



PA [Phil] Green in 1976



PA [Phil] Green in 1995 as Chairman of SWK Holdings Ltd

Some brief memories of Phil Green

The story of Phil Green's involvement with Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick & Partners will be told elsewhere in the wider history of Firm. He is included here because of his senior position, his occasional involvement in Scott Wilson Scotland projects and because he was Chairman when I became a Director of SW Holdings Ltd. Phil was based at several locations during his career with Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick & Partners, principally in Basingstoke, then Matlock/Chesterfield and finally in London.

I first met Phil Green around 1973 when he was in charge of the Geotechnical Section in Basingstoke. Phil had been called in to advise on the treatment of difficult ground conditions in the Plantation Park, 'Braided Interchange' with the Dumbreck Road Link [M77], which had to be constructed just below existing ground level in alluvial silts and sands which had a high water table associated with the tidal River Clyde nearby. I had earlier been responsible for the geotechnical design of slopes and cuttings for Renfrew Motorway Stage 1 and was asked to assist Phil who required to inspect the ground in large trial pits and then take bagged samples of the various material encountered. In due course, Phil advised that it would be necessary to 'dewater' this cutting during construction of the road base and the associated drainage system until outfalls could be connected to the large diameter, Renfrew Motorway Outfall Sewer, then under construction to the River Clyde. In due course, wellpoints were installed, allowing the subgrade to be excavated re-compacted and the drainage system constructed. All went well and still does!

In the early 1980s, our paths crossed again when, following my return to Glasgow from Hong Kong, I was responsible for the design of a number of Bridges for the M42 and A6 for the Matlock Office. Phil had transferred to Matlock to take charge of the former Road Construction Unit following the death of Partner, KCW [Jimmy] James. On my occasional trips to Matlock, and later Chesterfield, Phil and I got to know one and other, enjoyed each other's company and exchanged views on many subjects, not least on where Scott Wilson was heading!

Later, in the mid 1980s, I was appointed an expert witness for IBM to investigate the subsidence of several very large piled 'Modules' or buildings then under construction at IBM, Spango Valley, Greenock. The piles had been driven to 'refusal' through thick layers of granular material placed on top of the natural ground which comprised many layers of peats, sands, silts and clays on top of weak and decomposed bedrock. Surprisingly, some of the newly driven piles had 'settled' while others appeared to have 'risen' above the surface of the granular material! The case eventually went to court in London, effectively to settle the proportion of the costs of investigation and remedial works that should be borne by the insurers of the several parties involved [Architect, Engineer, Main Contractor, and Piling Sub-Contractor]. Phil proved an excellent sounding board at various stages in the investigations and was, himself, called as an expert witness during the court case, albeit briefly. My term in the witness box lasted just over a week!

Following my appointment as a Partner in 1987, I was in more frequent contact with Phil at Partners' Meetings and other events. He was a good companion and was always willing to listen and to give sound advice and direction when asked.

JP McCafferty July 2015.