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At the start of the year we were pleased to be able to supply Martello Piling Ltd with two Delmag RH34 drilling rigs, plus associated attachments and tooling, at a new construction site in the Tower Hamlets area close to Canary Wharf, London.

Getting involved right from the start of the project, our RH34 rigs featured as a backdrop to the breaking ground ceremony, before being employed for the rather more arduous task of ground preparation and the installation of foundation piles.



The construction site is a patch of brownfield land sandwiched between the West India Dock Road (from where the new development will take its name: '82 West') and the Westferry DLR station. This parcel of what would appear to be waste ground has had numerous previous incarnations from cramped Victorian housing to office and light industrial use – most recently a two storey printworks. Each rebirth of the site has left its mark – no longer visible as the site has lain vacant for over 10 years, but underground in the form of multiple subsoil foundations.

Ground Preparation, Salter Street, London

Our client:

Martello Piling Ltd

Equipment Used:

Two Delmag RH34 rigs + BT340 rotary heads

Application:

Removal of subsoil obstructions



Once completed 82 West will comprise a multi-level mixed use development, reaching 30 storeys high in part. The finished structure will contain London's biggest and tallest Premier Inn hotel (with approx. 400 rooms) as well as 66 new



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homes, shared residential amenities and landscaped rooftop gardens.

A development on this scale requires extensive foundational support, and a solution was sought to avoid the costly, not to mention disruptive and time consuming, process of excavating the site before installation of the new foundations. The two powerful Delmag rigs were employed to core through the existing underground obstructions and remove existing concrete piles along the line of the new foundations.



The RH34 drilling rig has 420kN of crowd force, and with the BT340 rotary head producing 340kNm of torque it made light work of this first phase of the project.

Once the foundation path had been effectively cleared Martello would go on to install 188No.secant wall piles (Ø900mm) and 115No. bearing piles (Ø750mm) as foundations for the new construction.



As can be seen from aerial photographs this is a very compact piece of land, so the two rigs needed to work in sync, whilst co-ordinating with all other operations on site. Thanks to the surprising dexterity of such large and robust machines this did not prove to be any problem at all. All works were completed within a tight 3 week time-frame, much to the satisfaction of all parties concerned.

