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ALE'S TRIPLE BRIDGE MOVE SUCCESS FOR UK TEAM



ALE's UK team has successfully completed three bridge moves in December 2015.

ALE was contracted to install a new bridge, weighing 1,095t, in Wakefield, West Yorkshire. This took place on the 25th December and took just three hours to install. ALE used 2 x 24 axle lines in a 4 file configuration incorporating integrated steel work to raise the bridge deck up gradually until a 200mm clearance was achieved, where it was driven forwards 30m and lowered onto the clients' bearing piles, allowing all 144 macalloy bars to be aligned. This was achieved using the SPMTs' control systems.

On the same day in Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, ALE performed the first of two rail over road bridge replacements as part of Network Rail's ongoing maintenance and upgrading of their infrastructure. The SPMTs were driven out of the compound and positioned underneath the existing bridge. Using the SPMT's integral hydraulics, the bridge deck was lifted clear of the abutments and driven back to the compound and lowered down onto a pre-erected trestle.

Once the SPMTs had lowered the existing bridge on to its trestles the SPMTs were positioned under the new bridge, as per the trial move, and were driven out of the compound to the newly formed abutments. The new bridges' alignment was finalised with the clients' site engineering team to ensure that the bridge was landed within a 10mm tolerance. The removal of the existing bridge and installation of the new bridge utilised the same 12 axle lines of SPMT in a configuration of 4 file 6.

The following day, ALE performed the Cleatham Road bridge installation in Kirton in Lindsey, Lincolnshire. ALE utilised 12 axle lines of SPMT in a 4 file 6 configuration to transport the new bridge weighing 100t. The SPMTs were positioned underneath the new bridge deck and the deck lifted clear of the trestles. Once the road was clear of construction vehicles, the SPMTs moved the bridge out of the compound, maintaining the clearances between the top of the bridge and the live power cable.



The SPMTs were then parked up at the agreed location away from the live power cable and the bridge deck was then jacked-up to installation height utilising the climbing jacks on the SPMT. Once at the installation height and all works on the abutments had been completed, the bridge was installed into its permanent location, the final alignment was agreed with the client's site engineer.

"It was a fantastic team effort despite the ever changing site conditions. All of the upfront planning and meetings that went into these jobs proved its worth with all three jobs going to plan," explained ALE's Project Engineer Zoe Meynell.

"Despite the bad weather conditions and tight timescales, our teams were able to complete three bridge installations across the UK within the allotted time frame. This a fantastic achievement and marks our increasing presence in the civil sector."

ENDS

Image 1: ALE jacking-up the Cleatham Road bridge in Lindsey, Lincolnshire.

ABOUT ALE

Founded in 1983 by Roger Harries, ALE delivers a highly tailored, end-to-end service covering every aspect of the handling, transportation and installation of heavy, indivisible loads, including lifting, transporting, installing, ballasting, jacking and weighing.

ALE delivers strategic heavy-lift services to a wide range of sectors, including civil, oil and gas, energy, nuclear, offshore, renewables, petrochemical, ports, marine, minerals and metals and mining.

ALE has more than 30 offices across Europe, the Far East, Africa, America, South America, the Middle East and Australia. It is fully compliant with international standards of safety and excellence, including Quality standard ISO 9001:2008, Environmental standard ISO 14001:2004, and Health and Safety Standard OHSAS 18001:2007. ALE is also registered and qualified in the Achilles Norway and Link-up systems, and is a member of both the British Safety Council and the British Standards Institution. Further information can be found on the ALE website at www.ale-heavylift.com