



# Contractors Mechanical Plant Engineers

## NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

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### CMPE BRANCH NEWS

#### **Spotlight on Preston & Fylde Branch.**

On Saturday 13th August 2022 Preston & Fylde Branch treated the member's & guests to a Crown Green Bowling and BBQ event. All of the facilities, the drinks and the food was provided free by the branch for everyone attending.

It was a lovely setting within the grounds of Our Lady & St Gerrard's Church in Lostock Hall. On a balmy evening we sat comfortably under a large weeping willow tree enjoying the delights of a very tasty assortment of food confidently cooked to perfection by our own John Robinson. Those of us brave enough to try our hand at Crown Green Bowling did so with varying levels of expertise.

Everyone who attended had a great time (with some prospective new members) whilst the raffle held during the evening added £100 to the branch funds.

Our thanks go to John Robinson for the BBQ, Paulene Saddington for providing some of the salads etc., and to Ian Quinn for running the raffle.









Our next meeting will be on Saturday evening the 15th October 2022 when we will be enjoying a Buffet Meal and Crazy Golf session at the Flower Bowl Entertainment Centre, Brock, Near Preston. We already have a good number of reservations for this branch subsidised event which is looking like it will be another social success.

In December we will also be having our usual branch subsidised Christmas Party which this year will include a singer for the entertainment as well as the Christmas meal, quiz, and Sit-Down-Santa.

Since we changed our format to more “social events” instead of the usual business meetings and changed them to being held on a Saturday evening instead of a Thursday evening, they have proved to be more popular and are proving quite successful.

Maybe other branches should take note of our new format for monthly meetings and follow suit.

On a different note:

Dorothy Dent one of our long standing members had an unfortunate accident some time ago. Whilst getting out of her car after arriving home she caught her foot under one of the pedals and fell out of her car breaking her foot.

Malcolm & Paulene Saddington recently went to visit her to wish her a speedy recovery and they gave her a card signed by some of our members along with a lovely bouquet of flowers.

Dorothy has since fully recovered and she has responded with a lovely “thank you” card which reads:

“Dear Malcolm & Pauline, thank you both so much for the beautiful flowers and card which you brought for me yesterday. What a pleasure it was to remember old times and read the names on the card later. Thank you all for your good wishes. Regards to everyone, from Dorothy”.



Photo: Dorothy Dent



## Industry News

### **New regime for CITB plant standards and grants.**



The Construction Industry Training Board has published standards for the training and testing of plant operators.

The changes will start being introduced in January 2023 across England, Scotland and Wales.

There has not been an accepted industry-wide standard for plant operator training before. Development of this one comes on the back of substantial industry consultation and negotiation.

The first phase of the changes will see new standards introduced for eight of the most used plant grants.

These are:

1. excavator 360, above 10 tonnes (tracked)
2. forward tipping dumper (wheeled)
3. rear tipping dumper/ dump truck: articulated chassis (all sizes)
4. ride-on roller
5. telescopic handler: all sizes excluding 360 slew
6. industrial forklift
7. plant and vehicle marshaller
8. slinger, signaller: all types, all duties.

Alongside the new standards, the grant rates for plant training and tests will also be changed. Currently, three smaller grants are available for practical test, theory test and short course training, which employers can claim in different ways. Under the new changes a larger single grant will be available for all CITB registered employers.

To claim a grant, employers will only need to give their CITB registration number to the approved training organisation (ATO) delivering the training and testing.

CITB said that it hoped the changes would make claiming grants simpler for employers.

Training related to the new standards from January 2023 will only be grant eligible if it is delivered by one of CITB's ATOs, is quality assured, and leads to a Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) card. Grant funding will not be available for training that leads to any card that does not have the CSCS logo on it.

From January, a separate, higher grant rate will be available for employers who are putting staff through plant training, who have never had experience in the type of machinery they are being trained in. This is to help respond to the industry's need for more people to become plant operators.

Plant operations have been identified as a priority skills area, with 1,330 new entrants reckoned to be needed every year to keep pace with expected demand. CITB said that these changes were designed to support employers to train more employees by increasing CITB's overall investment in plant grants.

Christopher Simpson, CITB's head of quality and standards, said: "The introduction of our new standards is in direct response to feedback from the sector. The introduction of these changes will help standardise and improve the quality and consistency of plant training,

increase the amount of plant training that takes place before testing, and increase the number of people trained in plant operations, particularly new entrants to construction.

"By responding to the changing needs of the sector, we continue to focus on our priority of supporting the construction industry to have a skilled, competent and inclusive workforce now and in the future."



## **JCB sales outstrip market growth.**

Accounts filed by JC Bamford Excavators Ltd for the year to 31st December 2021 show the British machinery manufacturer's sales growing much more strongly than the market as a whole in the wake of the covid pandemic.





*Above: Around 15,500 people attended the JCB Family Festival on 16th July, staged as a thank you to UK employees past and present*

The global construction equipment market grew by 13% compared to 2020 as demand rebounded (source: ISTAT). Excluding China, global market growth was 23%.

However, group turnover of JC Bamford Excavators Ltd increased by 41% to £3,438m in 2021. This compares to £2,437m in 2020 and £3,243m in 2019.

Operating profit for 2021 was £322.2m (2020: £133.6m) and pre-tax profit was £324.5m (2020: £135.3m).

Net assets increased to £1,117m at year-end (2020: £731m), while net cash and cash equivalents increased to £324m (2020: £242m).

Sales in UK & Ireland accounted for £568.1m of the turnover, up from £277.7m the previous year. The rest of Europe brought in £857.9m (2020: £529.8m) and North America £735.0m (2020: £512.1m).

India remains by far JCB's biggest market, generating £1,009.7m of revenue – 29% of the total, although 2020's £942.2m revenue from India was nearly 39% of the total.



## Octopus plans wind turbine retrofit drive.

Octopus Energy Generation, one of Europe's largest investors in renewable energy, is partnering with Dutch turbine manufacturer EWT to re-power up to 1,000 existing onshore wind turbines in the UK.



Octopus and EWT is targeting older, less efficient, wind turbines across England, Scotland and Wales for retrofitting.

In total the UK has approximately 9,000 onshore wind turbines. Octopus says that upgrading just 10% of them could unlock enough new power for hundreds of thousands of homes a year.

“When it comes to wind turbine blades, size does matter,” Octopus says on its website. “You can get two to three times more power by lengthening the blades and adjusting the tower to a more efficient structure. So we're identifying the older generation of turbines and doing just that.”

Under Octopus and EWT's plans, the new EWT wind turbines will range from 250 kW to 1 MW. Work begins this autumn and they aim to be finished by 2030. Starting in the UK, they're looking at working together on similar projects in other European countries in the future. In this partnership, they're exploring a range of ways to increase the green power generated by existing onshore wind turbines – from fitting larger turbine blades, to replacing whole wind turbines and wind farms.

Zoisa North-Bond, chief executive of Octopus Energy Generation, said: “We need to build enormous amounts of new renewable power, but at the same time it's a no-brainer to make better use of the UK's existing onshore wind turbines. There's a huge untapped opportunity to re-power wind turbines that communities have already hosted for many years. This means powering even more homes with cheaper, local, green energy, helping to drive down energy bills and provide energy security.”

EWT chief executive Carel Kok added: “By working with Octopus to rapidly re-power lots of older turbines in the UK, we'll help bring online much more renewable capacity. Our powerful and tech-enabled turbines are the perfect ‘goldilocks’ solution for communities. We're looking forward to installing many more in the years to come to turn this vision into reality.”

Octopus Energy Generation manages 3 GW of renewable energy assets across Europe. It is stepping up its generation capabilities and is planning to create 18 GW of green energy generation projects across the world by 2027.



## **Skanska signs £345m contract for Newark bypass.**

Skanska has signed a £345m contract with National Highways to upgrade a 6.6km stretch of the A46 Newark bypass in Nottinghamshire.



The project will deliver a dual carriageway A46 bypass to the west of Newark (the A1 is to the east), providing two lanes in each direction, between the Farndon and Winthorpe junctions.

Works will also include the construction of a new five-arm roundabout at Winthorpe and traffic lights at Farndon junction to improve traffic flows during peak hours.

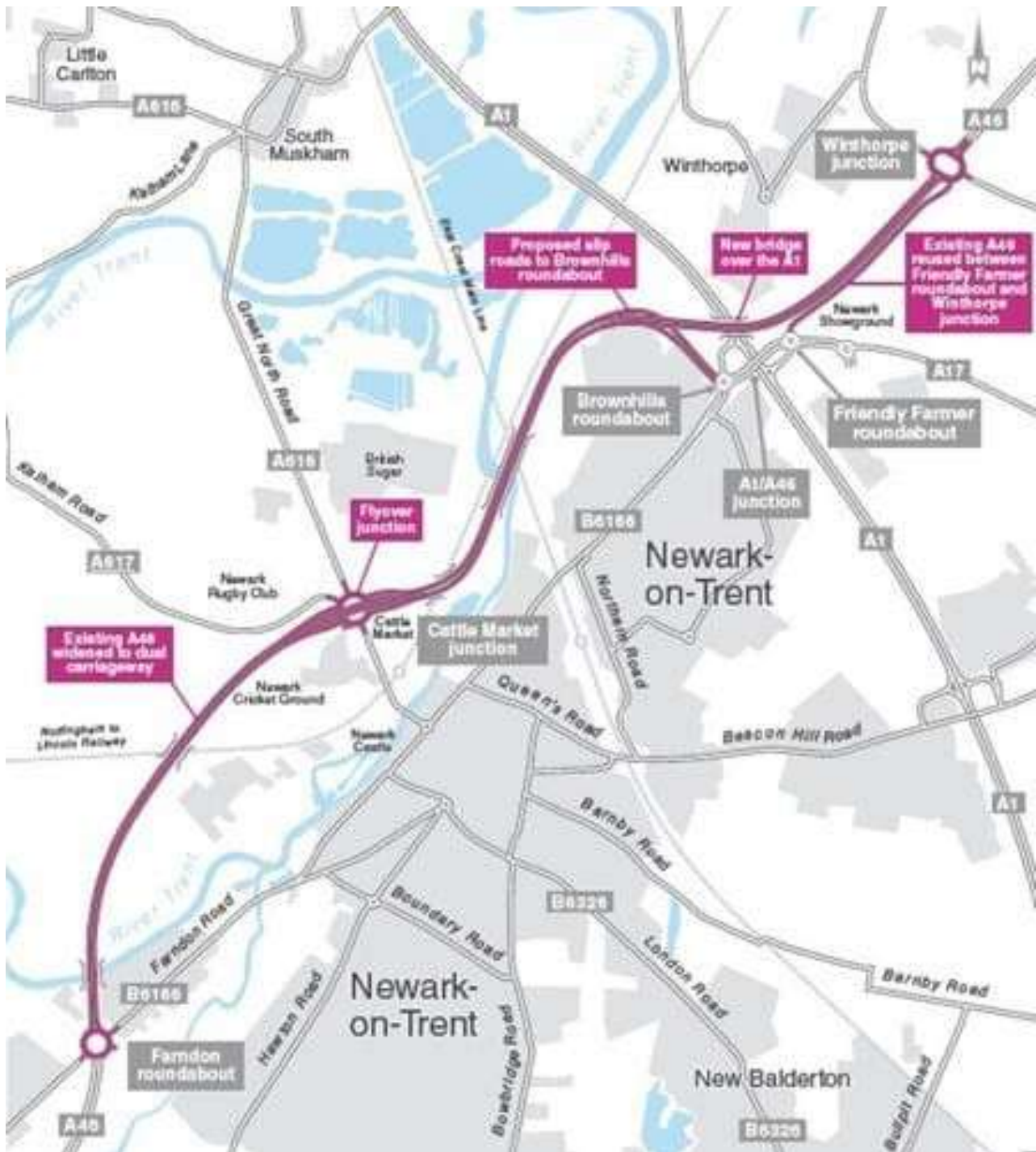
A new bridge will be built over the A1 where the two roads cross, to the north of the town, and a flyover installed at Cattle Market.

Total project costs are estimated by National Highways at between £400m and £500m. Skanska's contract is worth £345m.

The A46 Newark bypass connects the M1 and Leicester to the A1 and central Lincolnshire. It is used by 17,000 motor vehicles a day.

Skanska will begin design works in 2022. Subject to development consent being granted, construction work on site is planned to start in 2025 and the scheme is expected to open for traffic in 2028.





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