

HELEN BENTLEY

BSc (Hons) DipArb CEng MICE FCI Arb Accredited Mediator (CEDR)

driver GLOBAL
CONSTRUCTION
CONSULTANCY

POSITION **DIRECTOR**

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KEY FACTS

- ✓ Chartered Civil Engineer with over 25 years' experience
- ✓ Project Manager & Employer's Agent for Civils & Building
- ✓ Planning & Programming for Tender & live project
- ✓ Delay analysis (Primavera and Powerproject)
- ✓ Lectures widely on contractual topics.
- ✓ Practical NEC expertise
- ✓ Extensive Procurement Expertise

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

Helen is a Chartered Civil Engineer. From 1985 she has worked as a consultant engineer on a wide range of projects including tunnelling work, sewage treatment plants and sea defences, process engineering including Cement works, Power station and nuclear works and underground rail projects. Helen has spent the last 16 years in commercial consultancy and has been both office and site based during this time, she therefore has an exceptional level of practical experience which is fully up to date with current practice.

Helen regularly acts as Project Manager or Employer's agent on complex and difficult schemes, where innovative solutions are required and can be implemented with years of practical and contractual experience under the NEC2, NEC3 and ICE forms of contract. Helen has experience in the following sectors:-

Tunnelling – Helen worked on site for 2 years as a member of the Resident Engineer's team on an 11Km tunnelling project for a pumped storage water pipeline in the Midlands. The tunnel was concrete lined with additional steel lining in discrete locations and required a number of varied methods of boring and excavation to successfully conclude. There were numerous issues and claims arising on the project. Helen also has experience on a variety of other tunnelling projects in arbitration, commercial claims resolution and technical expert witness support.

Process – On a variety of projects, including various major cement works in the UK, Helen has managed high value engineering works from piling and concrete structures, through to Mechanical and Electrical installation and commissioning, including substantial structural steel works. This has often involved the construction of large volume industrial bulk storage and handling equipment and conveyors for fuels and high volume material transportation.

Power – Helen has worked on several major power station schemes, both as a consultant and as resident engineer. This has included extensive driven and augered piling, reinforced concrete substructures and complex steelwork gantry and access platforms. Bulk handling,

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MANAGEMENT

PROJECT
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CONTRACT SERVICES

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conveyor and flue gas cleaning systems for coal fired stations has also been a major feature of these projects.

In the Nuclear sector, Helen has advised clients on the merits of issues on nuclear decommissioning projects. Works included the reviewing of safety cases and their relationship with express terms of the contract conditions, generally involving the NEC standard form of contract.

Water – Water and sewage treatment projects are often challenging and Helen has worked on a number of projects, including as Resident Engineer in Gloucester involving over £5M of Civil Engineering works for a Sewage Treatments Works extension project. The project involved the construction of primary, secondary and storm settlement tanks, diversions of existing flows and final commissioning. Helen also dealt with all site measurement, final account preparation negotiation and resolution.

In addition, Helen has consultancy experience in resolving issues and accounts on Sewage Treatment projects, Marine projects and Sea Defence schemes working on behalf of both Clients and Contractor's.

Remediation & Bulk Excavation – Helen has worked on contaminated land and other earthworks projects where large volumes of excavated material have been treated both on and off site by various methods, including techniques for ground water control, ground strengthening, quarrying and land reclamation. Her experience is from both an engineering and project management perspective but she has undertaken account preparation, delay assessments and claim preparation, negotiation and resolution.

Infrastructure – Helen has a variety of rail, road and bridge experience, including civil engineering design and planning for proposed new stations and running tunnels on the London Underground Network; Compensation Event assessments arising on rail footbridge projects as a result of possession issues; preparation of claims submissions on large, composite steel road bridge projects, motorway bridge strengthening projects and resolution of a variety of roads, Highways and drainage issues on both commercial and industrial developments.

Helen recently led a team of planners to deliver a complex tender and project programme to deliver over £100M of new signalling works to a series of underground rail sections on the older Victorian section of the underground network. A complex project with many facets associated with sub surface rail including extensive re-signalling and train management issues. The programme was to be fully compliant with the rigorous planning requirements of NEC Option C, target cost.

Petro Chemical – Working as part of a team preparing an extension of time submission on an oil terminal in Nigeria for a major French Oil and Gas company. The works on site included civil engineering , pipelines, storage tanks, pumping stations and all ancillary equipment. An understanding of the real detail of the construction of such a terminal, combined with planning and programming experience as to how best to demonstrate the real effects of various delays was critical to the success of this submission.

Building – As Project Manager, Helen has managed both the procurement and construction phases of a number of complex building projects. This has included the development of a grade 2 listed building and associated land into an elderly residential care home. Helen has also completed NHS and care home projects where the work has run into problems half way through and her skills were required to effectively manage to completion in difficult circumstances.

She has acted as Project Monitor on behalf of Private sector clients, most notably on the refurbishment and development of St Pancras Chambers in London. The client was keen to have Helen's specialist advice to hand to enable issues arising to be dealt with quickly and in a manner least likely to give rise to confrontation and future dispute.

Helen was also involved in a £56M mixed use development in central London under the ECC Option F Management Contract with specific responsibilities for the preparation of Contractor and Consultant contracts, and the development and implementation of project specific procedures for the whole project team to ensure compliance with the Contract. Duties also included the day to day contract administration of the project during the engineering phases including piling, basement construction and structural steelworks.

RECENT COMMISSIONS – Expert Delay Analysis & Commercial Management

- ⊕ Instructed by Solicitors to prepare a delay analysis and compile an expert report on behalf of a Precast Concrete Frame subcontractor defending a claim in an Adjudication brought by a main contractor for alleged delays caused to the main contract completion of a school project. An Impacted As-planned analysis was conducted using Microsoft Project, adopting a 'windows' approach to the analysis.
- ⊕ Instructed by Solicitors to review a delay analysis prepared by a main contractor claiming delays to a residential refurbishment project caused by a designer as a result of late release of information. Instructions included preparation of a full report both for release to the claimant and for consideration by the designer's PI Insurers. The Contractor's claim was compiled using an Impacted As-planned analysis using Asta Powerproject.
- ⊕ Preparation of a delay analysis and compilation of an expert report on behalf of a University to defend a contractor's claim submission for an extension of time of 35 weeks to the completion of a New Build Teaching facility. Time impact analysis undertaken using Primavera Suretrak adopting the 'windows' time impact approach to the analysis;
- ⊕ Reviewing various claims on behalf of clients including NHS Trusts, educational establishments, Housing Associations and Developers and preparing reports on entitlement and quantum, with practical advice about project completion. Most projects ultimately settled by negotiation;
- ⊕ Helen has worked under the direct instruction of Queens Counsel on a complex multi-million pound tunnelling arbitration, including working with a team of 4 expert witnesses of various disciplines and the management of a very large volume of documents and information;
- ⊕ Preparation of a detailed Extension of Time and Loss and Expense claim on behalf of a Contractor involved in a multi-million pound Prison refurbishment project in the South of England;

- ⊕ Ongoing commercial advice to a structural steelwork sub-contractor appointed under the NEC form of sub-contract to construct a motor speedway stadium in the UK. Advice delivered during the course of the project led to the satisfactory resolution of all issues arising on the project without recourse to formal dispute resolution.

RECENT COMMISSIONS – Procurement & Project Management

- ⊕ Provision of NEC3 contract advice in connection with issues arising on a site remediation project. Formal advice notes used to assist resolution of issues during the course of the project.
- ⊕ Advising a Contractor on the compilation of an NEC compliant programme for inclusion with a multi-million pound tender submission, including the inclusion of time risk allowances, resource and cost loading and other factors influencing contract compliance;
- ⊕ Drafting a detailed procedures manual for a Specialist Structural Steelwork Contractor to enable them to comply with all aspects of the NEC standard for of sub-contract, Options A and B;
- ⊕ Reviewing and advising on procurement strategies and tender and other essential documentation for public and private sector clients and contractors under the NEC Standard Form of Contract (Options A, B and C) aimed at removing problem areas with the potential for leading to disputes. Several commissions have involved the drafting of project specific procedures to provide certainty and clarity;
- ⊕ Appointed by a South West Region Local Authority to develop and manage the implementation and delivery of a Contractor Framework Agreement for major projects (Contracts to be employed to procure the works under the Framework include the NEC Professional Services Contract and the NEC Main Contract). Works included all aspects of public sector procurement and assessment;
- ⊕ The management and procurement of a Contractor Framework for a National Housing Association, including the drafting of documentation, and the management of all aspects of Public Sector Procurement and the interviewing of some 40 national contractors for selection to regional frameworks.(Utilising PPC 2000). This commission included ongoing advice and training during the implementation of the Framework;
- ⊕ Preparation of documentation for inclusion in framework arrangements including Open Book Accountancy Strategies, KPI's and risk registers and training of resources in the use of the standard forms of partnering contract for a wide range of Public sector clients.