



## Priority Schools Building Programme Protection Works

 **VolkerLaser**

 a **VolkerWessels** company



Working within strict timescales, VolkerLaser have utilised specialist solutions to deliver a government initiative to the benefit of schools nationwide.

|                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| <b>Client</b>   | Morgan Sindall       |
| <b>Value</b>    | £1.3 million         |
| <b>Duration</b> | October 2015 to 2016 |

|                          |                                                         |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Services included</b> | Inverted roofing<br>Concrete deck work<br>Waterproofing |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|

The Education Funding Agency (EFA)'s Priority Schools Building Programme is a nationwide government initiative to improve schools that are in urgent need of repair. Under this programme, 260 schools are being rebuilt across the UK, with a completion date set for December 2017. The schools have been grouped together by geographical region, with those requiring the most work prioritised.

Appointed as a specialist subcontractor, VolkerLaser have been contracted to provide protection works to the current stock of twelve schools based in the North West, located in Blacon, Wigan, Neston, Prenton, Blackpool, Birkenhead, Halton, Stockport and Manchester.

Due to the strict timescales enforced by school holidays, it was important that work was carried out quickly. In order to meet these requirements, VolkerLaser specified Stirling Lloyd's Integritank for the waterproofing of the new inverted roofs. The system's fast curing time of 30-35 minutes was critical to the project, allowing other trades to continue working alongside the roof waterproofing. Applicable on 7-day old concrete, instead of the usual 28-day period - delivery speed was increased considerably. Our expertise and innovation cut valuable time on the project to just 36 weeks.

Throughout the first construction phase, approximately 8,500m<sup>2</sup> of waterproofing has been applied, over 1,000 paving slabs laid, and over 8,000m<sup>2</sup> of vertical insulation installed. This preliminary phase was completed in March 2016 to the benefit of around 2,000 school children - ready for their return after the Easter break for the start of summer term.

Working through the wettest winter on record and relentless high winds, conditions have been challenging for all involved due to adverse weather. Despite the limited hours of daylight, the VolkerLaser team have worked hard to deliver the works.

Built within existing boundaries adjacent to live schools, we have worked with the client in order to minimise disruption, noise and smell from the works. As part of our corporate social responsibility, VolkerLaser have also been in close liaison with headteachers and staff at the schools in order to educate pupils about site safety and the dangers of construction.

As a considerate contractor, VolkerLaser were proud to receive Morgan Sindall's Safety Award for the project's positive attitude to health and safety - as well as coming in top in our client's Supply Chain Partners Safety League.



The next phase of the project will entail even more challenging conditions for VolkerLaser; addressing inner-city logistical issues with cranes on public car parks, as well as facing high coastal winds on the sea fronts of Blackpool.

"The Priority Schools Building Programme is an important government initiative to be involved in, and through this project we're committed to improving the school environment for the North West community."

*Richard Woodward*  
Site Manager, VolkerLaser

