

“Spot On”

Hobson and Porter adopt latest Trimble setting-out technology



Spot on! Paul Hostick out on site with Trimble's LM80 Layout Manager and 5600 Robotic Total Station

Founded in 1971, Hull based building contractors Hobson and Porter have established themselves as a major regional contractor with a current annual turnover in excess of £23 million and a workforce of around 130 staff. With over 90% of the company's turnover for major works derived from repeat business, Hobson and Porter aim to provide total customer satisfaction by providing a quality product, on time, on budget, and free of defects.

When the time came to replace their traditional survey instruments of theodolite and tape, it was therefore no surprise that they selected the very latest in setting-out technology from Trimble. Swapping time-honoured methods for a Trimble 5600 Robotic Total Station and LM80 Layout Manager, Hobson and Porter are leading the way in adopting technology designed to simplify, increase accuracy and speed up the setting-out process.

The LM80 Layout Manager is a pocket sized, personal setting-out engineer that can be used with the Trimble 5600 or any

other instrument. Once drawing dimensions have been input to build a digital replica of the set-out plan, H&P can use the LM80 to guide the setting-out of major points, add string dimensions on the drawing or calculate diagonals or angles. The easy to follow LM80 user interface shortens the learning curve and consequently speeds up operation.

Combining the Trimble 5600 Robotic Total Station with the LM80 Layout Manager provides a rugged, feature packed solution that lets contractors such as Hobson and Porter perform setting-out tasks significantly more efficiently than with a mechanical system and with one less person for increased productivity and improved management. Data storage and built-in checks help eliminate setting-out mistakes and typically users have reported reducing the time of difficult setting-out jobs by up to two thirds.

H&P's Site Engineer Paul Hostick, responsible for the company's setting-out on all projects from schools to houses, roads and factories underwent a days training from KOREC, Trimble's UK distributor, before taking the

system out on a job. "The 5600 Robotic Total Station is a one man system which allows me to work alone without the need for a chainman and walk a lot less!

Combining the 5600 with an LM80 means that although I need to spend a little more time at the desk, once on site I can recoup this time and plenty more besides. I now have a reference in my hand at all times that does all the maths for me and I can throw the calculator in the bin. The LM80 is spot on!"

