

Robert Coupe, CEng, MICE

Managing Director EMEA

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Background

Rob has over 35 years of experience in the construction industry. In this period, he progressed from a site engineer to the main board of directors of a major UK contracting organisation. He has been responsible for all aspects of managing a successful business and has used his engineering principles to ensure the successful completion of many projects.

Rob's vision and direction facilitated the formation of several long-term relationships with clients, designers, suppliers, joint venture partners, and specialist consultants to form integral teams to deliver the most cost-effective delivery model. The solutions range from long-term frameworks to turnkey and build-only solutions.

Given his broad experience, he has led several disputes across many sectors of the industry ranging from delay, scope changes, design issues, insurance claims, and third-party interventions. His ability to handle multi-disciplined claims with a strong technical background has proved invaluable to reaching agreement in a timely manner. This has been particularly beneficial in the industrial, energy, and infrastructure sectors when balancing claims against lost production value thus the need to incentivise performance through guarantees.

Rob has knowledge and understanding of all the major forms of contract, which include NEC, IChemE, ICE, FIDIC, and other bespoke forms. He is highly experienced in design and build and risk transfer and management.

Education and Certifications

- **Civil Engineering, BEng (Hons):** University of Hallam, Sheffield (1983-1987)

Professional Memberships

- **Chartered Engineer (CEng):** Engineering Council
- **Member:** Institution of Civil Engineers (MICE)

Continuing Education

- **Numerous Management training courses**
- **CSCS Certified – Professional**

Geographies

- Africa
- APAC
- Middle East
- UK and Europe
- USA

Sectors

- Energy
- Infrastructure
- Industrial and Manufacturing
- Water and Utilities

Project Experience

Energy

Highly experienced in the onshore activities of offshore wind including interconnector cables, land/sea interfaces, design, supply and installation of interconnector cables, and termination of high voltage cables.

Belfast Port

Director: construction of stacking infrastructure for offshore wind piles.

Moray Firth

Director: landside interconnector cables. Two number, length 55km.

Hornsea 2

Director: landside interconnector cables.

East Anglia 1

Director: directional drilling for interconnector cables including land-sea interfaces.

Triton Knoll

Director: substation offshore units.

Beaulieu Denny

Director: transmission cables supporting east coast wind energy distribution.

Oswestry

Hydro turbine at end of aqueduct.

Able Marine Ports

Director: tender for renewable service port.

Braes of Doune Wind Farm

Director: onshore wind farms, 32 turbines.

Infrastructure

Highways

Extensive experience in new build, widening existing infrastructure, technology upgrades, and highway maintenance.

M60 J5 to J8 Widening, Manchester, UK

Project Director: tender and design and build phase. Major widening scheme, design and build, many structures, and complex geotechnical ground conditions.

M77 Glasgow, Scotland, UK

Project Director: tender, DBFO design, and build. New build and operating license.

M4 Widening, Wales, UK

Director: tender, design, and build, widening from D2 to D3 lanes.

M65 - Blackburn, UK

Project Manager: new build D3, 15km including concrete slip forming, on-site batches borrow pits.

M6 J4 to J12 Technology Upgrade, Birmingham, UK

Director: tender, design, and build. Major technology upgrades including hard shoulder running and variable speed control.

M4 Technology Upgrade, Swindon, UK

Director: tender, design, and build. Major technology upgrades, including hard shoulder running and variable speed control.

M6 Technology Upgrades, UK

Project Director: numerous schemes. Major technology upgrades including major viaducts. Numerous other schemes as a project-based staff member working for a leading UK contractor from 1987 to 1997.

Environmental (Including Flood and Coastal)

A leading expert in the design and construction in this sector.

Environment Agency, England

Director: in the period between 2010 and 2020 a board member of delivery frameworks for all the authorities design and build infrastructure projects. Numerous schemes completed; a sample is listed below.

Carlisle Flood Defence Scheme, UK

Hard landscaping, raising wall levels of major rivers.

Kendal Flood Defence Scheme, UK

Hard landscaping, raising wall levels of major rivers. Increasing upstream storage through increasing natural retention.

Keswick and Cockermouth Defence Scheme, UK

Working in area of natural beauty, sympathetic flood schemes including self-raising floating barriers.

Thames Tidal Barrier, UK

Director: numerous schemes including repair to gates, new telemetry, new hydraulic systems, replacement pinions, and technology upgrades.

Ipswich Tidal Barrier, UK

Director: construction on new tidal barrier. Rotating submersible gate maintaining no headroom restrictions to the port of Ipswich.

Croston Flood Defence, UK

Construction of earth dam with valve gates to retain upstream water.

Lough and Horncastle Defence, UK

Construction of earth dam with valve gates to retain upstream water.

Chesterfield Flood Defence, UK

Construction of earth dam with valve gates to retain upstream water.

Shoeburyness Sea Defence, UK

Construction of rock groynes and beach recharge (dredged material).

Felixstow Sea Defence, UK

Construction of timber groynes and beach recharge (dredged material).

Littlehampton Sea Defence, UK

Construction of new sea defence walls including sheet piled solutions, combi wall, and in-situ concrete structures.

Kirkcaldy Council/SEPA, UK

Director: reconstruction of sea wall and promenade.

Lancaster Council, UK

Director: reconstruction of sea wall and promenade.

Colwyn Bay, Wales

Director: reconstruction of sea wall, rock groynes, and beach recharge (dredged Material).

Transport for London

Director: reconstruction of river walls protecting vital assets.

Rail (including Light Rail)**HS2, UK**

Director: access and piling for Colne Valley Viaduct.

Manchester Metro, UK

Director: various structural retaining walls to allow construction in urban areas.

Edinburgh Metro, UK

Civils works and service diversions for tram terminus.

Manchester Airport, UK

Director: extension and new platform to the airport station.

Network Rail, UK

Director and Project Manager: numerous bridges including new build and deck replacement.

Major Earthworks and Remediation

Highly experienced in bulk earthworks including, thermal desorption, soil washing, bio-remediation, borrow pits, aggregate washing, crushing, and ground improvements.

The Avenue, Chesterfield, UK

Director: lead director of an international JV assembled to remediate a former coking site, thought to be one of the most highly contaminated coal sites in Europe. A 7-year programme including thermal desorption, bioremediation, soil washing, and screening. The site was heavily contaminated with arsenic, hydrocarbons, and cyanides. The 100-hectare site was developed into a mixture of residential, retail, and leisure use.

Smith's Dock, UK

Director: remediation of a form dock and shipbuilding facility into a mixed residential use.

Kingsway Park, Oldham, UK

Director: infrastructure and building plots for an industrial park. Work includes reprofiling low-quality land and ground improvements.

A1(M) D3 Highway, UK

Project Manager – sand and gravel borrow pits processed to form bulk fills, concrete sands and aggregates, and drainage materials.

M65, UK

Strategic borrow pits supplying high-quality bulk fill and the drilling, blasting, and crushing of rock to form aggregates.

Marine

Expert in the design and construction of industrial ports and infrastructure.

ABP Ports, Southampton, UK

Director: design and build of deep-water berths 201/202. Includes new quay wall, crane rails and pavement. Works included berthing pocket and dredged channel. Combi wall, tie bars, and incorporated front rail.

Hutchinson Ports, Felixstow, UK

Director: design and delivery of deep-water berth 12 extension including pavement and crane rails. Combi wall, tie bars, and incorporated front crane rail and service trench. Bulk fill imported using local dredged materials.

Director: design and build berth 12 closure wall and stacking area.

Port of Dover, UK

Director: design and delivery of West Port redevelopment in a joint venture with a major dredging partner. Combination of combi walls, pile walls, and pontoons on guide piles.

Dundee City Council, UK

Director: design and build of River Tay bridge shipping protection. Precast floating pontoon units are used to form shells suspended on tubular piles.

Defence Infrastructure Organisation/Royal Navy (DIO) – Ammunition Reloading Facility, Portsmouth

Director: suspended deck on tubular piles. Constructed approximately 1km offshore.

DIO – New berthing Jetty, Falklands

Director: suspended steel/concrete deck on tubular piles.

DIO – Queen Elizabeth Aircraft Carrier, UK

Director: design and build of new berth, offshore navigation structures, dredging pockets, rotary frequency convertors and new power supplies including cavotec connections. Suspended deck on a combination of concrete and steel piles.

DIO – Prince of Wales Berth, Portsmouth

Director: design and build Prince of Wales Berth. Suspended deck on tubular piles.

DIO – Glen Mallan Ammunition Reloading Facility, Scotland

Director: design and Build. Suspended deck on tubular piles.

DIO – Submarine, UK

Director: infrastructure redevelopment for new submarine class. Works confidential.

DIO –Thanckes Fuel Oil Facility, UK

Director: construction of new jetty and refurbishment of fuelling facility GBP£80 million.

Geotechnical and Tunnelling

Director responsible for a business specialising in the design and build of ground engineering solutions. This included a fleet of concrete piling and steel piling rigs. Highly experienced in geotechnical problems and solutions.

Ground Improvements

Director. These range from surface treatments such as lime stabilisation to extensive use of reinforced earth, reinforced earth wall, and geotextile membranes. Recent applications apply to both permanent and temporary works, recent projects being the Avenue and numerous piling platforms.

Concrete Piles

Director. Extensive knowledge of rotary bored piles, concrete flight augured (CFA) piles, and driven concrete piles.

Driven Sheet Piling

Director. Extensive knowledge of steel sheet piling using leader rigs, excavator-mounted rigs, and traditional frame and hammers. Also highly experienced in silent piling, water jetting, and reaction driving to avoid vibrations.

Marine Piling Including Offshore

Director. Expert in installing vertical and raking piles from both floating plant and jack ups. This includes all logistics, vibratory methods, and hammer technology. Completed several projects with rock drilling using rotary drill technology, drill drive drill, rock cutters, temporary liners, and water flushing techniques. Constructed concrete piles offshore using temporary caissons or steel piles with large rock sockets.

Concrete Retaining Walls

Director. Constructed several contiguous concrete retaining walls using hard/soft/hard and hard/hard technology. These have included capping beams with anchors and basement floors forming permanent props. Often these require temporary propping during the construction phase.

Cofferdams

Director. Contiguous flight augured circular and square cofferdams – often used in poor soils with high water contents. An alternative technique is D-wall construction.

Cofferdams

Director. Circular and rectangular steel sheet pile cofferdams. These have incorporated temporary or permanent bracings. Often used in water, temporary works coupled with well point dewatering.

Cofferdams

Director. Precast segmented circular shafts/cofferdams, top-down construction, (depth almost unlimited), and sunken cofferdams with a lower cutting edge on. Diameter of shafts up to 50m.

Hydro Compaction

Director. Use of hydro compaction, particularly on granular materials and dredged materials.

Dynamic Compaction

Director. Used to accelerate settlement in soft silts.

Directional Drilling and Tunnelling

Director for one of the largest drilling fleets in Europe specialising in land-sea interface, large-diameter water/gas mains or ducts for utilities. Operating rigs ranging from 50 tonnes to 400 tonnes. Experienced in different drill configurations for clays, sand, rock, and varied ground conditions. Experienced in obstructions, frack outs, bore collapse, and drill rods snapping.

Industrial and Manufacturing

Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing Facility, UK

Director: Waste fuel storage facilities – work scope confidential.

Fertiliser Manufacturing Facility, Nigeria

Director: undertake full review to allow the client to understand performance issues in the plant and produce a plan to rectify.

Water Treatment and Wastewater Plants

Director: numerous, see water section in infrastructure.

Water and Utilities

Highly experienced in the design and build of major water infrastructure.

Scottish Water, UK

Director of Stirling Water, a special purpose incorporated business to deliver a programme approach for Scottish Water's infrastructure and non-infrastructure programmes. Delivered over 40 projects, including wastewater, clean water, outfalls, storm storage tanks, pipelines, and pumping stations.

United Utilities, UK

Director: set up an unincorporated JV with major consultant (USA based), each party having a 50:50 shareholding to bid AMP 6 between 2015 to 2020, value GBP£800 million awarded to four partners. Represented the JV as the senior director to United Utilities, sitting on a strategic board and influenced United Utilities to move from a competitive transactional to a direct award programme approach. Delivered over 50 major clean and dirty water projects, including wastewater, clean water, outfalls, storm storage tanks, pipelines and pumping stations. In 2018/19, aided the client in moving to a programme approach for AMP 7 with the JV being one of two successful bidders to be delivered from 2020 to 2026.

Seven Trent Water, UK

Director: successfully bid and won the AMP 7 framework (2020 to 2026).

Thames Water, UK

Director: successfully bid and delivered the advanced works for the Thames Tideway project. Works included deep shafts, outfall diversions, piling works in the River Thames and utility diversions.

Professional Experience

- **Rimkus (Formerly Capital Consulting International, CCI)** **2022 – Present**
 - Managing Director EMEA

- **VolkerWessels UK/VolkerStevin Group** **2010 – 2021**
 - Director/Managing Director VolkerStevin Group

- **Alfred McAlpine (Acquired by Carillion 2008)** **1987 – 2010**
 - Graduate Engineer to Civil Engineering Board Director