fitout store over two floors was completed in a ten week period. Hills provided New Look with project management, cost consultancy, approved inspector and CDM Coordinator services.

PRACTICAL TRAINING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Hills are working for a partnership of Devon County Council and Teignbridge Skills on a £5 million phased development to build a Skills Centre in Newton Abbot. The vocational training centre is for young people between 16-18 and the completed building will provide a basic level of formal skills training in support of courses provided by other local colleges. There will be a social area, café, teaching/demonstration kitchen and restaurant, IT centre, nursery/crèche, media studio, motor vehicle workshop, construction workshop, hair salon, beauty salon as well as general teaching areas. Phase one of the project has commenced and is due to be operational in September 2012.



NEWS

- ▶ Paul Sowden, our Director who heads up the London office, celebrated thirty years working for Hills in October this year.
- ▶ The brothers in Cornwall are doing well. Ben Harrison won The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors "Best Quantity Surveying Student of the Year Award" last year and Ross Harrison has just passed his finals gaining a first class honours degree in Quantity Surveying.
- ▶ Exbourne Community Shop and Café is a small retail development on the edge of Exmoor being run by the local people and funded through grants. A small project for Hills but very important for the area.
- ▶ Work is on-going at St Stephens Church in central Exeter to turn this historical building into an accessible facility for the community. Phases three & four of a five phase project are currently on site.
- ▶ Holy Cross School in Fulham will finally get new facilities on the site of a three storey London Board school. Pupils who attend its bilingual school will remain in the original school after refurbishment. Hills have been involved with this project for some time.
- ▶ Montgomery School is gaining gold stars in zero-carbon and Passivhaus design. Phase 1 of the project was handed over in October ready for the school to move in over half term and is already generating electricity. (See Building 12 August 2011).

Banks are still lending

Residential projects are still being funded by banks such as Barclays, Arbuthnot Latham, Close Brothers, United Trust Bank and NatWest with Hills' staff travelling throughout the country monitoring a number of them.

The National Film Archive in Berkhamsted preserves one of the largest and most significant moving image collections in the world. As part of consolidation on the site they sold the listed buildings which formed their offices and these have been converted into "Archive Mews" funded by Close Brothers. The house has been converted into four luxury apartments and the cottage and barn form four further dwellings. In 1883 the OS map showed the buildings as an isolated farmstead and in 1966 the site was purchased to build a new film preservation centre for the NFA. Ernest Lindgren was the founder of the archive and first curator, holding the post for almost 40 years.



Ernest Lindgren House

Hills' CDMC Services

Tony Jassal joined Hills earlier this year bringing additional health and safety knowledge and experience to the team offering CDMC Services throughout the company. As Hills' lead CDM Coordinator he has been involved with a range of projects for clients within various industry sectors which include retailers, colleges, schools, charities and other niche clients such as car dealership and crematoria management. These nationwide projects range from maintenance works, refurbishments and new builds. In addition the role has involved Tony in obtaining company health and safety accreditations, assisting with prequalification questionnaires and dealing with other ad hoc health and safety queries

Prior to undertaking the role at Hills, Tony spent a number of years as a CDMC on Metropolitan Police projects. This has provided him with a breadth of project experience which ensures that, irrespective of project demands, compliance with the CDM Regulations (2007) can be maintained in challenging environments. As an active member of IOSH, Tony is able to ensure that the service provided is continuously adapted and developed to reflect changes in legislation, industry practices and client requirements.

Tony works with a team of CDM Coordinators based in all Hills' offices. For information or guidance on the CDM Regulations please contact tony.jassal@wthills.com.



Once again, Hills will be giving a donation to the NSPCC in lieu of sending Christmas cards this year.

All the staff wish you a Very Happy Christmas and a Successful and Prosperous 2012.



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