



## The Hills Group

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from the ground up

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Hills' core values:

FAMILY  ETHOS  
& COMMITMENT  
 HONESTY & INTEGRITY  
 INNOVATION  
SERVICE &  QUALITY  
ENJOYMENT 

# Message from the chief executive

Edward quite literally built the business from the ground up



Edward Hill in 1918.

It is a pleasure to introduce this substantial update on a brochure we originally produced to celebrate our centenary back in 2000. We now have around twice as many employees and a number of new operations. We have weathered a stinging recession, chalking up some notable achievements with exciting plans for future development.

Much has changed, and yet the essential spirit of our business remains much as it was way back when my great grandfather launched it in 1900. I often wonder how Edward felt when he set out single-handed as a brick maker all those years ago - he quite literally built the business 'from the ground up' using materials dug from the earth. The intervening stewardships of my father's and grandfather's generations each overcame daunting challenges and enjoyed great successes.

The fact that we remain a strong unit owes a great deal to the loyalty and commitment of an admirable workforce over four generations. But we also need to thank our shareholders who ensure that we remain independent and can do what most public companies cannot in taking a longer term view of our business.

In this publication, we look back at the formative years which shaped The Hills Group. We also explore the present and look ahead to the future direction of the company in order to provide a complete picture.

My take on the years ahead is that we certainly have hurdles to cross as the nation reduces its debt. We are, however, very well placed to build on the achievements that have gone before. The Hills family business will doubtless be very different ten years from now, but our core values will be much as they have always been.

Michael Hill  
Chief executive



# Family foundations

Edward Hill was still only 28 when, in 1900, he set up in business at the Morris Street Brickworks in Rodbourne, Swindon – and the story of The Hills Group began. The family characteristic that Edward so ably demonstrated was to work hard and play hard.

Combine that with energy, enterprise, affability and confidence and you have the recipe that is still evident today in the Hills family business. It is a special blend that has enabled the family to weather the ups and downs of business life and emerge united and successful.

Throughout, the family has produced capable sons who have carried the company into successive generations. Edward fathered four sons, three of whom played a major part in the business – Grahame, Harold and Mervyn. All lived and breathed the business. Their sons – Victor, Tony, Beverley, Richard, Edward and Robert – all went on to play key roles.



A Hill family portrait taken in the late 19th century. Edward is second on the left in the back row.  
Photo courtesy Rev F. Fuller



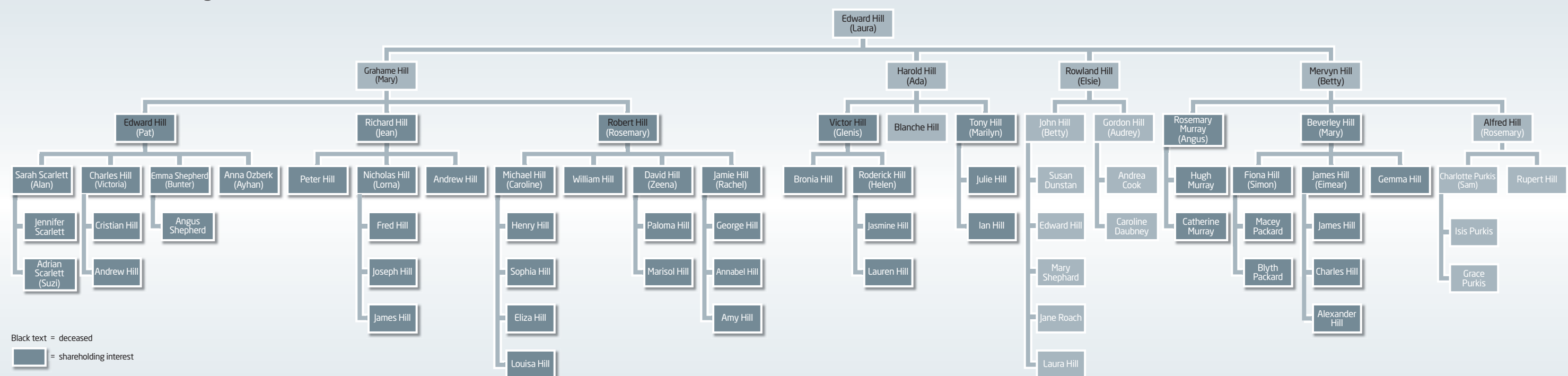
Robert Hill, Michael Hill and Alan Pardoe.

It is perhaps fitting that in this brochure reviewing Hills' history that special homage is paid to the late Robert Hill who died in 2014.

The former chairman who reorganised the business in the 70s and 80s, ably assisted by the current chairman Alan Pardoe, has more than anyone shaped the modern day Hills Group. Robert's son Michael continues to drive the business forward building on his father's many achievements.

Family bonds are strong, but they are by no means exclusive when it comes to bringing talent into the business. Non-family members have, and still are, greatly valued. It is that astuteness and generosity of spirit that has kept the business afloat when others have floundered on a desire to 'keep it in the family'.

## The Hill family tree





# Early days

Hills' association with Swindon began in the middle of the 19th century when Edward Hill's father (also Edward) moved to Swindon from Weston-Super-Mare where the family had long been involved in brick and tile manufacture as well as boat making.

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AN INDUSTRIAL PIONEER  
IN SWINDON

Death of Mr. Edward Hill, at  
age of 84

FOUR years ago the firm of Hills of Swindon, Ltd., celebrated its 50th birthday. Yesterday, Mr. Edward Hill, the man who founded it and nursed it to prosperity, died at his home, Windyridge, Obus Road, Swindon, at the age of 84.

His health had been failing for the past year and on Thursday he had a slight stroke.

Third in a line of five generations of brick-makers, Mr. Hill's life story was one which had a close association with the early growth of Swindon as an industrial town.

When he founded the firm 50 years ago he leased a works in Morris Street, part of the Morrison Estate, and went into partnership with 17 brickworks in the immediate locality. Today there are two—both owned by his firm, at Purton and Badbury.

**Gradual Expansion**

As the business grew Mr. Hill introduced another side to it. He built up a haulage concern, starting with horses and carts, which were superseded by traction engines and steam wagons. The firm today owns a big fleet of petrol and diesel lorries.

The firm is also a general builders' merchant and owns sand and gravel pits. Together with its subsidiary companies it now has an annual turnover of more than £1m.

The year 1953 was a notable one in Mr. Hill's life. Apart from the firm's golden jubilee it was the

For many years Mr. Hill was director and treasurer of Swindon Town, retiring two years ago. Up to the time of his death he was vice-president.

Mr. Hill is survived by his widow and four sons, three of whom are in the family business. There are also a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Grand Gentleman**

At yesterday's Swindon Rotary luncheon, Mr. C. J. Beach referred to Mr. Hill as "that grand old gentleman who had such a wonderful and coloured life."

Members stood in silence after Mr. Beach expressed the club's deepest sympathy to Mr. Hill's sons, one of whom is Mr. W. J. R. Hill, president of the club.

Mr. F. C. G. Hill said his father had been a Rotarian in his early days and had always taken a keen interest in Rotary.



Edward Hill (centre) and his four sons, from left to right, Grahame, Rowland, Mervyn and Harold.



Sentinel S4 WV 4104 was used to carry gravel from the South Cerney pit and was displayed at the Commercial Vehicle Show at Olympia in 1934.



Mervyn, Rowland and Grahame Hill portray the Moonrakers at the annual Clay Pigeon Club dinner at the Kings Arms, Swindon in 1951.



The clay pit at Purton.

Report in the Swindon Evening Advertiser, Friday August 24 1956.



Purton Brickworks, run for many years by Harold Hill and later by his son Victor.

The family had long been involved in brick and tile making as well as boats.



Edward Hill, 1872–1956.

He settled in Stratton St Margaret, married a local girl and, after hauling coal in barges and working as master craftsman at a pottery, managed three local brickworks.

The spirit for which the family is still known shone through when the younger Edward took himself with a friend to the United States in 1891 at the age of just 19, where he worked for a time at a brickworks. It was an experience that was to influence much of his later thinking on the subject.

Soon after his return he took on the management of the Transfer Brickworks in Swindon before going into business on his own in 1900 at the Morris Street Brickworks. Six years later and trading simply as 'E Hill', he acquired three neighbouring brickworks at Kingshill, Badbury and Purton.

Purton Brickworks was to become the driver for the growing company. In the years before the First World War, Edward secured the use of rail sidings to speed the despatch of his products. He greatly improved the plant, which soon gave the village a landmark in the shape of a 100-foot chimney.





# Purton Brickworks

Employees stocking the  
continuous kiln at Purton.





# War years



Home Guard dog tag.



Kingshill Home Guard c1941.  
Mervyn Hill is fourth left, front row.  
Photo courtesy D Bedford, Swindon Society



Swindon ARP men with a display of household air raid shelters  
c1942. The shelter was erected by E Hill & Sons.  
Photo courtesy A Beane, Swindon Society



The cheque which Hills sent to the Swindon Spitfire fund in 1940.



Beverley Hill as a schoolboy helping with  
earthmoving on a USAAF tractor at Hills' site  
at Lower Way, Thatcham, 1945.

The steam powered Earl Kitchener  
was used by Hills in the early part  
of the 20th Century.

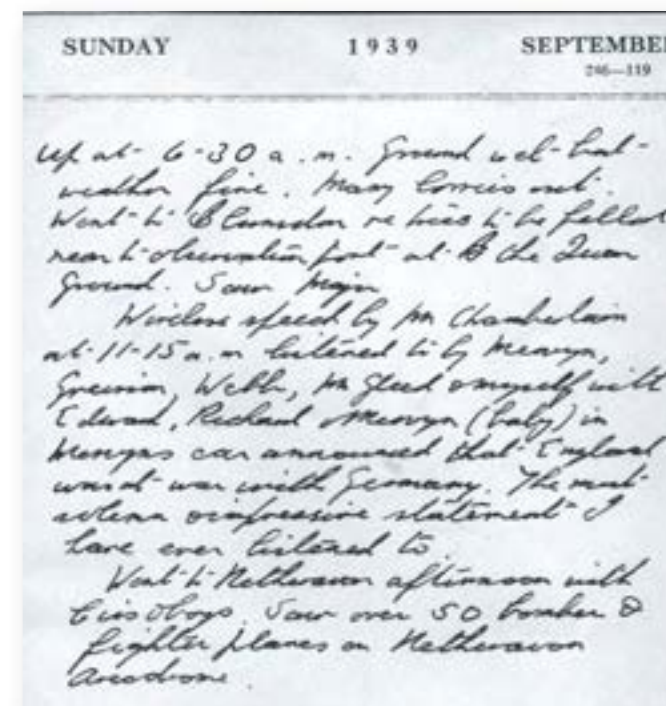


Commer Superpoise 4x4. The wonderfully named  
'Superpoise' was formerly a military vehicle that Hills  
converted to a mobile workshop complete with welding  
equipment to support the plant hire business.

The family was at  
the heart of  
wartime activities  
in the area.

Soon after the war, Edward began to turn his energy to digging gravel at South Cerney, near Cirencester and leased a stone quarry at nearby Stratton.

By the advent of the Second World War, the business was trading as 'E Hill & Sons' and based itself at Kingshill in Swindon. The family was at the heart of wartime activities in the area, with many lorries requisitioned for Army use, earning liberal petrol allowances for essential activities such as hauling gravel and timber for new aerodromes, excavating foundations for new factories and supplying air raid shelters.



Extract from Grahame Hill's diary for  
September 3, 1939 – the declaration of war.  
Grahame kept his diary throughout his life until  
his death in 1977.

Grahame and Mervyn set up the Kingshill Home Guard, which most of Hills' employees joined, while Harold was on active service in Europe. The company also donated £1,000 to the Swindon Spitfire Fund.

During this time, gravel extraction began in earnest at Newbury, and both Harry Boulton and Stan Goss – familiar names in Hills' lore – joined the company. Another employee, Peter Carver, was shot down while on active service off Tunisia but survived to return to his job at Kingshill after the war.

Grahame's wartime diaries tell these and many other stories of air raids, Churchill's speeches, shortage of sweets and silk stockings. Mervyn meanwhile, was kept busy helping the company to 'make-do and mend', keeping costs down by extending the working life of vehicles and machinery.



# Family

*The Hill family in 1943, from left to right: (back row)  
John, Gordon, Elsie, Rowland, Mervyn, Betty, Blanche, Victor.  
(middle row) Grahame, Mary, Edward, Laura,  
Harold, Ada, Tony (baby),  
(front row) Edward,  
Richard, Robert,  
Rosemary, Beverley.*







Earl Kitchener, used by Hills in the early part of this century and pictured here in scarlet glory when owned by the showmen, R Edwards & Sons Ltd. Photo courtesy Roy Thomas, Swindon Camera Club



Hills' Driver George Sanger and the 1938 Bedford lorry he drove for many years. Photo courtesy George's son Brian Sanger.



The striking looking ERF 'Kleer-View' KV-Cab caused quite a stir at motor shows in the mid 1950s.



An early brick delivery lorry. This four-wheel drive vehicle had a mechanical container for tipping its entire load.

# Wheels turning faster

By the 1960s  
some Hills  
vehicles were  
fitted with  
two-way radio  
much ahead of  
their time.

By 1957 the business – by then a limited company – operated around 100 goods vehicles and even had a London transport base. Growth through the 50s was slow but investment continued in plant, vehicles and gravel-bearing land. Sand came from quarries in Calne and Newbury; gravel from Lacock, Newbury and South Cerney; precast concrete from a works at South Cerney; blocks from Purton and bricks from Purton and Badbury.

Administration was carried out at Kingshill under Grahame's direction, while Mervyn led on plant hire and repair, research and development. He was a radio enthusiast and by the 1960s some Hills vehicles were fitted with two-way radio much ahead of their time. Harold, on returning from the war, took up the reins at the brickworks. This period also saw the set-up, under Richard Hill's wing, of companies supplying reconditioned tyres. When the concept of ready-mixed concrete burst upon the building scene, Hills set up Mixconcrete subsidiaries in Swindon, Newbury, Devizes and Bristol.

A feature of the post-war years was the employment by Hills of German prisoners of war and later of Italian workmen, some of whom stayed on in Swindon as the nucleus of today's Italian community.



First prize – a 1920s photo of a Hills lorry taking part in a carnival procession displaying the firm's motto at the time: Anything, Anywhere, Anytime. Harold Hill is on the right.



Top right. Cyril Hares clearing a site at Moredon, Swindon, ready for new housing in 1963.

Middle right. A Drott excavator being lowered into the tunnel beneath, Swindon Station in the 1960s. Driver Cyril Hares has vivid memories of the noise from trains thundering overhead.

Bottom right. Brick delivery lorry from the 1920s.



In the 1960s Hills offered HGV training at Badbury brickworks. John Parker instructs.



# The quest for gravel

Aggregates have been important for Hills throughout its existence and prospecting was a major preoccupation. Many of the family have memories of sitting in the back seat of Dad's or Grandpa's car and being driven to a location while their elders prodded the ground or bored holes!



*Frozen gravel lake at South Cerney in the winter of 1962-1963.*



*A Ruston Bucyrus excavator with grab loading an S-type petrol Bedford six-tonne tipper at the Broadway Lane North Gravel Plant, South Cerney.*



*Cotswold gravel is washed ready for sale.*



*Early processing of sand and gravel.*



*A driver levels his load on his Type-O Bedford at (Royal) Wootton Bassett railway station in the late 1950s.*

Hills still retains substantial gravel reserves in the Cotswold Water Park.

Today, the Cotswold Water Park is the most important source of gravel in the region – and yet quarrying has also been the vehicle for the creation of a beauty spot and leisure amenity enjoyed year-round by many thousands of people. Hills was active in the area from 1919 and is thought to have been the first quarry company to operate there.

Extraction began on a much larger scale after the Second World War, when the first of today's 140-plus lakes was formed. Because the water table is so high, the first quarries were dug 'wet' using a dragline loading onto barges. Today, however, the quarries are 'de-watered'. When extraction is complete, the pumps are switched off and the sites fill naturally with water.



*A young Robert Hill pictured with wife Rosie.*

Harold's son, Tony, worked for the business at South Cerney in the arctic winter of 1962-63 and recalls ice on the lake so thick that cars could be driven across it. Many of the lakes were made available for leisure as well as wildlife, and Hills took the initiative by forming the Cotswold Marina Company in 1971.

Today, Hills still retains substantial gravel reserves in the Cotswold Water Park and is justly proud of the part it and other operators have played in creating a leisure facility that is larger than the Norfolk Broads.

Despite the great activity of the 1960s – including the work that went with motorways coming to the area – it was an unsettled decade for the company financially. Amongst those who joined the company in that period was Grahame's youngest son, Robert, a qualified chartered accountant who went on to become managing director in 1968.





# Expanding interests



Amongst the non-family executives of great significance to the company was Don Howard, who was appointed director and general manager in 1969. His arrival heralded a period of expansion and increased profitability. Unprofitable operations were improved or sold.



Back and front pages of the Hills Home Improvement Centre newspaper.



Bedford lorry from the Bristol Depot.



Builders merchants leaflet.



Working the Lulgate quarry face near Bristol.



Hills of Swindon's new showroom. Peter Ball, brick sales manager, sorting bricks in the brick library.



Hills bought Handygas in 1978.



Shareholders and directors at the 80th anniversary dinner at The Goddard Arms Hotel, Swindon.



BP made Hills an offer it couldn't refuse for both Handygas and Sungas.



Brickworks were closed at Devizes in 1968 and Badbury in 1970, but the land retained. The company divested itself of its long-distance haulage operations, plant hire was reorganised and the servicing workshop closed down.

The focus for investment switched instead to waste disposal and to skips for hire, with a series of acquisitions in the west plus a quarry south of Bristol to supply road building materials. Purchase of a brickworks in Gloucestershire in 1975 proved to be a wider catalyst in that its kilns were fired by liquid propane gas bought from Shell. Soon, Purton brickworks switched to the same fuel and the company went on to buy two distributors, Handygas and Sungas - which were subsequently purchased by BP when they made Hills an offer for both companies it couldn't refuse.

In the 1970s and 1980s, much group activity centred on Hills Building Supplies - originally developed after the war to offer a wide range of drainage pipes, bricks, cement, timber and other materials. Ever alert to new trends, Hills was in the vanguard of the booming DIY home improvements era with the launch in 1977 by comedian Eric Morecambe of the Hills Home Improvement Centre at Kingshill.

The death the same year of Grahame Hill brought to an end involvement by the sons of the founder. Mervyn had retired in 1972 to live in Malta and Harold had died in 1973. On his father's death, Robert became chairman of the family company at the age of 38.



Market conditions proved much more difficult generally in the 1980s. Hills put the merchandising operation up for sale after market forces foiled efforts to boost its performance. The divestment of the various operations was followed by a move of headquarters from Kingshill to Marlborough in 1990.





## Kingshill Builders Merchants

*A typical scene in the 1970s  
as local tradesmen purchase  
equipment and supplies.*



# New directions

While the Cotswold Water Park quarrying operations left lakes for leisure and nature's benefit, Hills' quarries elsewhere created voids that were of commercial value for disposal of builders' rubble and also for household waste.



The end of Badbury brickworks.



Islip Roseman – Championship winner from Hills Farms.



Compactor on Volvo F6 skip vehicle, Brunel Centre, Swindon.



Robert Hill and Alan Pardoe.



A landfill site is constructed to stringent Environment Agency standards.

Hills still retains substantial gravel reserves in the Water Park.

The growing potential of this activity was recognised in 1968 when the company purchased its first skip vehicle – the basic tool of waste disposal. Before long, it had acquired a fleet of skips which were run in conjunction with plant hire.

While waste disposal grew in its potential, other parts of the group came to an end. Farming operations at Kintbury, Calne and Purton were all wound up when the managing director of that business, Edward Hill (Grahame's eldest son), retired.

One-by-one, the brickworks closed, squeezed by the larger national manufacturers. Devizes went in 1968, Badbury in 1970 and finally, Purton in 1977. While the land at Badbury was restored, Purton proved a valuable landfill site as well as a source of impermeable clay for projects such as lining the restored Kennet and Avon Canal. Today, the old Purton site also houses an industrial estate as well as a Hills transport depot and Household Recycling Centre.

While the former Thatcham sand and gravel quarry became an industrial estate, two major new aggregate reserves were bought in 1984 at Shorncote, near Cirencester and at Faringdon.

Alan Pardoe became managing director in 1992, with Robert Hill as chairman. Under their direction, the group concentrated on a narrower but more profitable range of activities. In 1998, it bought out builders Olivemead Developments and launched itself into a new core activity – the construction of high quality homes. By then, the company had changed its name to The Hills Group.



Beverley Hill, mainly involved with planning applications and licences, also helped the company realise the potential of skips.





# Cotswold Water Park

*Careful restoration and collaborative work over many years has created an exceptional leisure amenity and a haven for wildlife.*





# Today's business

Today's Hills Group is a dynamic regional business which, while still centred on Wiltshire, has stretched its boundaries into neighbouring areas and now serves customers across the UK. Hills was based for almost a quarter of a century in the market town of Marlborough.



*Hills Warrior Compost is certified to the BS1 PAS 100 standard.*



*A Hills employee assists a member of the public at one of Wiltshire's Household Recycling Centres.*



*The Northacre Resource Recovery Centre in Westbury.*



*Commercial waste collection.*

The workforce has doubled to over 400 people since the millennium.

In 2014 the Group's headquarters relocated to the area of its roots in Swindon with impressive new offices that reflect the progressive nature of the business.

The workforce has doubled to over 400 people since the millennium, but it remains dedicated to three core activities: waste management, quarry products and the building of new homes.

## Waste Solutions

Recycling and waste management activities continue to grow apace for customers in both the public and private sectors. While hazardous and non-hazardous landfill remains an important activity – it is now a final option as Hills Waste Solutions seeks every opportunity to transform waste into a resource.

Each year 60,000 tonnes of Wiltshire's household waste is processed at the Northacre Resource Recovery Centre, creating solid recovered fuel (SRF) for power stations, with an additional 50,000 tonnes processed at Lakeside Energy from Waste facility, creating electricity for the National Grid. Garden waste is transformed into a peat-free, compost that is certified to BSI PAS 100 standard and is accredited by the Soil Association and Association for Organics Recycling – it's a perfect example of closed loop recycling.

In a typical year, the business manages over 600,000 tonnes of waste, diverting around 60 percent from landfill, and harnesses sufficient gas from landfill sites to satisfy the electricity needs of some 10,500 homes.



*Hills Waste Solutions' Quality, Environmental and Health and Safety Management Systems are certified to the international standards of ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001.*





Woodsford Quarry near Dorchester. Quarry Products' most southerly site.



Hills Homes receives an award from the Council for the Protection of Rural England for the Stonesfield Close development.



Quality materials, fixtures and fittings are the hallmarks of a Hills Home.



A stylish show home at one of Hills' developments.



### Quarry Products

Hills has been involved in the prospecting and extraction of sand and gravel for nearly a century. The modern day business operates strategically located quarries, serving wide areas of Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire and Dorset.



The company's ready-mixed concrete business now operates a network of successful concrete plants. Muck-away and haulage services complete the offering, with several licensed waste disposal sites available. Quarry Products has taken the lead on a number of industry safety initiatives including the MPA Cycle Safe campaign.



Hills gets the safety message over to cyclists at the Castle Combe Cycling Festival.

Hills has been involved in the prospecting and extraction of sand and gravel since the early 1900s.

Hills Homes continues to win recognition and accolades for the quality and energy efficiency of its properties.

### Homes

Hills Homes grew quickly following the purchase of Olivemead Developments in 1998 and continues to win recognition and accolades for the quality and design of its properties. The business has earned a glowing reputation for building quality homes in carefully selected locations.



Traditional building skills, craftsmanship and the most up to date green technologies are combined with the best quality materials to create beautiful homes which offer stylish, sustainable and efficient modern living.



Stonesfield Close, in Southrop - one of numerous award-winning developments.



Hills' world...

1. Golf course with a white horse silhouette on a green hill.

2. A row of trees along a road.

3. A Hills' truck at a waste transfer station.

4. A recycling center with a green recycling symbol.

5. A Hills' truck at a waste transfer station.

6. A Hills' truck at a waste transfer station.

7. A Hills' truck at a waste transfer station.

8. A Hills' excavator at a quarry.

9. A Hills' excavator at a quarry.

10. Solar panels.

11. A Hills' truck at a waste transfer station.

12. A Hills' truck at a waste transfer station.

13. A Hills' truck at a waste transfer station.

14. A Hills' truck at a waste transfer station.

15. A Hills' truck at a waste transfer station.

16. A residential building.

17. A Hills' truck at a waste transfer station.

18. A Hills' truck at a waste transfer station.

19. A Hills' truck at a waste transfer station.

20. A Hills' truck at a waste transfer station.

21. A Hills' truck at a waste transfer station.

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26. A Hills' truck at a waste transfer station.

27. A Hills' truck at a waste transfer station.

28. A Hills' truck at a waste transfer station.

29. A Hills' truck at a waste transfer station.

- 30



# Looking ahead

The economic climate has been a challenging one in recent times, but The Hills Group is, nonetheless, in good shape and well prepared to tackle future challenges and pursue opportunities.



The main hall at the Northacre Resource Recovery Centre - transforming domestic waste into a fuel to generate electricity.



The Porte Marsh Materials Recycling Facility processes cardboard and plastics.



A handshake seals another waste management and recycling deal with a private sector customer.



The Redtop Recycler™ bins are a convenient solution for commercial dry mixed recycling.

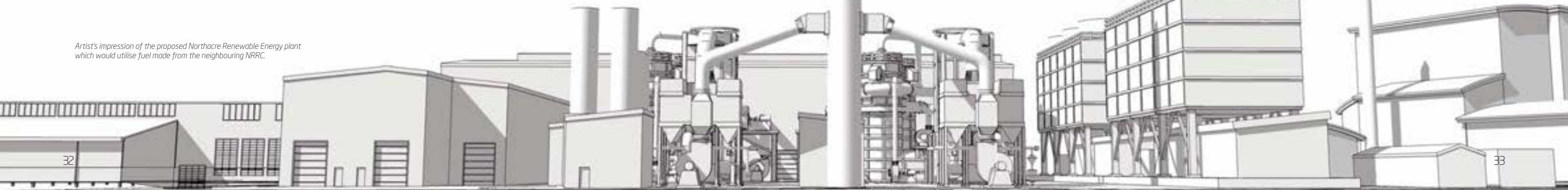
Hills Waste Solutions continues to innovate.

The field of recycling and waste management offers particular scope for consolidation and expansion as both the private and public sectors transform their operations to become environmentally sustainable. With landfill an increasingly unattractive option for both financial and ethical reasons – Hills Waste Solutions continues to innovate as a pioneer of the circular economy with business activities increasingly focussed on sustainability and utilising waste as a resource.

This is epitomised by the construction of the £24 million Northacre Resource Recovery Centre – Wiltshire’s first plant to use mechanical biological treatment to create fuel for power generation. Operated under a 25 year contract agreed with Wiltshire Council it has paved the way for further investment in projects harnessing advanced technologies to process waste to generate energy. Given increasing recognition of its highly professional and yet traditional and flexible approach, Hills Waste Solutions looks set to continue the trend of winning large waste management contracts with the private and public sectors across the UK.



Artist's impression of the proposed Northacre Renewable Energy plant which would utilise fuel made from the neighbouring NRRC.







Mobile plant extracts sand from the Shorncliffe Quarry.

Quarry Products will be looking to expand its network of ready-mixed concrete plants, whilst continuing investment in existing sites to ensure the high quality products associated with QSRMC accreditation are maintained.

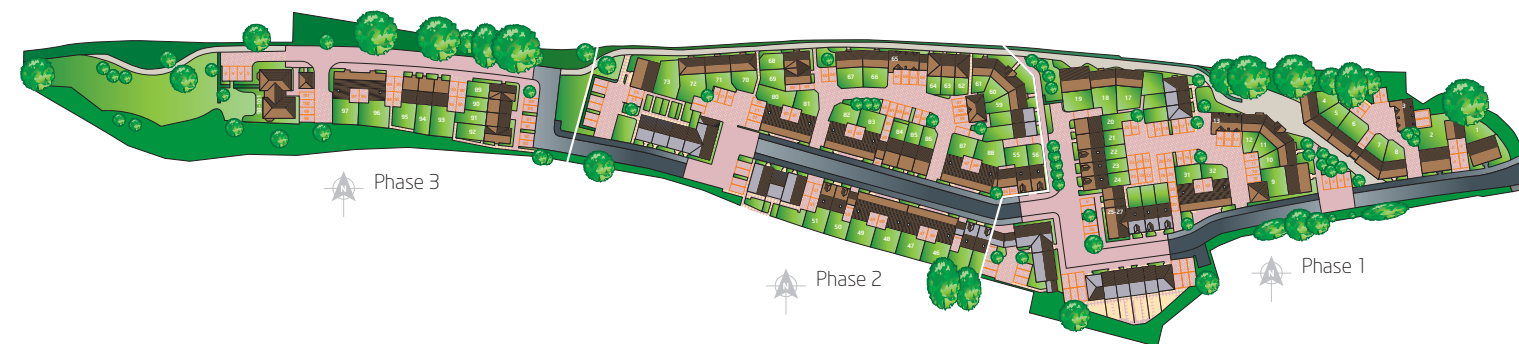
In addition to traditional ready-mixed concrete, screed and mini mix services the business will actively seek out partnerships with concrete product manufacturers as well as offering specialist concrete mixes and concrete pumping services.

On the aggregates front, the Quarry Products business faces challenges that are common to the industry in replenishing reserves. The newly opened Cerney Wick Quarry in the Cotswold Water Park will help meet market demand for washed aggregate products and wildlife will be encouraged to the site during the various stages the quarry will go through. Additional quarry sites with potentially substantial reserves are being investigated as is the potential of harnessing green energy to power the quarry sites.

Quarry Products' ready-mixed concrete is pumped on to a construction site.



Cerney Wick  
Quarry will help  
meet market  
demand.



Traditional building skills and the most up to date green technology create sustainable and efficient modern homes.



Hills Homes has a diverse portfolio of developments from substantial detached family homes to contract builds for social housing.



Hills own site foremen work with trusted contractors to deliver sites on time and on budget.

Hills Homes will continue to proactively search for sites with development potential across central southern England whilst utilising landholdings from the wider Hills Group. From bespoke country homes on the edge of sought after villages to major urban developments, Hills Homes brings individual quality to each of its developments. LABC and NHBC warranties will give buyers further peace of mind that they are purchasing a quality home.

The business is also a successful contract builder, with its expanding portfolio of residential developments for housing associations.





# Caring and sharing

Throughout its long history, Hills has always held on fiercely to its independence. Despite working in industries dominated by multi-national concerns, the close support of shareholders has made it possible to resist overtures to join forces.



*Burage & Easton Royal Cricket Club celebrate their new practice nets thanks to a LCF grant from The Hills Group.*



*Calne Town FC are one of many local sports clubs which Hills sponsor with direct funding.*



*Chief executive Mike Hill opens an extension to the Wiltshire Scrapstore - funded by a Hills LCF grant.*



*Hills has sponsored the Marlborough Jazz Festival since its inception in 1986.*



*Breast Cancer Awareness is one of the many causes employees support on fundraising days.*

A wide variety  
of community  
projects have also  
benefitted from  
Hills' LCF grants.

Today, the business is led by chief executive Michael Hill, the great grandson of its founder, with Alan Pardoe now in the role of chairman. Under them, the business remains very much a family one, and that is reflected in its relationships with its stakeholders – and in its approach in particular to its employees, to local communities where it operates and to the environment.

The company cares passionately about people with the health and safety of its employees as its top priority. It operates to high environmental standards designed to minimise any impact on its neighbours, and communicates readily with them on a day-to-day basis and through a string of liaison committees, publications and digital media.

Restoration of land that has been quarried – sometimes through landfill – is a particular skill that has won the company a series of top industry awards. The work in the Cotswold Water Park is of particular note, but so too is Langford Lakes, a superb nature reserve in the Wylde Valley near Salisbury. The achievement is one of many in which Hills has partnered the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust with substantial and still growing overall benefits to nature and communities.

In 1992 Hills embarked on what was to become a unique partnership by providing direct funding to the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. This partnership took advantage of the opportunity presented by the Government in 1996 to allocate a portion of its landfill tax to local good causes. Since then Hills has continued to support Wiltshire Wildlife Trust together with other organisations such as Community First and the Cotswold Water Park Trust, granting millions of pounds through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) to help preserve the amazing biodiversity of habitats and species in Wiltshire for all of us to enjoy.

A wide variety of community projects have also benefitted from Hills' LCF grants, ranging from village halls and churches, to sports clubs, canal locks and children's play areas – not to mention the numerous charitable causes The Hills Group supports with direct donations.

*Hills was a key partner in the creation of the Repair Academy - giving new skills and hope to young people.*



*Young BMX fans show their gratitude for Hills' LCF grant.*



*Hills supports the stunning Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Langford Lakes reserve.*



*Marlborough pensioners enjoy a Christmas lunch thanks to a donation in memory of Robert Hill.*





# Langford Lakes

*This stunning Wiltshire Wildlife Trust reserve covers an expanse of 31 hectares, with four lakes and an 800m stretch of the Wylfe River.*







**The Hills Group Limited**

Wiltshire House, County Park Business Centre  
Shrivenham Road, Swindon, Wiltshire SN1 2NR

**T:** 01793 781200

**E:** [info@hills-group.co.uk](mailto:info@hills-group.co.uk)

**www.hills-group.co.uk**

 **@HillsGroup**

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