

NEWS RELEASE – 21 October 2013

Hills Group highlights H&S training success and improvements in reporting

The Hills Group is marking European Week for Safety and Health (EWSH) by acknowledging six members of its senior management team who have successfully completed and passed the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) 'Managing safely' course.

EWSH runs from 21 – 26 October and the 'working together on risk management' campaign focuses on managing risks, encouraging top managers to actively engage in risk reduction and encouraging workers and their representatives to work with managers to reduce risks.

"We operate in three of the most statistically dangerous industries in the UK," says chief executive Mike Hill, "and as a result we take health and safety seriously. Our good health and safety record speaks for itself and is one we are proud of, but whilst there is no room for complacency there is always room for improvement." The Hills Group's operations cover waste management and recycling, quarrying and production of ready mixed concrete, and building construction including new homes.



The graduates pictured (L to R) are Chris Boyd, Lower Compton depot manager; Alex Henderson company secretary; Andrea Pellegram technical manager - Waste Solutions; Steve Burns, divisional director - Waste Solutions; Mike Webster, group director - Waste Solutions & Neil Luce, transport supervisor - Waste Solutions

The IOSH 'Managing safely' course is a nationally recognised and respected certificate designed to give managers the knowledge and tools to handle health and safety issues. The course covers subjects such as assessing and controlling risks; identifying hazards; investigating accidents and incidents, and protecting the environment.



Earlier this year the Group launched its 'Year of Health and Safety' initiative to highlight the importance of working in safe environments and reducing time off as a result of injury at work.

Focusing on the principles of strong management leadership combined with active worker participation as specified by the EWSH, Hills has laid out specific targets to reduce the number of reported incidents during the year.

Employees throughout the company have been issued with 'near miss booklets' to capture potential health and safety issues they come across whilst at work and report, to their manager, the action taken to immediately resolve the matter. Managers then follow up the reports with more permanent solutions.

Mike Hill said: "I am confident that we will achieve the target set. It is widely acknowledged that for every one accident there are 10 near misses. So improving our reporting of near misses and taking action to eliminate the risks should result in even fewer accidents." **ENDS**

Notes to editors:

The Hills Group Limited

Established in 1900 The Hills Group Limited is a privately owned family company with a broad and successful portfolio of business activities which include recycling and waste management; quarrying of aggregates and production of ready-mixed concrete; and building new homes. It is a dynamic regional business which, while centred on Wiltshire, has stretched its boundaries into neighbouring areas. The Group has a turnover of £81 million and employs over 400 people at 28 sites.

www.hills-group.co.uk

Media contact:

Monique Hayes, Communications Officer, The Hills Group Limited

Tel: 01672 518941 monique.hayes@hills-group.co.uk



@HillsGroup



Hills Group