



2019

BRMCA Award for
Excellence in
Customer Service
WINNER
CEMEX



CEMEX was the 2019 winner for this wind turbine base.



Embankment, Manchester.

Accolade Wines, wind turbine base

The British Ready-Mixed Concrete Association Award for Excellence in Customer Service recognises ready-mixed concrete companies who provide a high-quality, efficient and professional service. The 2019 winner was presented at The Concrete Society Awards Dinner.

The 2019 winner is CEMEX for its concrete supply and service for a wind turbine base in Avonmouth. The wind turbine base is unusual as it was cast entirely above ground and located within a busy 24 hours-a-day wine processing plant. The C40/50 strength-class concrete was also out of the ordinary, with the inclusion of two types of fibres, macro and micro, as well as admixtures. The 630m³ concrete pour was well planned and executed, and in the event went better than anticipated, with over 100 deliveries supplied to two concrete pumps in under 10 hours. The wine processing plant remained fully functional with minimum disruption throughout the day.

The concrete was challenging as each load took an average of five minutes extra per load to mix properly and, further, the truck-mixer capacity was reduced to retain the high-consistence, slump class S5, concrete. Due to the depth of concrete, (around 2m), it was crucial to keep the concrete placement continuous. In order to achieve the required rate and volume of production, three concrete plants were dedicated to supply. A number of extra trucks were required on the day to ensure continuity of supply and cover for mandatory driver rest periods. Two high-capacity (11m³) articulated truck mixers were used for the first time in the region.

Careful planning identified that the best route to maximise traffic movement was to enter the premises from the back gate rather than the front. In this way, disturbance to the

usual traffic for the factory was minimised. Overall, the pour was carried out in less than a working day to the delight of the customer and clients. Richard Grant, the site manager of Knight Brown, says, "Both our client, Clean Earth Energy, and Accolade Wines were very impressed with the professionalism of all of those involved on the day."

Highly commended

Hanson for Embankment, Manchester

The Embankment project was a complex 800m³ suspended floor in the centre of Manchester. It is one of the city's first developments in 'air space', ie, above an existing structure using its foundations as the main structural support.

Hanson Concrete undertook this complex suspended floor pour from three concrete plants in the centre of Manchester for Adana construction. The main challenge was the supply to two main concrete pumping stations in the middle of a busy city centre, just off live traffic routes. In addition, the concrete had to remain plastic for the duration of the pour to ensure micro-cracking did not occur in the lower half of the floor, while fresh concrete was placed on top and finished. Then the concrete had to harden rapidly to minimise tensile stresses on the formwork.

On the day, the execution in terms of the concrete performance and service was exemplary, where this was of pivotal importance to Adana construction. ■