

# Bridging the gap

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*Martyn Lamond Sherwood, Metrail Construction Limited*



As one of the UK's leading specialist infrastructure contractors working on some of the nation's major engineering and construction projects, Metrail Construction Limited places great value on the importance of collaboration and innovation, putting these at the heart of its business. And, according to founder and Managing Director Martyn Lamond Sherwood, these alliances go further than just the engineering and construction companies it works alongside on developments for the likes of London Underground, Network Rail and Highways England.

“As well as delivering a high standard of work for our contractors, we also look at the public's perception of a project – particularly as they are the end user,” says Sherwood. “During our work on London Bridge, we considered whether to close it in its entirety or in lane closures. What works best for all parties, including the end users – the drivers and pedestrians?”

Singularly skilled in maintaining the life of bridges and preventing damage, Metrail supplies and installs bridge deck waterproofing membranes, bridge expansion joints, concrete repairs and structural protection. Sherwood believes that the company's strong focus on teamwork and innovation

allow for its cost-effective, sustainable and robust solutions.

Established in 2007 as an agile alternative to the big players on the market, Metrail has grown in the intervening years and now has a Scottish and Northern office to complement its Sussex base. Recently it partnered with a German company to transform methods of slab stabilisation on concrete roads. By utilising these new methods, the time that roads are out of use has been dramatically reduced. “It's a game-changer,” says Sherwood proudly, “and proof that we're always looking at ways of working better.” Accordingly, Metrail has completed an increasing number of high-profile jobs, including London Bridge, HS1, Rochester Bridge and the M62 Lofthouse Interchange.

The company also places great stock in sustainability – not only offsetting its carbon footprint via projects in Kenya and Uganda, but by improving the external environment in which it works. “There is obviously a commercial aspect,” Sherwood explains, “but if we can deliver our projects to the highest standard while minimising the environmental impact, we believe this gives the most positive impact on the lives of the community around us.”

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