



Roadmending steams ahead

AW is **pioneering** repair work of the future.

Anglian Water's road-works are set to become less disruptive thanks to a new machine that also promises to reduce time, waste and cost.

The company has become the first utility in the UK to start using a Roadmender, which allows work gangs to carry out their own reinstatement work.

The machine was supplied to Integrated Maintenance and Repair teams in Lincoln by Alliance partner Clancy Docwra. It allows gangs to mix their own hot asphalt on the roadside and have it ready to fill in holes 24 hours a day instead of waiting for a separate team to do the job.

Steve Burley, Anglian Water's Compliance and Performance Manager, was instrumental in getting the Roadmender into operation, speaking to highway authorities and demonstrating the machine's transformative capabilities.

He said: "It's brilliant. The

Roadmender will totally change the way we carry out reinstatements. Essentially, it's similar to a cement mixer but with a heated element. It allows us to mix the asphalt we need, when we want it. Also, it's a trailer-mounted machine, so it's easily transportable."

The Roadmender will save customers' time too. Many asphalt plants are shut in the evenings and at weekends, limiting a team's ability to fix problems.

Steve explained: "If a water

main bursts at the weekend, we can repair it but we'll have to leave the barriers up until Monday, disrupting traffic for our customers. With the Roadmender, we can tarmac over it straight away."

As part of the reinstatement process, two layers must be created – a base course and a wearing course. Traditionally, any excavated asphalt is sent to landfill, for which there is a fee, but using the Roadmender means the excavated materials can be melted down and recycled into the base course.

"It's so important that Anglian Water leads innovation in this way, and sets the pace," added Steve. "It reduces disruption on highways, reduces wastage, gets the job done quicker and gets traffic moving. It's much better for our staff and our employees."

Steve and Clancy Docwra are now in the process of rolling out Roadmenders to teams across the region.

“It's brilliant. The Roadmender will totally change the way we carry out reinstatements.”

Steve Burley



ROADMENDER CAN...

- **Save on waiting times** – It can mix hot asphalt in eight minutes, saving hours of time driving to a plant and waiting in line.
- **Save on wastage** – It can mix exact quantities, no matter how small they are, whereas the minimum a plant offers is one tonne.
- **Keep it hot** – Holding asphalt in covered trucks means it's difficult to control their temperature, but the Roadmender can hold it at a constant level.
- **Recycle** – Excavated asphalt can be melted down as a base course, reducing waste and Anglian Water's carbon footprint.
- **Ensure quality** – Constant temperatures also mean reduced quality issues during reinstatement as materials get more difficult to lay as they cool.

Hot and steamy: Technicians from Canwick Water Recycling Centre using the new Roadmender to repair a road in Rowston, near Lincoln