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In April 2023 ABI Equipment Ltd were contracted to supply a Delmag RH34 drilling rig and associated tools to BAM Nuttall Ltd for use on the Pembroke Dock Marine Project. The project involved the construction of a new slipway and workboat pontoons at Britain's biggest energy port (owned and operated by the Port of Milford Haven).

Part of the £1.3 billion Swansea Bay City Deal, Pembroke Dock Marina will create a world-class centre for marine engineering and is set to generate around 1,800 highly skilled jobs, as well as generating extensive opportunities for the local supply chain.

The work being undertaken at Pembroke Dock, includes upgrading key elements of the port's infrastructure and the construction of new slipways and pontoons. These will give access to the new floating offshore wind farm planned for the Celtic Sea. The new slipway will allow for the easy launch and recovery of marine vessels and the pontoons will enable the floating offshore wind industry to operate more effectively.

BAM Nuttall chose the well proven Delmag RH34 drilling rig to form the required rock sockets into hard limestone. The rig, working from a jack-up barge, was fitted with a drill axis extension kit so as to increase reach and clearance in front of the leader mast. Working through a temporary guide frame and large diameter conductor casing the rig drilled Ø1500mm x 8m deep rock sockets into hard limestone to depths of 17m. Once formed the Ø1220mm pontoon piles were carefully placed and grouted within extremely tight tolerances.

Pembroke Dock Marine Project

Client: BAM Nuttall Ltd
Equipment: Delmag RH34
Technique: Piling work
Drilling rock sockets



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Adrian MacDonald (Works Manager) from BAM Nuttall commented:

“The marine environment is always challenging to work in given the vagaries of the British weather and tides, however the rig with ABI’s operator at the controls performed impeccably. Drilling conditions were difficult with the limestone having UCS values in places exceeding 120MPa. However, with the combination of our temporary works design and the sturdy, powerful Delmag RH34 and tooling package provided by ABI Equipment we were able to accurately place each pontoon pile to its required depth and comfortably within permitted tolerances. We were absolutely delighted with the equipment, support and service provided by ABI Equipment Ltd.”

