

BUILDING BRIDGES - PILING

BUILDING A BRIDGE BEGINS WITH PILING.

Once a bridge construction site is cleared of trees and vegetation, the Piling Team arrives on site to begin piling. Their job is to build the foundations below the ground that will support the bridge above the ground.

Eleven bridges on this project require a series

of piles to be driven up to 45m into the ground to support the weight of the bridge and the traffic it will carry.

First, piling casings – a series of 12m metal cylinders – are driven into the ground using a 10 tonne weight (or hammer) suspended from a 100 tonne crawler crane. The hammer is repeatedly lifted and dropped inside the pile casing to drive the foot of the casing into the

ground. Once the first 12m cylinder is in the ground, the Piling Team welds another 12m casing on top of the first, and piling continues.

Once the pile casing reaches its target depth, a cage of reinforcing steel is dropped inside and the casing is filled with concrete. The bridge will then be built on top of these piles.



Our 100 tonne piling crane



Piling in progress



This driving dolly is used to test piles when they achieve their target depth



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