



Soil Mechanics on Titanic Site

A recent contract in Northern Ireland has seen the Soil Mechanics rigs standing alongside one of Belfast's unmistakable landmark features: the 350ft high cranes named Samson and Goliath situated at the now disused Harland & Wolff Shipyard, famous as the yard that built the ill-fated Titanic in 1912.

Plans are underway to regenerate the waterfront area there with mixed commercial, residential and leisure facilities and Soil Mechanics' ground investigation works is providing vital information for the £250m Phase 1 development.

Since establishing its office in Northern Ireland at the end of last year, Soil Mechanics has secured ground investigation contracts approaching £1m. Based at Lisburn, Soil Mechanics is ideally placed to serve Belfast and the rapidly developing corridor to Dublin in the south.



Fort for the Day

Mowlem Marine has been appointed as main contractor on an interesting project to restore a sea fort located in the Thames Estuary. Redsand Towers, built in 1943, was designed by Guy Maunsell, a noted civil engineer of the time and their design later became a template for the first North Sea Oil Rigs.

The Ministry of Defence abandoned the forts in 1956 and in the 1960s were home to pirate radio stations including Radio City run by 'Screaming' Lord Sutch. Since then, two of the forts have been demolished although Redsand Fort still remains intact but in disrepair.

The Marine business will be working on the restoration for 'Project Redsand' - an organisation set up to protect the fort. The work will be ongoing over the coming years, and Mowlem will work with Taylor Woodrow, the Royal Engineers and other companies experienced in Heritage restoration projects.

In the short term, Mowlem Marine is lending their expertise to the Seafort Project, an investigation of isolation by artist Stephen Turner, who will survive for six weeks isolated on the South Tower of Redsand. Turner will keep a journal, take photographs, make notes and produce drawings and artworks whilst on the fort.