

Our architects – helping build success

Architects see buildings in a different way.

The earlier they are involved in a project, the more value they can bring. This can be anything from the most effective use of space to access or the fundamental issues around building regulations.

There are currently five chartered architects working within the business, working in project teams to deliver the complex facilities needed to handle our waste.

These buildings include:

Our Silos Maintenance Facility (SMF) provides maintenance and operational support for the Magnox Swarf Storage Silo retrievals.

Architectural input into this vital facility has ensured this striking building offers users a pleasant working environment. Colour has been used to guide people around the workspace, and it has specially placed windows to allow in natural light – a first for a building in this nuclear category.

Our Replacement Analytical Project (RAP) will be the new home to laboratories that analyse materials from across the Sellafield site. It is being built on the side of the existing National Nuclear Laboratory central laboratory facility, on the northern edge of the Sellafield site.

This complex project, being built onto the side of an existing building on a limited patch of land, needed architectural input to ensure that it didn't expand from four storeys to six.

Profile: Jason Boyle

Lead architect Jason Boyle has worked at Sellafield for 14 years, based in our Warrington offices. He's currently working on our Replacement Analytical Project (RAP).

Jason said: "I found out about the role and applied through the Royal Institute of British Architects. I began working on projects like the flask replacement facility (studies phase) and the existing building's spray booth modification, while I trained to become a responsible engineer. I then left capability to work on the Silos Maintenance Facility as the civil structural and architectural responsible engineer for eight years. Following the delivery of this project I went on to become lead architect on RAP where I am today.

"I'm really proud that I was able to bring Building Information Modelling (BIM) to the SMF Project. It meant we were involved in Sellafield's early BIM adoption which led to me being the youngest recipient of Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

“Architecture is important. No other discipline understands how to design a building like we do. Architects understand the macro and micro of buildings and are trained to co-ordinate with all other design disciplines. Architects play a vital role in nuclear design – we start with building flow diagrams, radiological classification of areas, material and people flow which are then turned into the design basis for a building’s layout. Architects understand Building and Planning Regulations but also provide expertise on fire safety in design and specialist finishes. We also take a lead role in sustainable design and specification of Sellafield’s buildings.

“We offer a different aspect to design by thinking about the environment the workers will be working in. And because we are in this unique position, architects at Sellafield can also offer vital expertise and advice to architectural colleagues in the supply chain. We have experience of dealing with both complex projects and nuclear, a real rarity in our world.”

Profile: Mark Alty

Mark is Sellafield’s design capability lead for architecture. He has worked for Sellafield Ltd for the past 14 years and is currently engaged with our Main Site Command Facility project.

He is based at Hinton House in Warrington.

Mark said: “Having worked as an architect across a number of different sectors including private and public housing, education, leisure, civic buildings and student accommodation I joined Sellafield Ltd as a senior architect in 2008.

“Although I have worked on numerous projects, including the Pile Fuel Cladding Silo control room building and Windscale pile chimney decommissioning project, my main role has been providing architectural assurance across the Sellafield security enhancement projects programme. I have also delivered the civil structural and architectural (CS&A) responsible engineer role supporting the provision of unified command and control on site for emergency response in the Main Site Command Facility.

“In 2016 my role broadened and I was appointed to the design capability Lead for architecture role, within CS&A capability, and together with managing a small architectural delivery team provide architectural assurance across a variety of design portfolios.

“The training, qualifications and experience of an architect provide the business with the assurance that building design or modification will be delivered in accordance with current standards and legislation, will be co-ordinated, safe, secure and sustainable.”

Profile: Certina Chan

Certina has been working for Sellafield Ltd for the past year as an architectural graduate. She is currently supplying architectural input to the Civil Nuclear Constabulary Operational Unit project.

She is the company's first architectural graduate and is working out of Hinton House in Warrington.

Her first year with us has already provided opportunities to work across a wide range of projects including the CNC OU, Main Site Command Facility, building regulation regularisation and undertaking a fire safety review of the recent Hinton House refurbishment.

Certina said: "As an architectural graduate within the team, I am accountable for producing design deliverables including but not limited to—3D models, 2D drawing packages, written specifications, and project documentations.

"I am proud of the prudence and attentiveness that we uphold towards both conventional and nuclear safety. Architects and architectural technologists at Sellafield Ltd celebrate 'Safety by Design' in every project, for every practice, and at any scale. By creating evidence-based solutions that safeguard nuclear decommissioning, we contribute to creating a safe and secure environment for both public and our workforce. We always remind ourselves of the collective responsibility for current end-users and future generation, which is in resonance with this year's theme of the World Architecture Day—'Architecture for well-being'. We provide this by adhering to design standards, legal specifications, and site license conditions.

"From a sustainability point of view, architects play a critical role to Sellafield. From study to concept, from spatial coordination to technical design, from construction to handover, from operation to maintenance, from retrofitting to demolition....architects and architectural technologists make informed decisions in every aspect of the building life cycle from cradle to grave, which is essential to the reduction of embodied carbon and clean decommissioning of our nuclear site."

[Violence affects women and girls everywhere: UK statement to the OSCE](#)

Thank you, Mr Convenor.

[Global estimates](#) show that 1 in 3 women will experience physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetimes. Violence affects women and girls everywhere.

Gender equality and fighting all forms of violence against women and girls are crucial to the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security and stability and the UK commends the work of the OSCE executive structures in implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

I'd like to highlight the utility and value of two OSCE sponsored toolkits.

Firstly, the toolkit for [“Inclusion of Women and Effective Peace Processes”](#), a valuable resource for conflict mediation in all OSCE conflicts. And, secondly, the [Gender and Security toolkit](#), which provides practical policy and programmatic guidance for governments, for regional and international organisations and for justice institutions.

I’d like to thank all those who have contributed to advancing gender equality and the Women, Peace and Security agenda at the OSCE.

We know that violence against women and girls further escalates in scale and severity in conflict and crisis, and this has been seen in the detrimental impact that Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has had on women and girls.

We welcomed the publication of the OSCE’s Moscow Mechanism reports, which help expose the truth of Putin’s illegal war in Ukraine. We remain deeply concerned about rising reports of gender-based violence, including horrific acts of sexual violence, with most cases committed in areas controlled by Russian armed forces.

In April, the UK launched the [Murad Code](#), a code of conduct for documenting the experiences of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in a way that upholds survivors’ rights. We are now urging governments, national authorities, international organisations and civil society to commit to taking a survivor-centred approach to such documentation – in line with the standards set out in the Code.

[In November the UK are hosting an ambitious international conference](#) that marks 10 years since the launch of the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative. We will use this to strengthen global action and deliver real change for survivors.

Mr Convenor, we know that violence against women and children is preventable. The UK remains steadfast in its commitment to working toward a future for women and children that is free from discrimination and violence.

Rigorous evaluations have shown that harmful attitudes and norms can change in less than three years – this does not have to take generations.

Thank you.

[Civil news: extension of civil contracts until 31 August 2024](#)

News story

Extension notices are being sent to all providers holding a 2018 Standard

Civil Contract.



We are extending the 2018 Standard Civil Contract and notices are now being sent to relevant providers.

What does this mean?

All contract-holders will receive offers to vary their contracts. This amendment will allow providers to continue delivering contracted services until the new end date of 31 August 2024.

Why is this happening now?

This is to allow us time to consider findings from the planned Ministry of Justice Civil Legal Aid Review. We can then consider how any changes could be introduced into future civil contracts.

What do contract-holders need to do?

Offers to vary contracts are being sent to all holders of the 2018 Standard Civil Contract. Providers will need to accept these offers if they are to continue delivering contracted services until the new end date of 31 August 2024.

Supporting contract schedules and timings

Supporting contract schedules will be issued to cover the period from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024.

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[**Support service for Northern Ireland**](#)

traders extended for a year

News story

The Trader Support Service, which helps businesses move goods between Great Britain and Northern Ireland, has been extended.



A business support service that helps those moving goods between Great Britain and Northern Ireland has been extended until December 2023.

More than 47,000 businesses have registered with the Trader Support Service (TSS) since its launch in 2020 to help them successfully navigate changes to the way goods move under the Northern Ireland Protocol.

The free-to-use digital platform helps businesses and traders of all sizes continue to trade seamlessly between Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The comprehensive service provides end-to-end support to manage digital declarations including completing import and safety and security declarations on behalf of traders.

The TSS, which provides guidance and training to help businesses understand what the Protocol means for them, enables traders to complete declarations without the need to purchase specialist software saving traders time and money.

The government is committed to ensuring traders are supported throughout 2023 to meet the requirements of moving goods between Great Britain and Northern Ireland, including tailoring this support in response to the changes the government is seeking to make to the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Businesses moving goods between Great Britain and Northern Ireland can [sign up to the Trader Support Service](#) and [access free online courses and training materials](#).

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UN Human Rights Council 51: UK statement following Putin's annexation of four Ukrainian regions

The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action stressed the importance of democracy for the enjoyment of human rights. And it states, in the clearest terms, that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives.

Yet what we have seen last week in Ukraine sought to make a mockery of these long-recognised principles. Putin's sham referenda must be seen for what they are: a desperate attempt to justify an unprovoked and illegal land grab of sovereign Ukrainian territory. A blatant continuation of the Kremlin's playbook, as seen before in Crimea in 2014. And a clear violation of international law.

This is not democracy, nor the will of the Ukrainian people. This is a farce – carried out with complete disregard for Ukraine's legal and constitutional framework, and down the barrel of a gun.

Let me be clear: the United Kingdom will never accept the regions of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia as anything other than Ukrainian territory.

Mr President,

The principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, so central to the UN Charter, are principles which all of us have a responsibility to uphold. As the UN Secretary General said last week, Putin's decision to proceed with the annexation of these regions has no legal value and must be condemned in the strongest terms.

We call on the international community to join us in unequivocally rejecting Russia's attempts to illegally annex Ukrainian territory, and to restore the ability of all people in Ukraine to express their will in a free and democratic society.

Thank you.