

# Diversity & Scope Results in Growing Success for WYG Environment Team

*2015 was a successful year for WYG's environmental team in Belfast. Current prospects and a growing order book have allowed the programme, project and technical consultancy to grow its workforce of environmental professionals based in Northern Ireland to 19 staff. In 2016, it is expected to significantly further that expansion.*

**T**his local team is supported by a further 200 environmental professionals across the rest of the UK, and 1,300 specialists in other key disciplines including Engineering, Transport, Management Services, Asset Management, as well as Urban and Landscape Design.

It is this diversity and scope that gives WYG the capability to deliver a wide range of projects, from the small scale up to the most complex, challenging schemes. Here, Michael Boyd, Environment Director at WYG, outlines some of the company's recent local achievements and successes.

After 2007, the environmental consultancy market significantly contracted. 2015, however, was the first year that saw revenue streams increase across all of our services as confidence in the market started to return.

Our success has been underpinned by our established reputation in contaminated land and hydrogeological services and enhanced by the expansion of our ecology services, our environmental due diligence/transaction team,

as well as our pollution response management and environmental/waste permitting capability.

## DIVERSIFYING

During 2015 we recruited five new environmental staff to meet demand within our existing core service areas. This expansion also enabled us to diversify our capability, ensuring that we were ideally positioned to address the market's requirements and seize new opportunities.

Our team has thrived on the variety and challenges of local projects. For instance, the refinancing of numerous Northern Ireland property portfolios has caused an increased need for our Environmental Due Diligence support services. We have also provided Merger & Acquisition environmental liability/compliance support on several high profile business acquisitions.

At the start of 2015, Catherine Hunter joined the team as our Principal Ecologist. Since her appointment, we have seen the demand for our ecological services increase rapidly, working on projects such as the invasive species

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management for a social housing development at Royal Court, Ballymena & St. Malachys College in north Belfast.

Catherine has developed strong links within the educational sector in Northern Ireland, delivering a range of ecological services to inform Environmental Impact Statements, including Phase 1 Habitat surveys, protected species, as well as badger, otter, bat, smooth newt surveys in support of new primary and post-primary school developments.

WYG has been providing waste and environmental consultancy support to the Northern Ireland Environment Agency on the Northern Ireland Waste Repatriation project, which involves managing the clean-up of illegal landfill sites across the province are also providing ongoing support to Cork County Council on the significant Haulbowline Island waste licence & remediation project.

**HYDROGEOLOGICAL**

Our hydrogeological team has also grown in support of projects such as the Rural

Borewell Scheme which saw the design and installation of around 130 new borewells (at private residences without mains water supply) across Northern Ireland on behalf of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. We also exported our services to support Cumbria County Council on assessing the hydrogeological impact of complex planning applications for developments such as the Low Level Radioactive Waste (LLWR) facility in Cumbria and the development of a large limestone quarry close to Kendal.

**COMMENDATION**

Our contaminated land services have been in high demand with an increasing level of work undertaken for private developers as well as public organisations. We routinely conduct site investigations, risk assessments and remediation design and management in support of site acquisition, planning and development proposals.

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Working alongside the environment team, WYG's engineering and management services team in Northern Ireland have recently recorded some significant wins too, such as the new Strulle Shared Educational Campus and the development of three new colleges for Southern Regional Colleges. These and other projects are multidisciplinary in nature, which call for the additional support of our environment team in terms of Ecology, Environmental Impact Assessment, and Geo-Environmental services.

Not only can our clients benefit from a comprehensive range of services within our environmental consultancy, but they can also combine those with skilled expertise in additional disciplines, offering an integrated approach to their most ambitious projects.

For further information on how WYG can assist please contact Michael Boyd, Director, WYG.

**City Waste / Campsie Sand & Gravel Case Study**

In January 2015 the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) instructed WYG to undertake an environmental assessment of the City Waste / Campsie Sand & Gravel Site in Derry/Londonderry.

The NIEA required a preliminary risk assessment of the impact on the environment following the deposition of illegal wastes at the site. To ensure a thorough assessment, we brought together a variety of our in-house specialists, including landfill design engineers, hydrogeologists, ecologists, geo-environmental scientists, flood risk engineers and chemists.

The project involved reviewing existing data and the completion of a gap analysis; undertaking a site investigation and geophysical survey of the site along with the implementation of a surface water (including

hyporheic zone), groundwater and gas monitoring programme.

Upon completion of the site works, we prepared a preliminary risk assessment, gas risk assessment and a hydrogeological modelling options appraisal. WYG was also responsible for advising and managing the implementation of short term emergency leachate management control measures. We developed an initial appraisal of remedial options that could be implemented across the site, outlining the costing in each instance. The findings of the work were presented by NIEA and WYG to the Campsie Stakeholder group in November 2015.

For further information on our Waste Permitting/Groundwater Services contact Conor Lydon, Associate, WYG.



WYG Investigation at the Campsie Site

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