



**Hope & Clay**  
Construction Limited  
CIVIL ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS

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The Editor  
Romsey Advertiser  
21a Market Place  
Romsey  
Hampshire  
SO51 8NA

8<sup>th</sup> July 2013

Dear Editor

**Re: Romsey Advertiser Edition 5<sup>th</sup> July 2013.**

As you are aware, we are the Principal Contractor responsible for the Roadwork's on Winchester Hill, Romsey.

You have printed an article on the front page of the above edition, which is inaccurate and includes quotations from contributors which are defamatory.

Your paper did indeed try to make contact before publication, however I did not have time to respond, as I was away from the office.

I have written to your contributors to put the record straight and therefore I can respond to the comments made in the article.

The works themselves have indeed overrun, and we all would wish to see them complete as quick as possible. However various delays have been caused due to various issues. These include, but are not limited to:-

- 1) Uncharted Services – These required diversion and protection works.
- 2) Poor Sub Grade Material – This required deeper Excavation and Capping Backfill throughout the extent of the works.
- 3) Design Issues – Various
- 4) Poor Service from Statutory Authorities.

The article provides quotes and impressions that the works we have carried out are not completed to the acceptable standard. This is incorrect. All works have been inspected by Hampshire County Council Highways Inspectors, and all works are confirmed as to the required standard.

Any inference otherwise is incorrect and defamatory.

We are aware of issues concerning the retaining wall that has been constructed.



Directors: R.C. HOPE F.C.I.O.B., I.Eng., F.I.H.I.E., F.I.H.T.  
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As Principal Contractor, we have **No Design Liability**, and this remains with our client The Abbotswood Consortium. I am aware that discussions are on-going between our client and Hampshire County Council regarding the design of this retaining wall, however this has no bearing on this company, as we have **No Design Liability**.

Your article infers that this company designed and constructed this wall. This is incorrect, we are responsible only for the construction of the wall, and there is no question that it has not been built to the required standard. For the avoidance of any doubt this wall has been constructed in accordance with the Construction Issue Drawings.

We are working to complete the works as soon as possible, however at this time, there are still design issues outstanding, which we are working with our client to overcome.

I have no wish to further this argument, however and I am sure you will agree that you should be furnished with the correct information.

This now however must also apply to the general population, and therefore, I would expect you to correct the misleading report you published on the front page.

I trust that I shall receive such a commitment within the next seven days; failure to do so, will unfortunately cause an escalation with a formal complaint to the PCC.

Should you have any queries, please put them in writing to the undersigned.

Yours Sincerely

James Hope  
Managing Director.



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