

Firstly, I hope you've had a fantastic summer. As we prepare for the colder weather, we've been busy with our year end activities.

Moving into our new financial year I want us to place more focus on sustainability and I'm pleased to share that I am AmcoGiffen board sponsor for our 'lasting legacy' focus area, a key part of our new three-year SHEQ strategy moving forward.

As we pride ourselves as a responsible and supportive organisation, our refreshed sustainability strategy embodies our ambition to stretch further. We aim to reduce our environmental impact to leave a positive and lasting legacy wherever we work and to always be at the forefront of the latest innovation moving us into a greener more sustainable future. For example, we've now implemented HVO on all relevant sites and this is only the beginning.

We're fast approaching winter which brings its own challenges, colder, wetter weather leads to more emergency call outs and greater delivery challenges. However, I believe this brings out the best of us, working stronger, together to ensure the best results are achieved for all our stakeholders.



Ben McCluskey

PROCUREMENT &
SUPPLY CHAIN DIRECTOR

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Cannington Primary School, Conservation Collaboration



Cannington Primary School is a small village school near Bridgwater, Somerset. Within the school grounds is an area of land which was formerly a wildlife conservation area that has lain unmaintained for over 10 years becoming an unusable and overgrown plot.

As a Governor of the school Steve Ball, Engineering Manager at AmcoGiffen saw an opportunity for the conservation area to be refurbished as a volunteer-based community impact project with help from our supply chain partners.

To begin with, three colleagues, cleared the site over three days. Cutting back dense vegetation and discovering a sizeable pond hidden in the undergrowth. Following this we set about planning the restoration with our key suppliers returning fully armed with materials, equipment and volunteers.

A new pond and living wall have been installed thanks to materials donated by Scott Parnell and Gravitas. Speedy Services provided a range of plant and small tools together with community volunteers from senior management and additional volunteers from Vital Rail and GoGreen.

EcoEfficient and GoGreen provided waste disposal sourced from local companies. Travis Perkins provided new decking to replace the rotten boardwalk and the bridge over the pond together with topsoil, paving slabs, and aggregate. Ryder Services donated various sections of timber for fencing, path edging, and raised planters. Sunbelt Rentals provided a pair of motion-sensing cameras to capture activity within the newly restored conservation area and Insigns donated information signage so the pupils can learn about the insects living in their habitat.

In total the project has benefited from over **500** community impact hours which has provided the school with a fantastic educational, bio-diverse facility that will help the school mark their centenary next year as well as for many years to come.

Thank you all for your support.

Site says...

Jamie Callaghan, Sub-Agent has been trialling Safety Shield, new plant and people interface technology on his MMLE, route section 1 project site at Warners, carrying out the demolition of overbridges 24 and 25 for Network Rail. He shares with us his thoughts about the product and the support from supplier L Lynch, as well as his views on the AmcoGiffen Procurement strategy.

Safety Shield is an AI human form recognition safety system solution tailored to construction. You can set the system at various distances from the operating plant depending on your work location. It acts as the eyes and ears of the plant operator emitting light and voice alarms if the exclusion zone is breached.

James, what are your thoughts on the Safety Shield?

"We've worked with our supply partner L Lynch throughout the trial and have been really impressed with both Safety Shield and the support provided by the supplier. Their input has been invaluable in helping us to integrate the technology and demonstrate our commitment to a safer, construction site, embracing digital technology. We are confident that we will see widespread implementation across the sector, especially with this level of supplier assistance both practically on-site and with our back-office support."

And what do you think about our procurement strategy – more through less?

"Early use of procurement schedules saves time continually submitting plant and material requisition forms, having the correct cost information included in the initial procurement schedule saves the quantity surveyor and the schedule owner time, allowing them to focus on other requirements."

"Using fewer suppliers gives the project team confidence to form deeper relationships and more collaborative ways of working, helping us to innovate and add value together."

Thanks James, interesting insight.

SUPPLIER SPOTLIGHT



Scott Parnell is a proud supporter of AmcoGiffen, always going the extra mile when working on projects with us. Their range of carbon-reducing, innovative products are integral to the success of AmcoGiffen's environmental management system.

For example, the recent supply of Arcosystem at Pitlochry allowed cable route to be secured using a system which not only reduce the manual work of our installation team but also offered the opportunity to reduce raw material use by 40%. We installed less foundations than traditional routes, transported less product to site and reduced spoil material too.

The technical design support offered by Scott Parnell ensured that the design and installation ran seamlessly from start to finish with delivery within the required timeframe, making them the partner of choice on this prestigious project.

Scott Parnell also recently joined us on the Carrington Primary School community impact project too, reestablishing a conservation area within the school boundary.

Along with their supply chain partner Gravitas International, 168 Flex MSE units and approximately 8m³ of backfill were donated to rebuild the pond area leaving a lasting legacy for the school.

FlexMSE is a BBA approved vegetated retaining wall system with 120-year design life.



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DIRECTOR'S CUT – What do our operations directors have to say about our supply chain.

We recognise the vital contribution our supply chain partners make to our overall success. Our performance is directly linked to that of our supply chain, which drives the need for aligned values and objectives underpinned by strong relationships where there is both challenge and support. Our successful performance in Eastern through CP6 is a great example of that, where we have developed strong partnerships resulting in increased confidence in delivery, leading to better relationships and more opportunities. This has meant that our supply chain is more directly involved in developing project delivery strategies.

Moving into CP7 this will be even more important as Network Rail seek to garner the collective, collaborative and innovative strength of their whole supply chain through the Eastern Region Partnership Framework. This is necessary to achieve their delivery ambitions and objectives in a very challenging operational and financial environment. Our supply chain relationships and performance are absolutely essential to safeguard success.

Alan Sheffield

– Operations Director, Projects, Eastern Region

AmcoGiffen's supply chain and procurement team have been working together with our Western team helping us to undertake a variety of projects alongside existing and new suppliers. The Nansledan project in Newquay, includes procurement support for a unique precast concrete arch bridge clad in local granite and significant locally sourced embankment fill.

In addition, the introduction of key supplier, Flannery Plant Hire has allowed us to develop a stronger relationship to improve our self-delivery capability in the region. Working with John Myskiw and the team at Vital we have improve how we manage the application of new processes. This has been achieved through regular dialogue with hiring managers and the Vital team showing the strength of this key relationship.

The procurement team has been instrumental in mobilising input from a range of plant, labour and material suppliers helping us to provide community impact in the region. Recently completing a two-week 'DIY SOS' type challenge to transform an educational area at a local school at Cannington, Somerset during the summer holidays

Patrick Rosborough

– Operations Director, Western, South Region

OUR SUPPLY CHAIN AND EMERGENCY CALL-OUTS

What are the benefits of a close working relationship with our supply chain when we have to respond to an emergency?

Project Manager, Mark Lowery, explains the importance of our supply chain and what it's really like when an emergency call comes in.

At AmcoGiffen, emergency call outs range from patching up fence lines to stop trespassing to full rebuilds of bridges if required, like we did at Fosters Bridge PMJ/58.

The importance of our supply chain and the relationships that we have is imperative to help us effectively coordinate and plan, materials and plant at a moment's notice, which can be any time of the day or night.

The strong relationship between our procurement team and our supply chain helps us to control the safety, speed and quality of the required repair response, making sure that important plant and materials are available and supplied quickly and safely. This is crucial for our clients and our success provides them with confidence.

Over the last year we have seen a massive increase in major emergency call outs such as Fosters Bridge, Wakefield Viaduct and Kirkstall Wall. All these sites were mobilised and operational within 24 hours with the Eastern, Asset Management Team on site within a few hours and plant and materials swiftly following. This collaborative team-work has been recognised by winning the National Rail Awards, Team of the Year category and CECA Yorkshire & Humber Linda Grant H&S and Going the Extra Mile awards alongside our client Network Rail.



Fosters Bridge PMJ/58:
Emergency repair after a bridge strike



Getting to know... Support Services

This period we are focusing on the Q for quality aspect of SHEQ and introducing you to Alice Sizer, our Head of Quality & Assurance. Alice joined us two years ago having previously worked for Siemens on the Transpennine Route Upgrade (TRU), Network Rail and Jacobs. She has been instrumental in transforming our approach to quality, leading a team of professionals who spend their time supporting, engaging and assuring our teams ensuring that we deliver, right first time, every time.

Explain your role to us?

I am responsible for ensuring that we have effective governance in place, that we assure our activities against that governance and drive a culture of continuous improvement. On a day-to-day basis I'm involved in things like improving our systems and procedures, visiting sites to conduct audits and assurance, helping our teams to prepare for external audits, analysing data from our assurance activities and identifying opportunities for improvement.

How did you get into Quality?

I wasn't someone that knew what they wanted to do growing up, wherever I worked I was always looking for ways to make things better but often got told "that's how we've always done it" by my supervisors. I was working as an administrator for an architectural practice and had an idea to improve a process, I spoke to my boss, and he helped me to implement my idea. We worked on a few improvement projects together and that was my introduction to quality. I was promoted to management system coordinator and started my career in quality.

What is your favourite part of your role?

I have always been driven by improvement, so my favourite days are when I get a great suggestion from our teams and can help them make it a reality.

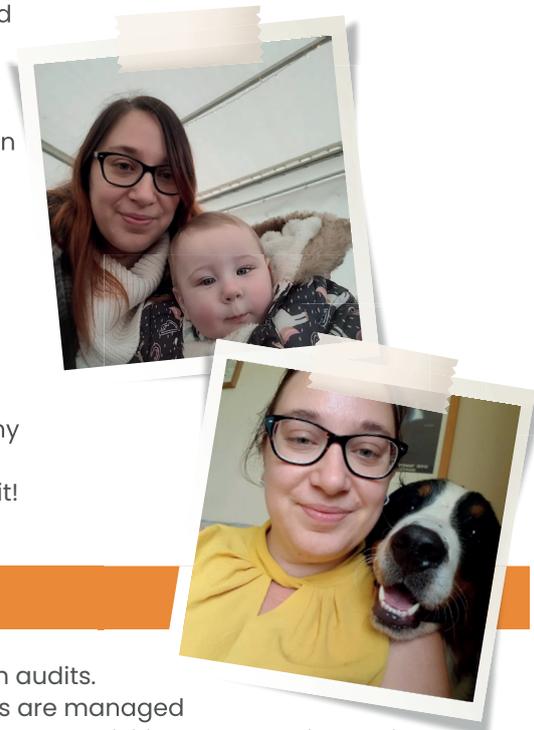
What do you like to do outside work?

I'm a busy mum to a two-year-old and a Bernese Mountain dog so most of my free time is spent with them. I'm also a martial artist and hold a black sash in Wing Chun Kung Fu, I teach regularly at classes in York if anyone wants to try it!



Alice Sizer

Head of Quality Assurance



SUPPLY CHAIN AUDITS

One area where you may interact with our quality team is during supply chain audits. Audits are a vital part of our governance arrangements ensuring that our risks are managed appropriately. This includes audits and inspections of our own processes, sites and activities and supplier audits.

While some of our suppliers may be well used to audits, we know they can seem daunting to some people. If we approach you for an audit, please be assured it's nothing to be concerned about, these are a valuable tool to promote continuous improvement, an opportunity for you to showcase the fantastic work you do and a chance for us to learn how we can work more closely together.

We identify suppliers to audit by looking at spend and risk and we maintain a risk-based audit schedule. Our audits are conducted by our SHEQ team who hold lead auditor competencies supported by our supply chain managers. During a supplier audit we will seek to understand your processes and systems and look for evidence of implementation. We may ask to speak to various personnel within your organisation and observe work activities either on one of our sites or your own premises.

We look for evidence of conformance to standards, legislation and your own processes. That means we prioritise trying to find all the good things you are doing, while on occasion we may find an issue we generally see far more good evidence than bad. If we do find an issue that needs to be addressed, we will work with you to help address the issue ensuring it gets closed out effectively.

We would love to hear about your approach to quality, assurance and continuous improvement, if you've anything you'd like to share then please get in touch with Alice at alice.sizer@amcogiffen.co.uk

Thanks Alice, great to learn more about you and the importance of our audits.