



# 60 Years of Defining Moments: A History of Murphy



Breathing life into infrastructure





## 60 Years of Defining Moments: A History of Murphy

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## A history of getting the job done

This book is a fine testament to the company J. Murphy & Sons Limited and in particular its founder John Murphy. If you wish to see a first class example of a successful entrepreneur in a very competitive business then look no further than John Murphy.

I first encountered John Murphy (the man and his company) in the late 1960s when they were successful in winning distribution contracts in the gas industry. As the company developed into a wide range of civil engineering and infrastructure projects, it became clear they possessed a strong “can do” ethos, based on a very sound understanding of engineering and customer requirements. This was very evident to me personally when they successfully completed the onshore pipeline, connecting the Morecambe Bay gas field into the National Grid, accomplished through extremely challenging conditions in the Lake District.

From my meetings with John Murphy over many years I gained a very high regard for him as a person. Quiet, dignified, straightforward and a man of his word. It is significant that he built around him a team of capable, loyal people, many of them long-serving company members, which has undoubtedly contributed to the success of Murphy.

All of the ingredients for developing a very successful business were there to be seen.

It has been a privilege to have contributed this foreword.

Cedric Brown FREng

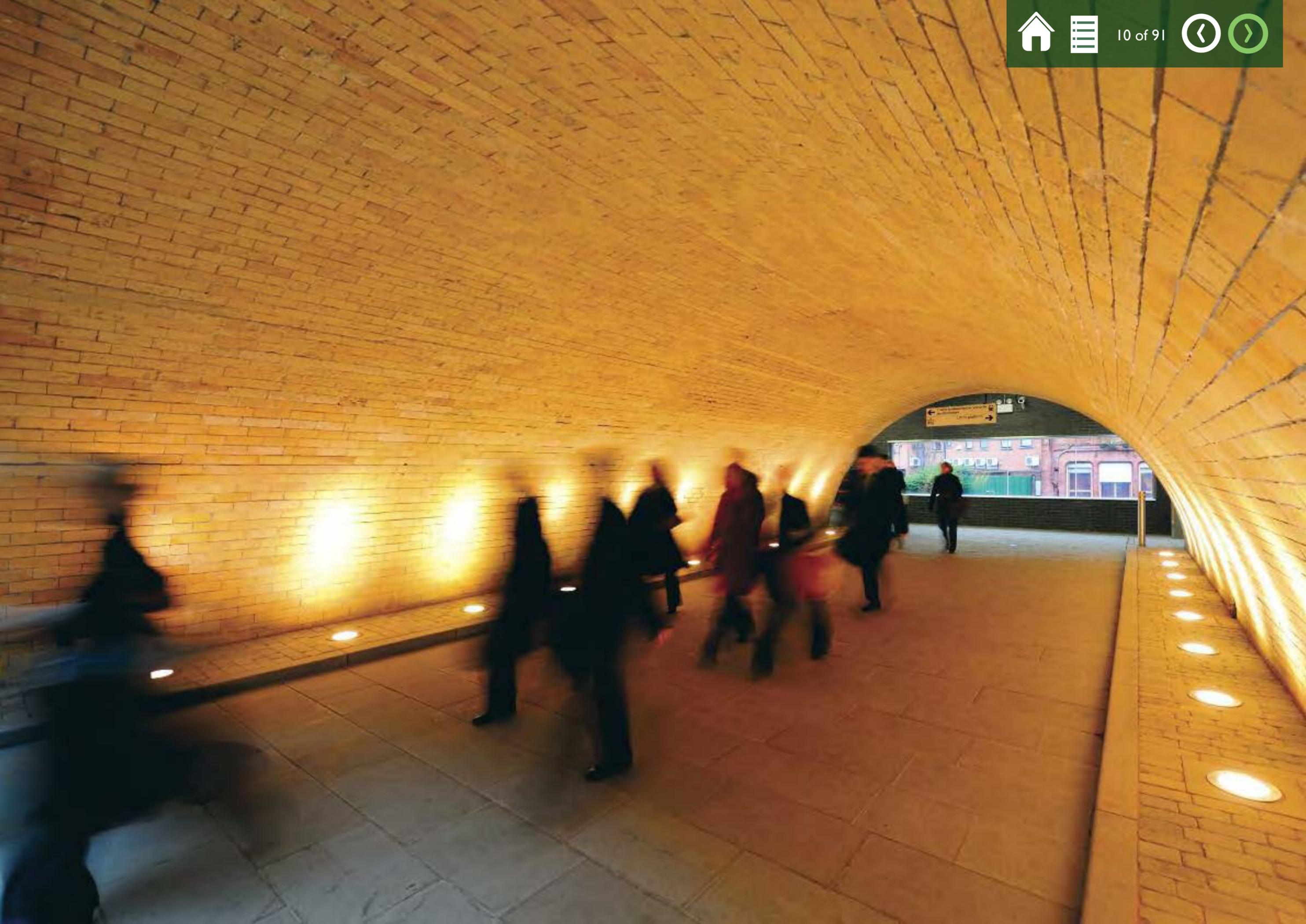




## Introduction

This book is a photographic celebration of the Murphy Group – one of the UK's and Ireland's best known and most respected names in civil engineering and building – in its 60th anniversary year.

These splendidly emotive images reflect the vision of founder John Murphy by depicting the shifting operational focus across a variety of industry sectors throughout seven decades of building a sustainable business. From the very beginning, the Murphy ability to dig deeper, in every respect, enabled them to regularly tackle complex projects in often challenging environments. And the pictures which record this huge endeavour also stand as proud testimony to the dedicated workforce and loyal customer base which has been the foundation of the company's enduring success story.



## John Murphy, 1913-2009

It is rare for the corporate character of any organisation to so closely mirror that of its founder, but then John Murphy was not the kind of man to create something and then walk away with the job unfinished.

Born in County Kerry in 1913, he arrived in London in the 1930s with an attitude to life that was based on a commitment to deliver under any circumstances. To him, 'getting the job done' was always a guiding principle of business and life in general. When he set up his own company in 1945 it was involved in clearing London's bombsites and reconstructing airfields on instructions of the War Department but soon diversified into roads, water supplies and drainage in the capital and across the UK. It was this ability to 'always look forward and envisage what's coming up on the horizon' which made John Murphy a true visionary who managed to build an industry giant with a family atmosphere. It portrayed a deft touch for combining entrepreneurial flair with an understanding of the value of people.



Over the years, recognition was made of his unique contribution to the nation's business life, with everything from Fellowships and University Doctorates to a 'Kerry Person of the Year' accolade. Never afraid to 'get his hands dirty', John Murphy inspired loyalty in his workforce and his customers. And his lasting legacy is portrayed on these pages – an 'intelligent and flexible' organisation committed to finding solutions whatever the challenges.



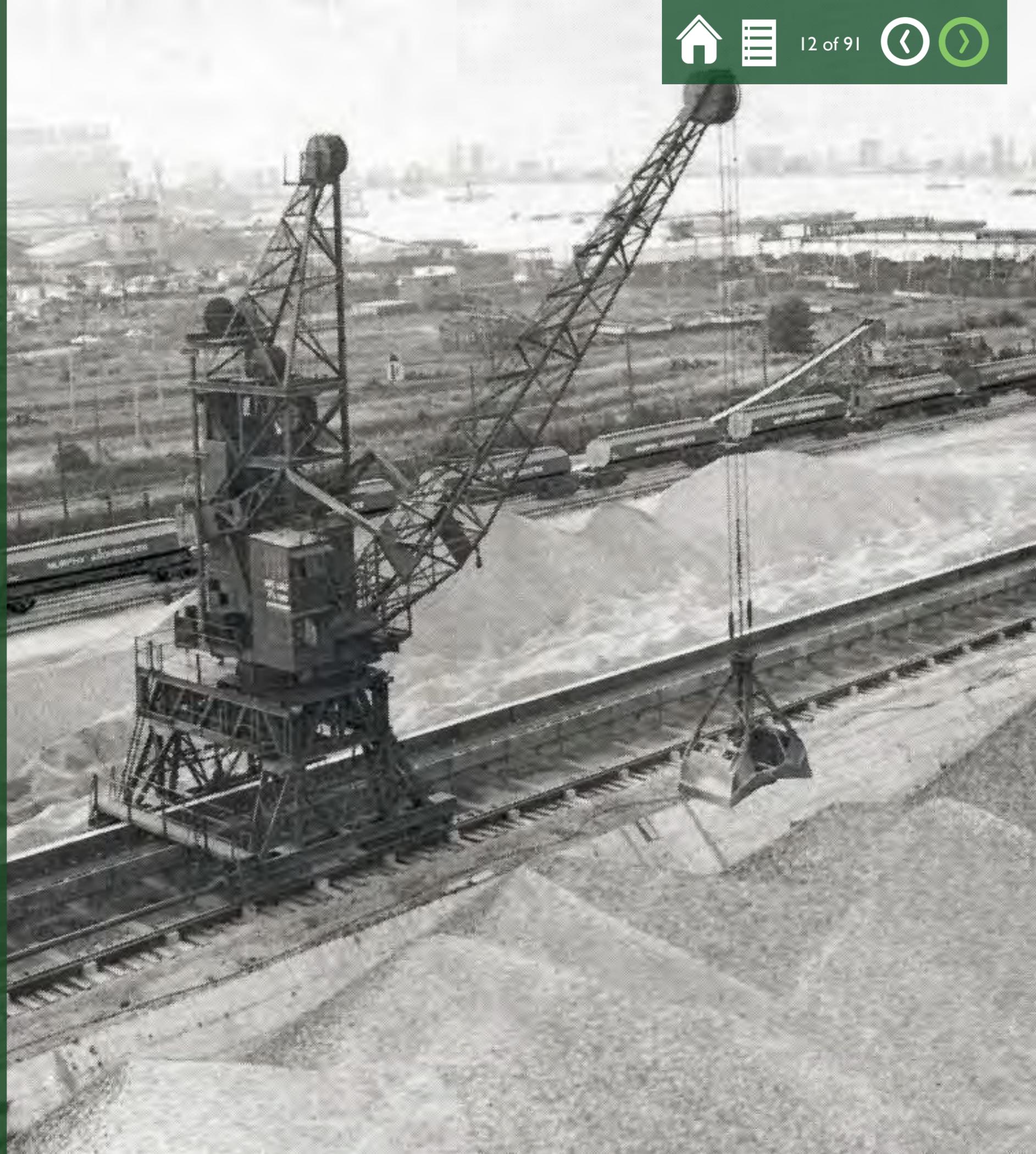
Mr Murphy and team at Channel Tunnel Rail Link Breakthrough



## 1950s

In 1951, John Murphy established J. Murphy & Sons Limited. Initially working on post-war regeneration projects, the focus soon switched to specialist reconstruction of the country's electrical infrastructure including work on the growing GPO telephone cable network.

As the nation's demand for power grew, Murphy answered the call and worked on the vital development of the national electricity grid. An early realisation of the need for ready-mixed concrete, fuelled by the green light for motorway construction at the end of the decade, led to a long-standing involvement supplying the product through Pre-Mixed Concrete (Rotherhithe and Midlands), and latterly through Marcon, and Calmix in Leith Docks, Edinburgh. This included sourcing sea-dredged aggregates using the company-owned dredger and wharf facility at Charlton.

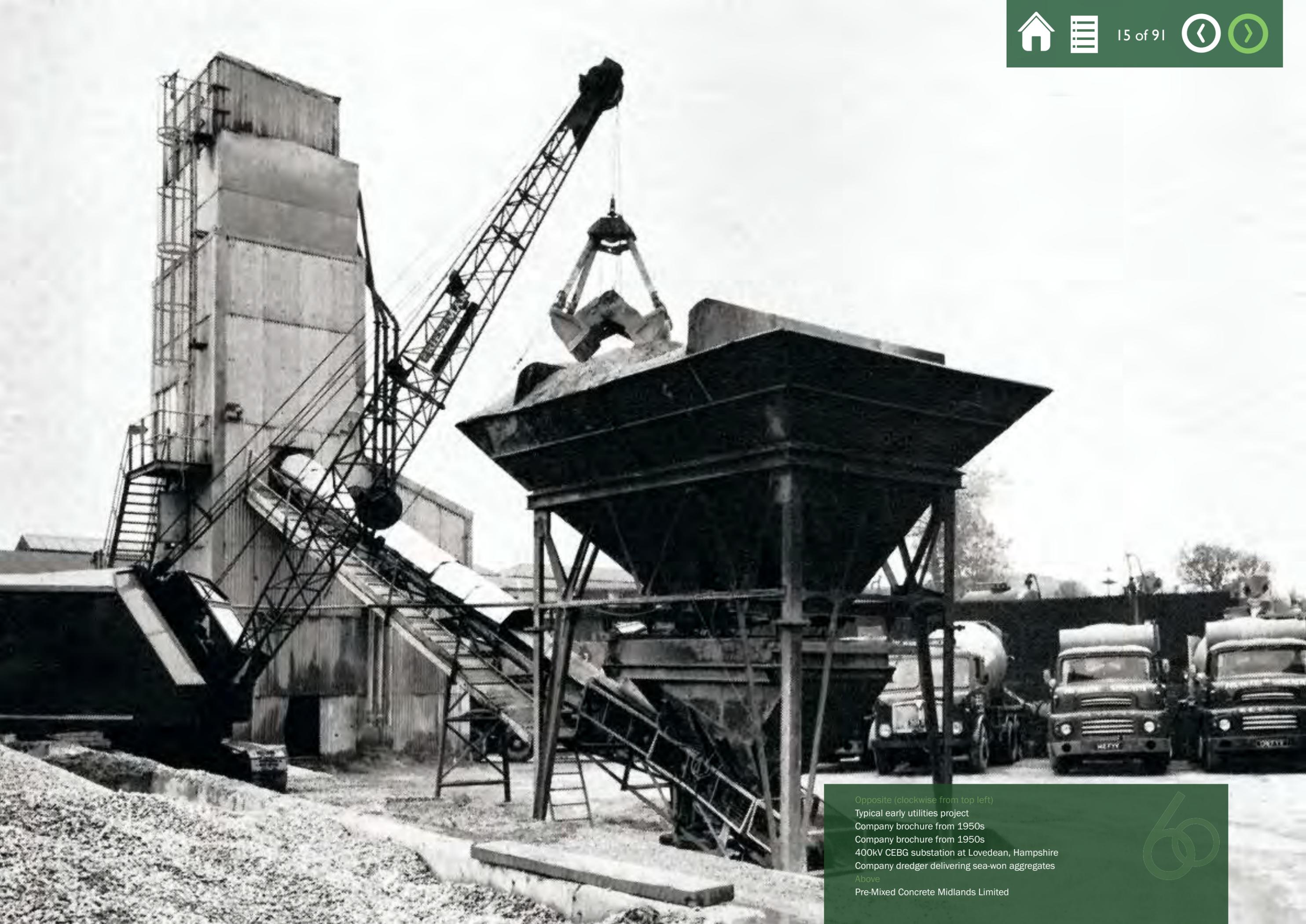




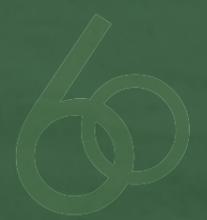
Above  
Charlton Wharf







Opposite (clockwise from top left)  
Typical early utilities project  
Company brochure from 1950s  
Company brochure from 1950s  
400kV CEBG substation at Lovedean, Hampshire  
Company dredger delivering sea-won aggregates  
Above  
Pre-Mixed Concrete Midlands Limited



# 1960s

This new era saw Murphy swinging into expansion programmes in roads, water services and Post Office cable installation. The company also diversified into petrol stations and car show rooms establishing Modern Motors with four sites across London that included a Ford Dealership in Enfield. In 1965, Murphy Pipelines was established offering design and construction services for gas, oil, water and process industries – pioneering the use of innovative technology in a safe working environment.

The decade also saw the start of extensive cabling contracts and the opening of the company’s Head Office on London’s Holloway Road, a move from the first office in Charteris Road. An increasingly diverse schedule of projects included Heathrow Airport expansion, Central Electricity Generating Board work across the South East, Post Office cabling including works adjacent to Buckingham Palace, the first power station conversion to natural gas in Birmingham and Murphy’s first international work on power lines in South Africa.

The late 60s saw Murphy undertaking gas distribution works in Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands covering an area from Northampton to North Yorkshire, employing some 90 gangs, and constituting the first Murphy collaboration with Cedric Brown.





Opposite  
Gas pipeline installation  
Above (clockwise from top left)  
Gas pipeline for North Western Gas Board  
Plant maintenance workshop  
Plant yard, London



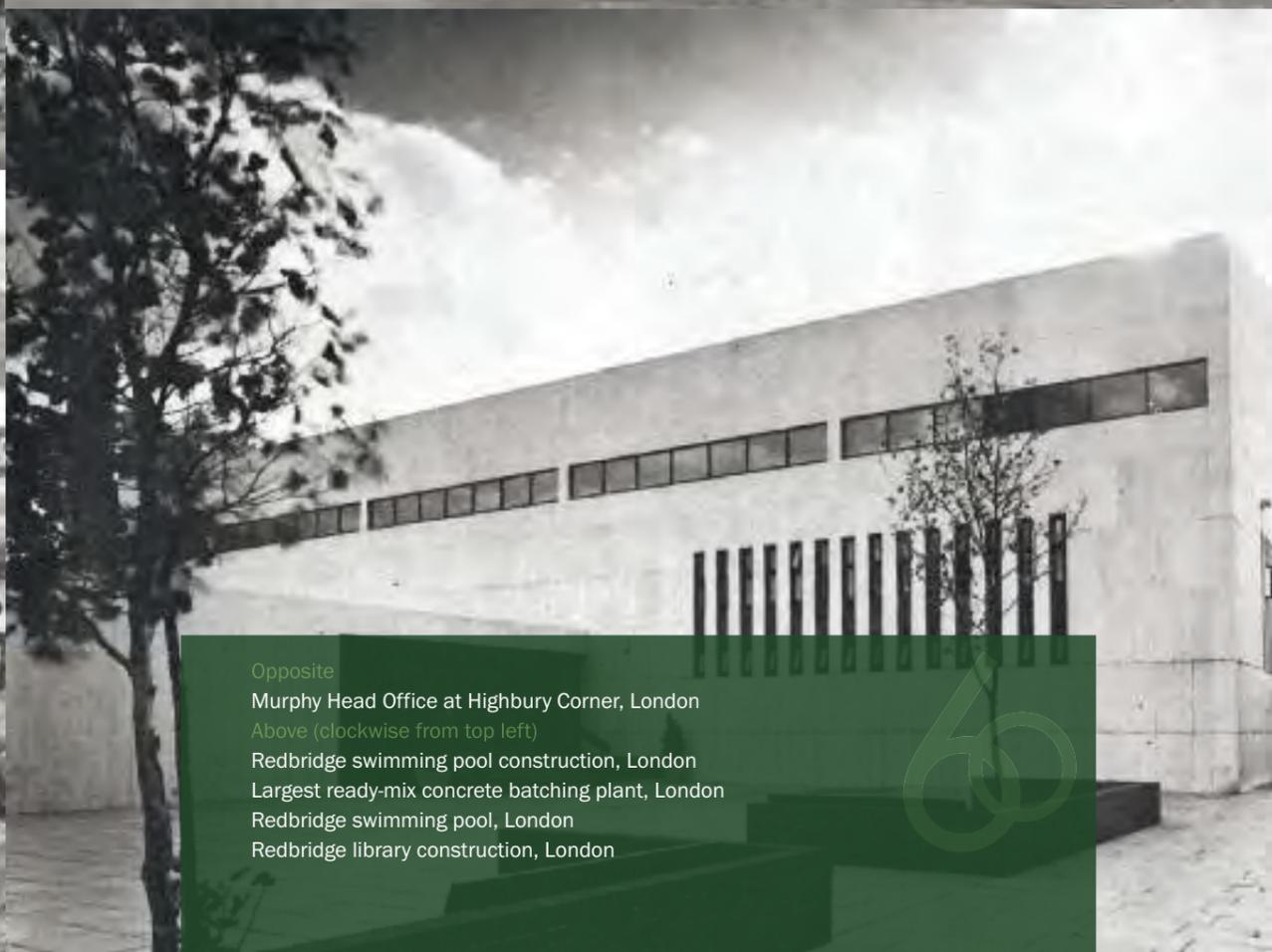
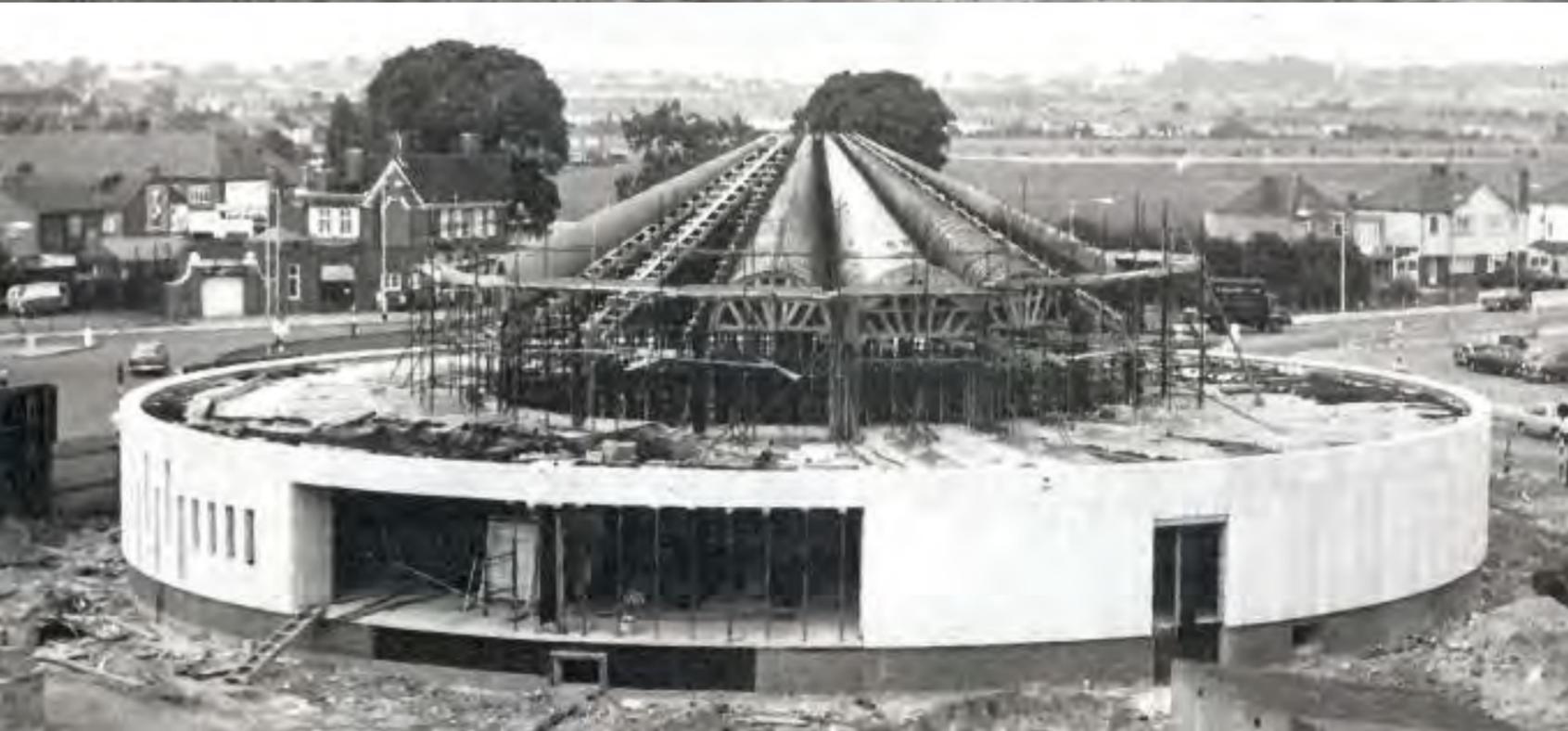


Opposite (clockwise from top left)  
Aircraft runway works at Heathrow Airport  
Fire main installation, Fords, London  
Post Office cable installation, The Mall, London  
Aircraft runway works at Heathrow Airport  
Above  
Post Office cable installation, The Mall, London

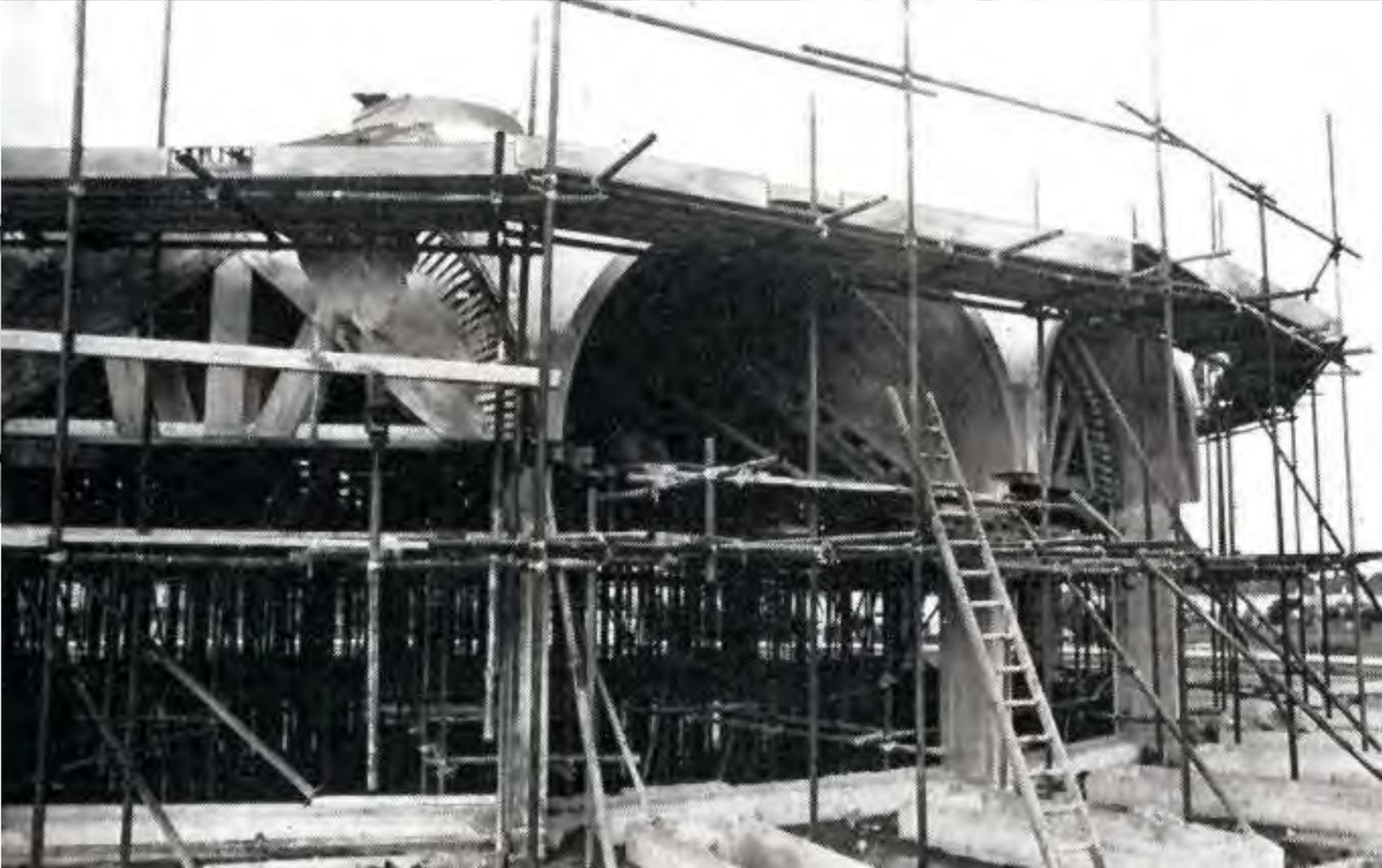
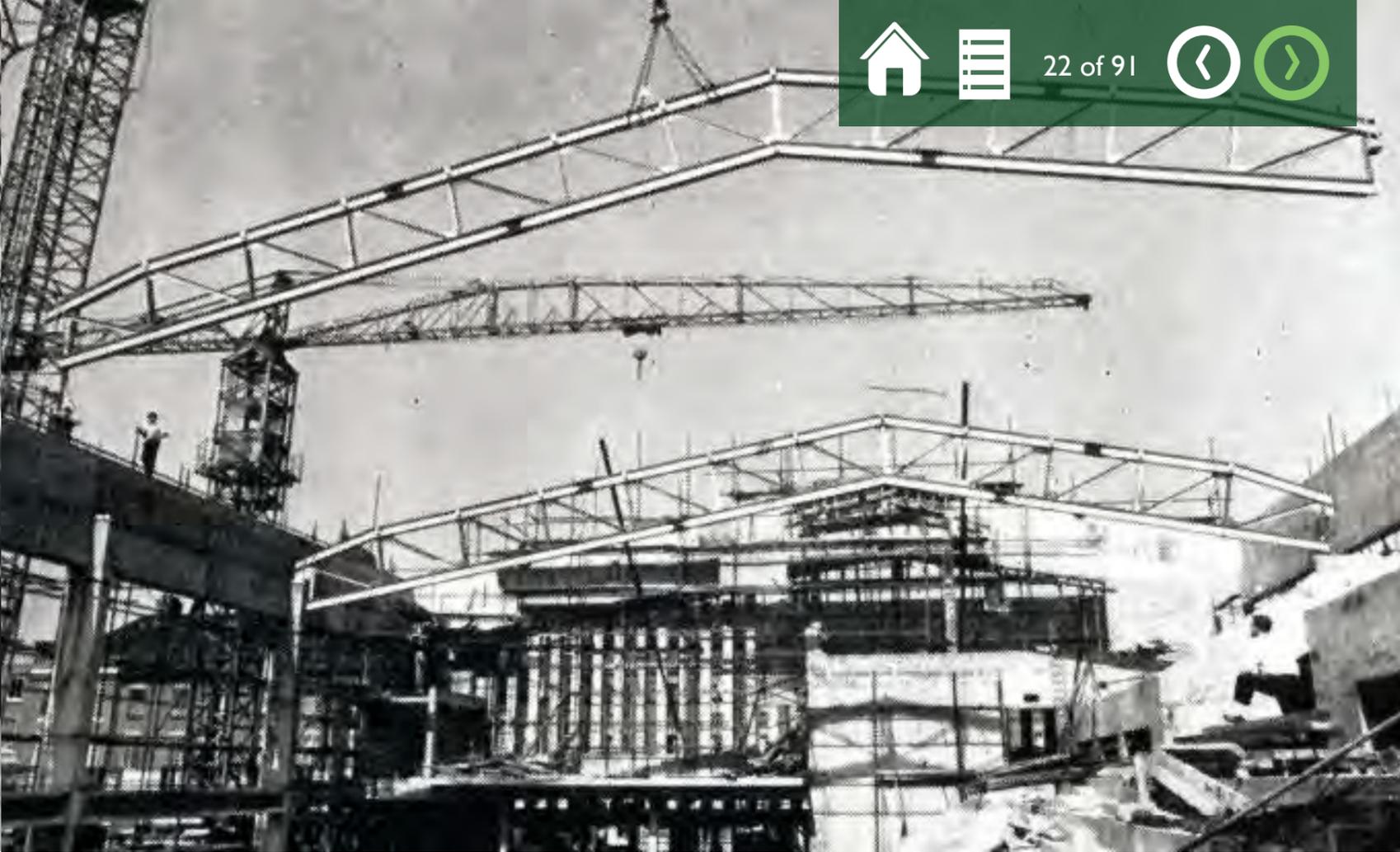




J MURPHY & SONS LTD



Opposite  
Murphy Head Office at Highbury Corner, London  
Above (clockwise from top left)  
Redbride swimming pool construction, London  
Largest ready-mix concrete batching plant, London  
Redbride swimming pool, London  
Redbride library construction, London





Opposite (clockwise from top left)  
Construction of cable tunnel,  
Birmingham  
Redbridge library construction, London  
Redbridge library construction, London  
Building works, Watford  
Modern Motors Ltd., Shoreditch

Above (clockwise from top left)  
Sewage Treatment Works for Battle RDC  
Cold-bending machine for pipes  
Gas pipeline for North Western Gas  
Board

# 1970s

The next chapter witnessed more and more Murphy milestones. A second Head Office appeared on the Holloway Road. A pioneering role in a solid waste compacting system for local authorities was followed by the transfer of techniques from cable laying into gas – a combination of civil and mechanical engineering disciplines. The three-day week due to power shortages and the Winter of Discontent only spurred Murphy onto breaking new ground. A new multi-storey office was built at Highbury Corner with the adjacent old office let on a long lease.

A pivotal role in the introduction of natural gas pipelines in the UK and Ireland was amongst the proudest achievements during the 70s. In the early 70s Murphy had created gas distribution frameworks all the way from Scotland through to London and the South East. In 1976, in preparation for the Frigg gas field, the company won its first major pipeline transmission contract to build a 100km section of 36" pipe.

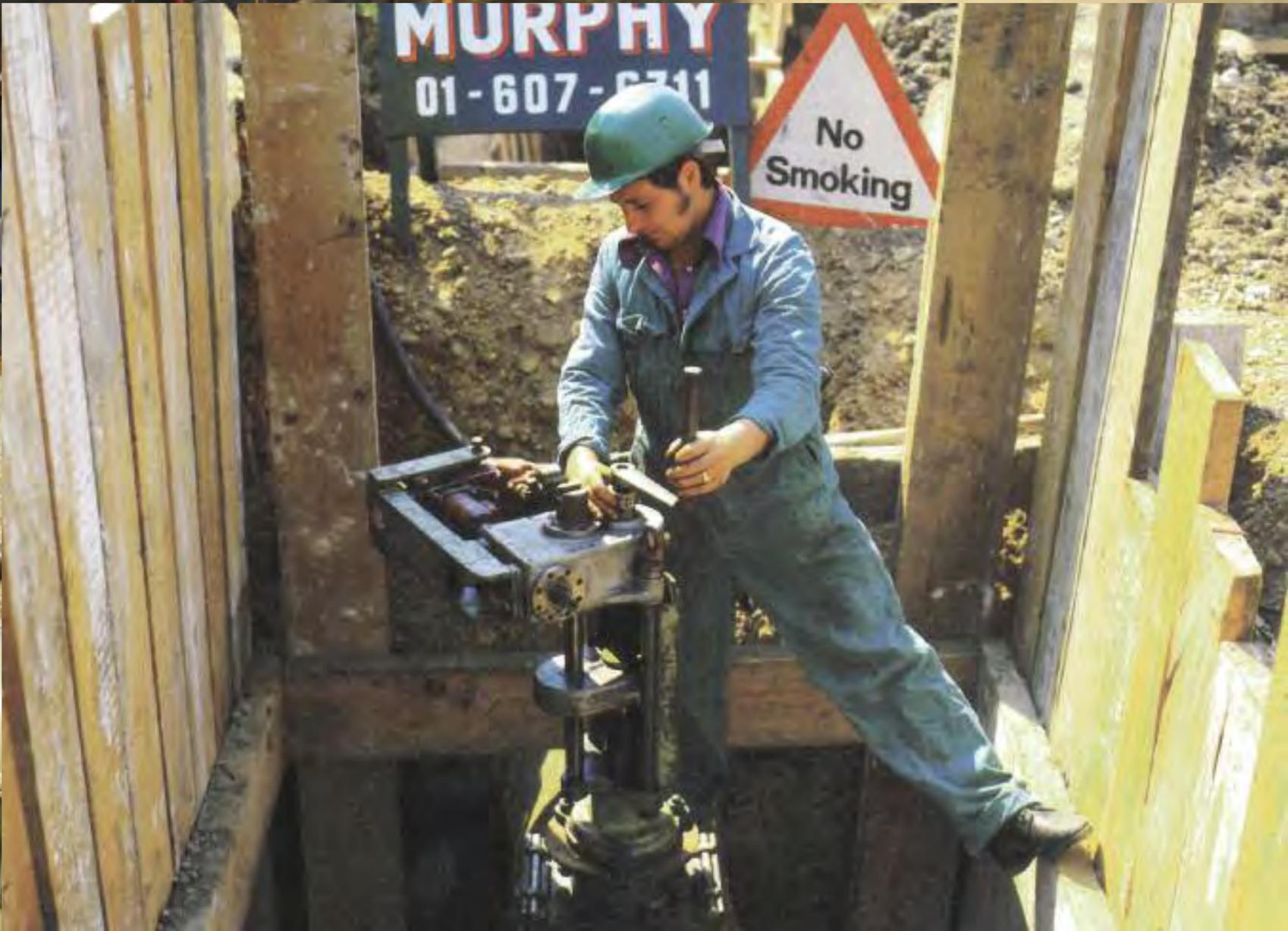
The 1970s also saw the start of Murphy's involvement in national rail reconstruction projects – first with British Rail and continuing today with Network Rail. Building and property development for both the private and public sectors became a major part of the business during this time too. And the establishment of Thames Water in 1974 created another valued customer, still with Murphy today.





Opposite  
Trench excavation to receive gas pipeline, Newbury  
Above (clockwise from top left)  
Chimney demolition works  
Early Murphy Head Office, Highbury Corner  
Waste management baling plant built



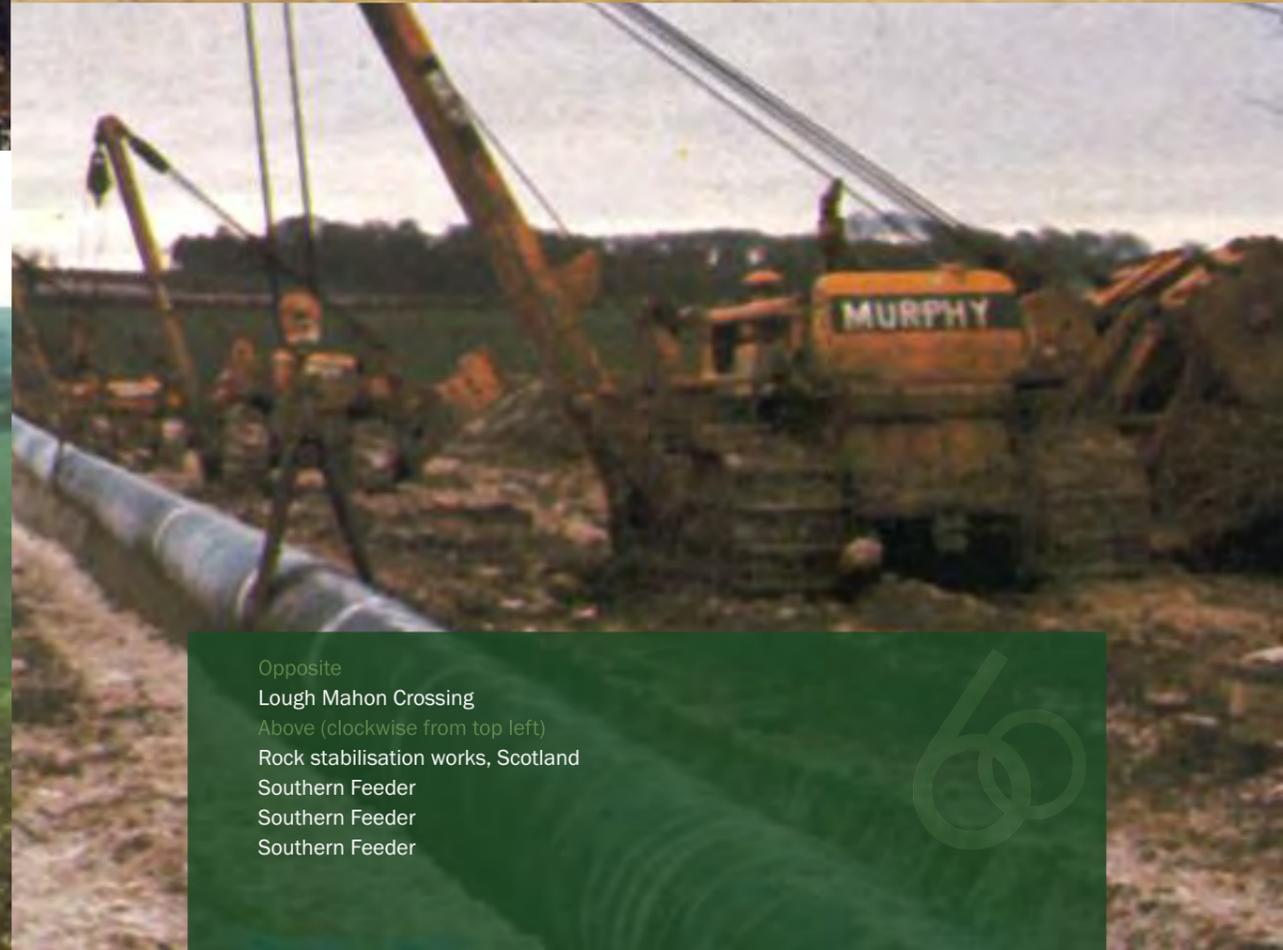




Opposite (clockwise from top left)  
Early Murphy Head Office, Highbury Corner  
Unloading sea-dredged aggregates, Murphy Wharf Charlton  
Iris Stop operation  
Pipeline inspection facility, Barton Stacey  
Above  
Sarsfield House building works, Limerick City







Opposite  
Lough Mahon Crossing  
Above (clockwise from top left)  
Rock stabilisation works, Scotland  
Southern Feeder  
Southern Feeder  
Southern Feeder



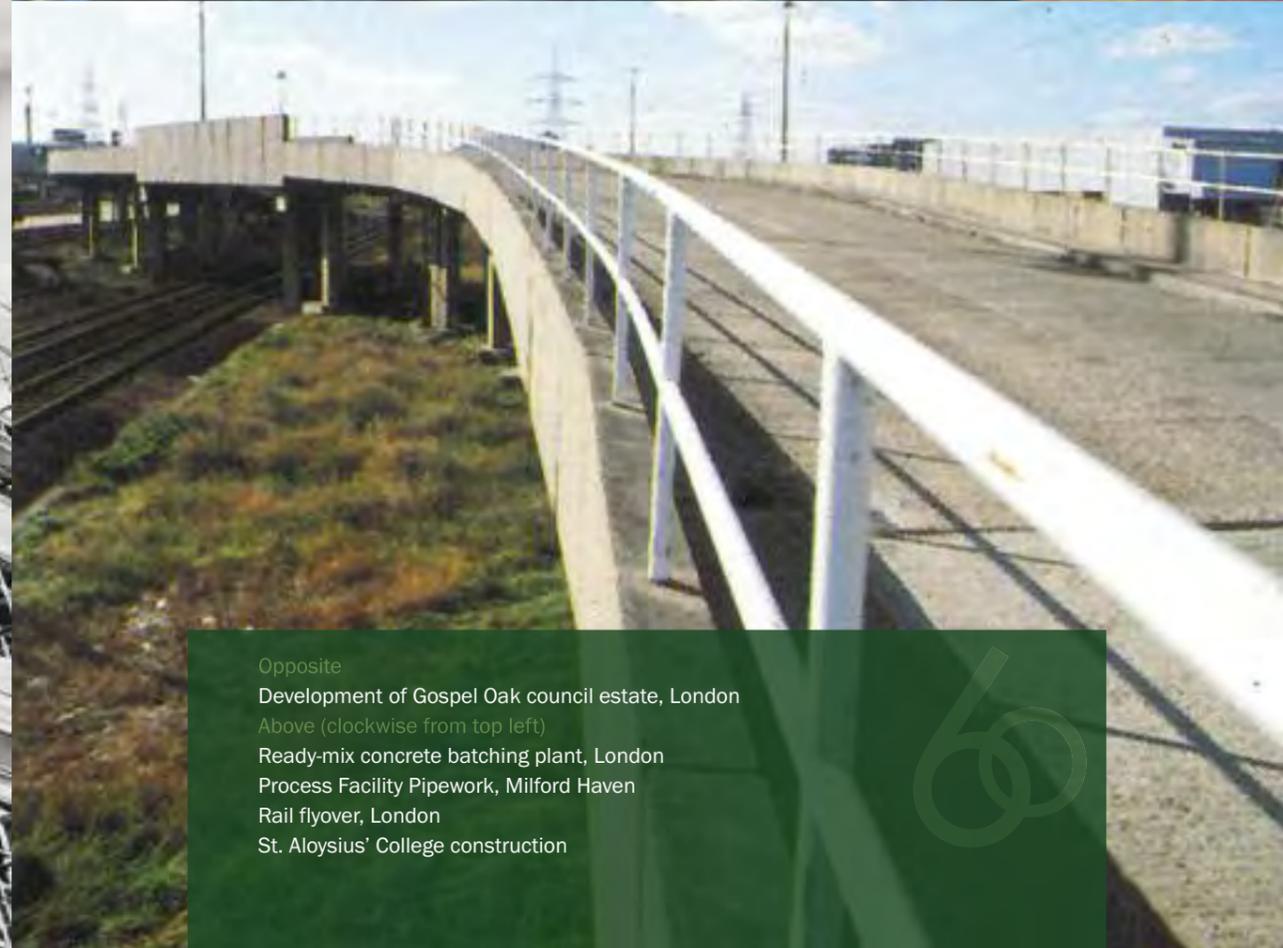
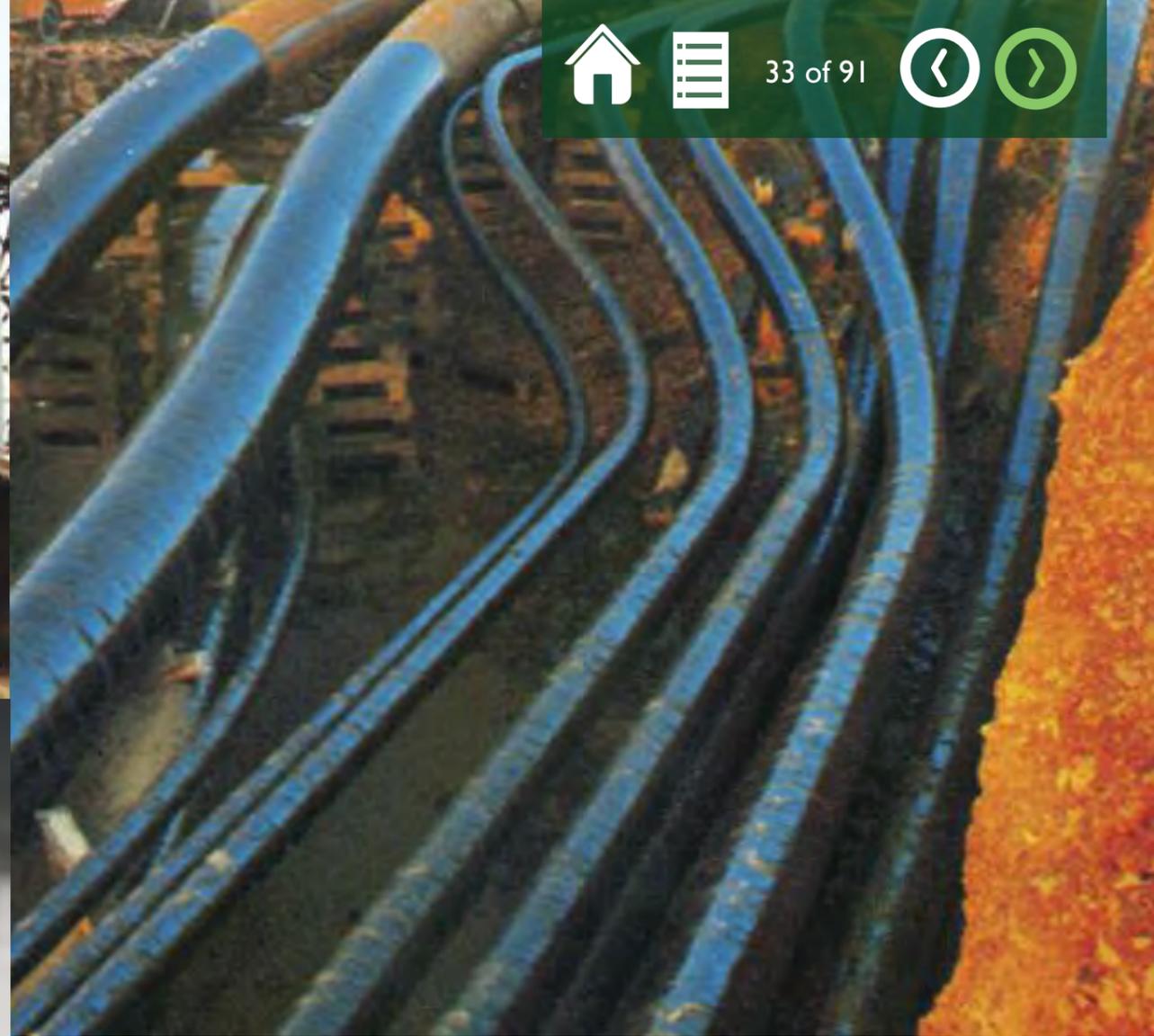




Opposite (clockwise from top left)  
Pipe jack tunnel  
River Humber gas pipeline installation  
Plant and transport yard, London  
Above  
HP gas pipeline installation, Dublin







Opposite  
Development of Gospel Oak council estate, London  
Above (clockwise from top left)  
Ready-mix concrete batching plant, London  
Process Facility Pipework, Milford Haven  
Rail flyover, London  
St. Aloysius' College construction





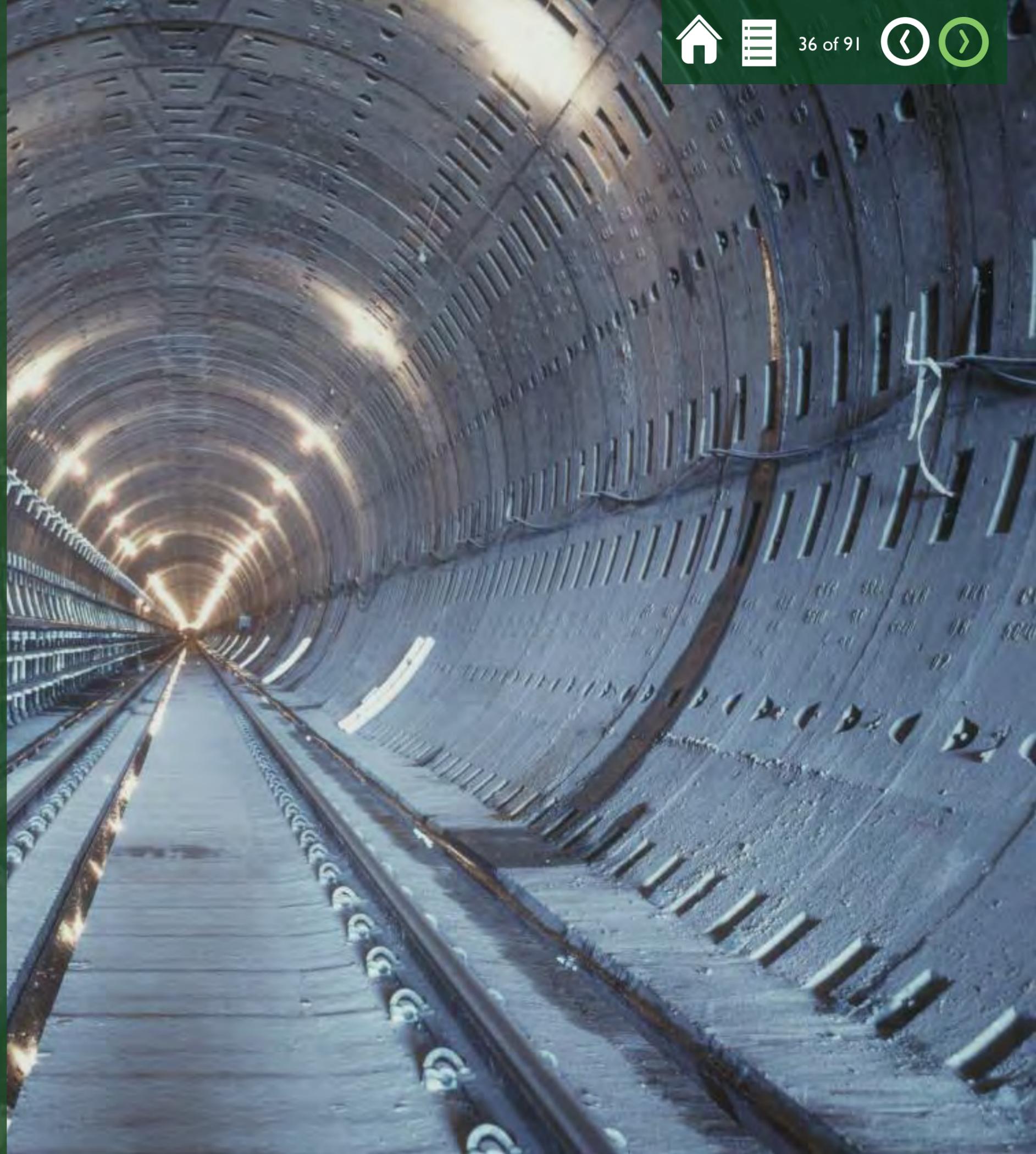
Opposite (clockwise from top left)  
Utilities work, Woolwich  
Leicester Square pedestrianisation works  
Battersea Bridge refurbishment  
Above  
Housing development, Southwark

# 1980s

This was a decade of rapid growth and saw the start of Murphy Group tunnelling work. Through the late 70s and 80s the Pipelines Division became a major player in large diameter cross-country pipelines, including, in 1982-83, constructing the 52km 42" onshore gas pipeline connecting the Morecambe Bay terminal at Barrow to the National Grid at Lupton, with Cedric Brown as Project Director.

Long-running contracts with the British Gas regions commenced in the 80s, both in terms of transmission around the country and distribution within urban areas. Expansion was reflected in the opening of new Murphy headquarters at Hiview House in Kentish Town, North London. Major development projects during these economic boom years included the prestigious Broadgate Office site in the City of London, the railway tunnel link to Stansted Airport and aspects of the new International Terminal at Waterloo Station.

In the early 80s, Murphy also undertook major pipeline construction for oil and gas companies in the United Arab Emirates. And pipeline work closer to home included a complex high-pressure gas main for the city of Dublin and the challenge of a multi-products pipeline for Shell at Mossmorran.





Opposite  
Stansted Airport Rail Link Tunnel  
Above (clockwise from top left)  
Large pipeline construction project  
Nunhead reservoir construction  
Transportation to site of pipe, Huntingdon







Opposite (clockwise from top left)  
Hiview House, Kentish Town (Head Office)  
Fuel Depot Facility, Purfleet  
Stansted Airport Tunnel Boring Machine  
Hiview House, Kentish Town (Head Office)  
Above  
TBM during Stansted Airport Rail Link project







Opposite  
Refurbishment of country house, Kent  
Above (clockwise from top left)  
Baling plant installation  
Broadgate development, London  
Completion of Yorkshire cable project







Opposite (clockwise from top left)  
Bending Trials for BP  
Iris Stop operation  
Hydrostatic Testing major pipeline  
Above  
Sensitive HP Gas Pipeline across Hampstead Heath







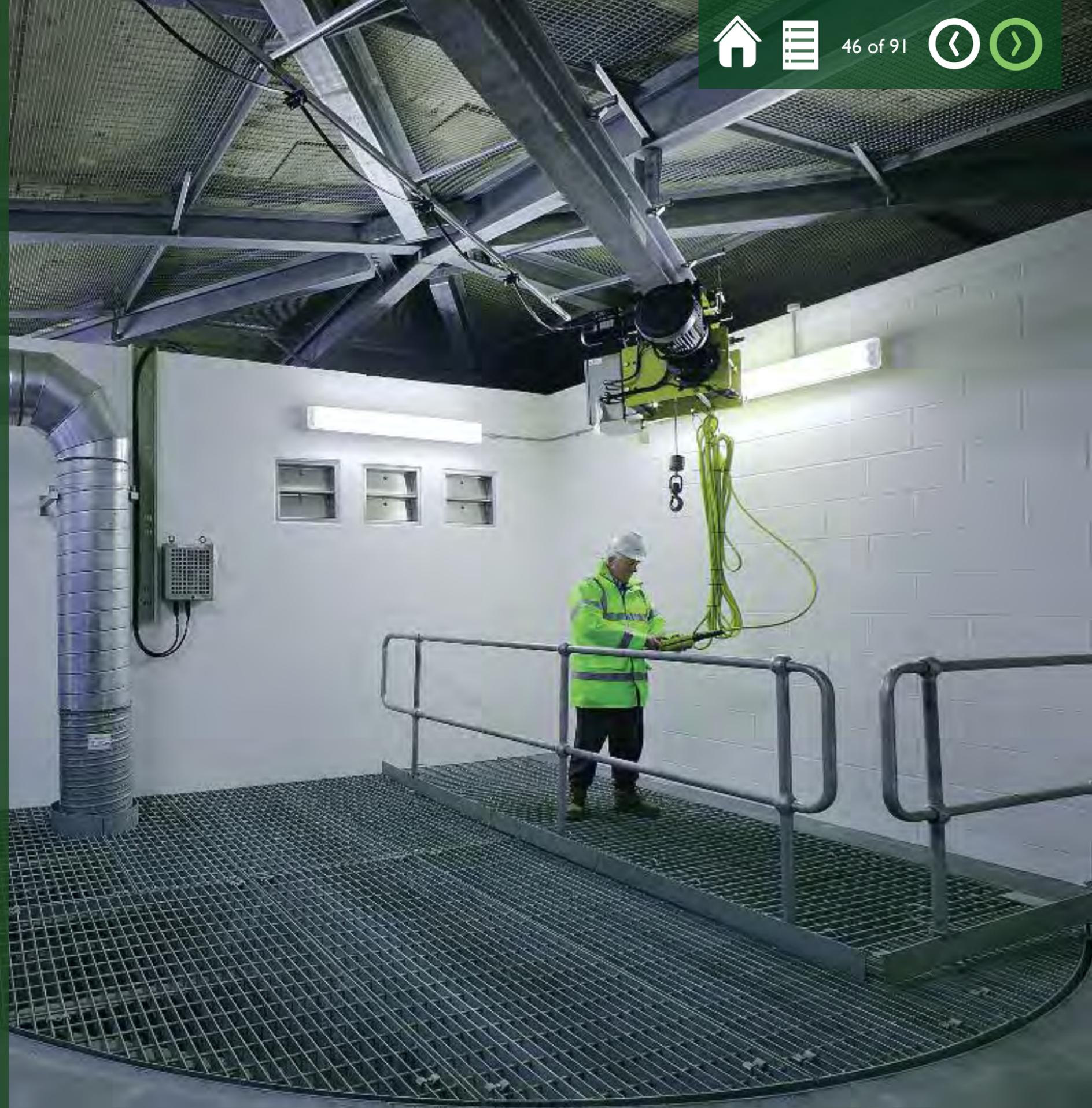
Opposite  
Huntingdon Compressor Station  
Above (clockwise from top left)  
Sideboom mobilisation  
Oil Pipeline, United Arab Emirates  
Gas Distribution Connections



# 1990s

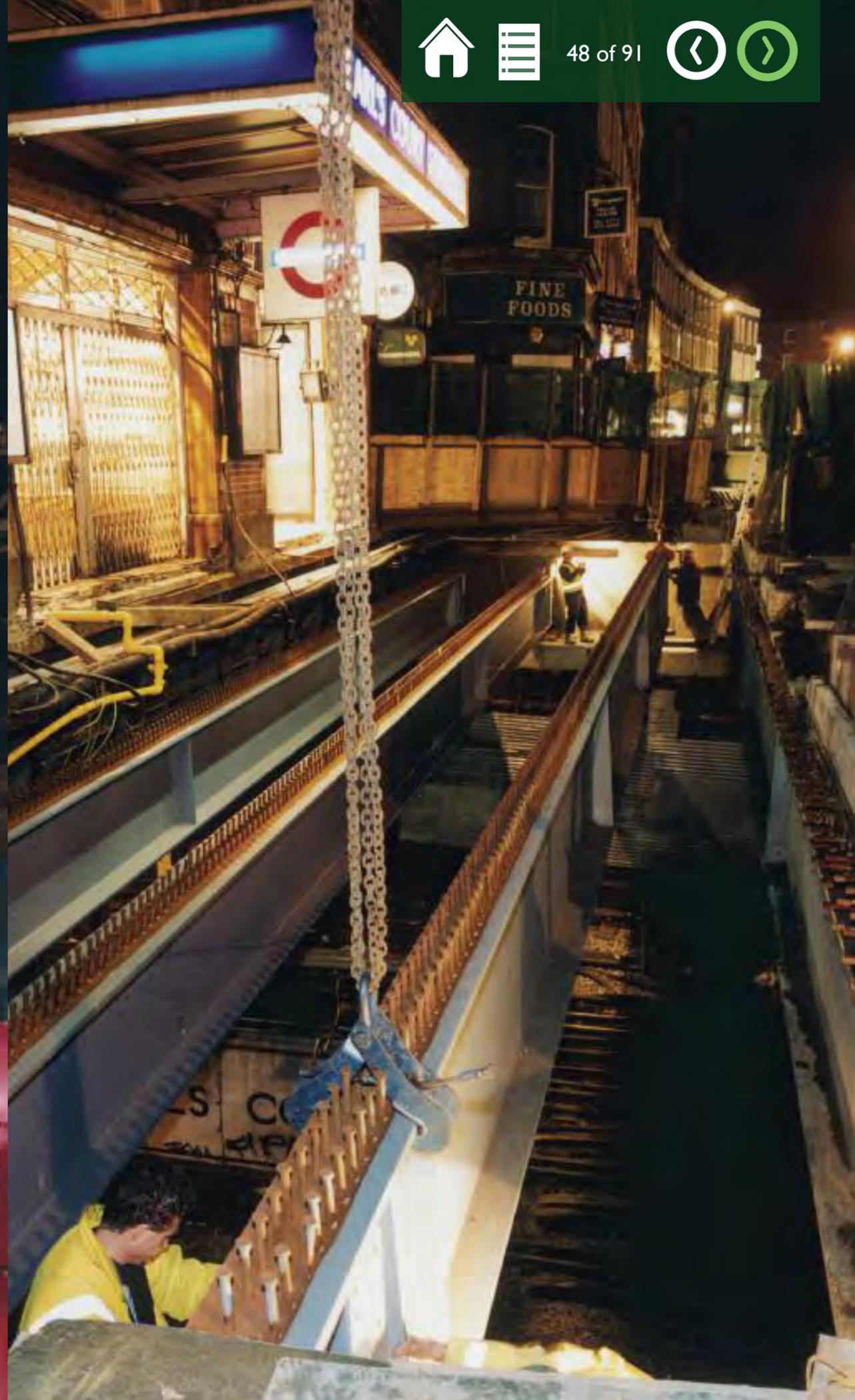
The 90s was a decade of Murphy again taking centre stage in some of the most complex building and engineering projects in the UK and beyond. In the early years the company spent time consolidating its tunnelling project expertise, sinking one of the shafts in the London/Thames Water ring main tunnel in Park Lane. Indeed, Murphy's activity in the West End won the coveted British Construction Industries Civil Engineer Award in 1994. Further underground activity saw the start of horizontal directional drilling for trenchless drilling up to 2km.

Murphy further developed their existing expertise in gas pipe-laying in an urban environment to the wide-scale installation of cable TV networks throughout the UK for a variety of cable TV companies. During this period Murphy established its position as the top pipeline construction company in the United Kingdom with major projects for British Gas, Transco, Hamilton Oil, BP and Amoco.





Opposite  
Head house on the 20km St. John's Wood to Elstree Cable Tunnel  
Above (clockwise from top left)  
St. John's Wood to Elstree Cable Tunnel  
Award winning "Thermometer" on London Ring Main  
New lagoons for Aughinish Alumina, County Limerick





Opposite (clockwise from top left)  
TBM prepared for North London Flood Relief Tunnel  
Track upgrade works at Earl's Court tube station  
Blackwall tunnel ventilation upgrade, London  
Above  
City of London Cable Tunnel







Opposite  
Brunswick Railway Station improvements  
Above (clockwise from top left)  
A102/A13 road junction construction  
Silver Street underbridge construction, London  
Development of Angel Tube station, London





Opposite (clockwise from top left)  
River protection works, Limerick  
River Lea – design and construction of new sea wall  
Westminster Cathedral public realm works  
Refurbishment improvements to properties, Islington  
Above  
Channel Tunnel maintenance, Folkestone





Opposite  
Murphy plant and transport  
Above (clockwise from top left)  
Pumping Station for water treatment works, Dublin  
Piling works, Ealing  
Nunhead reservoir construction





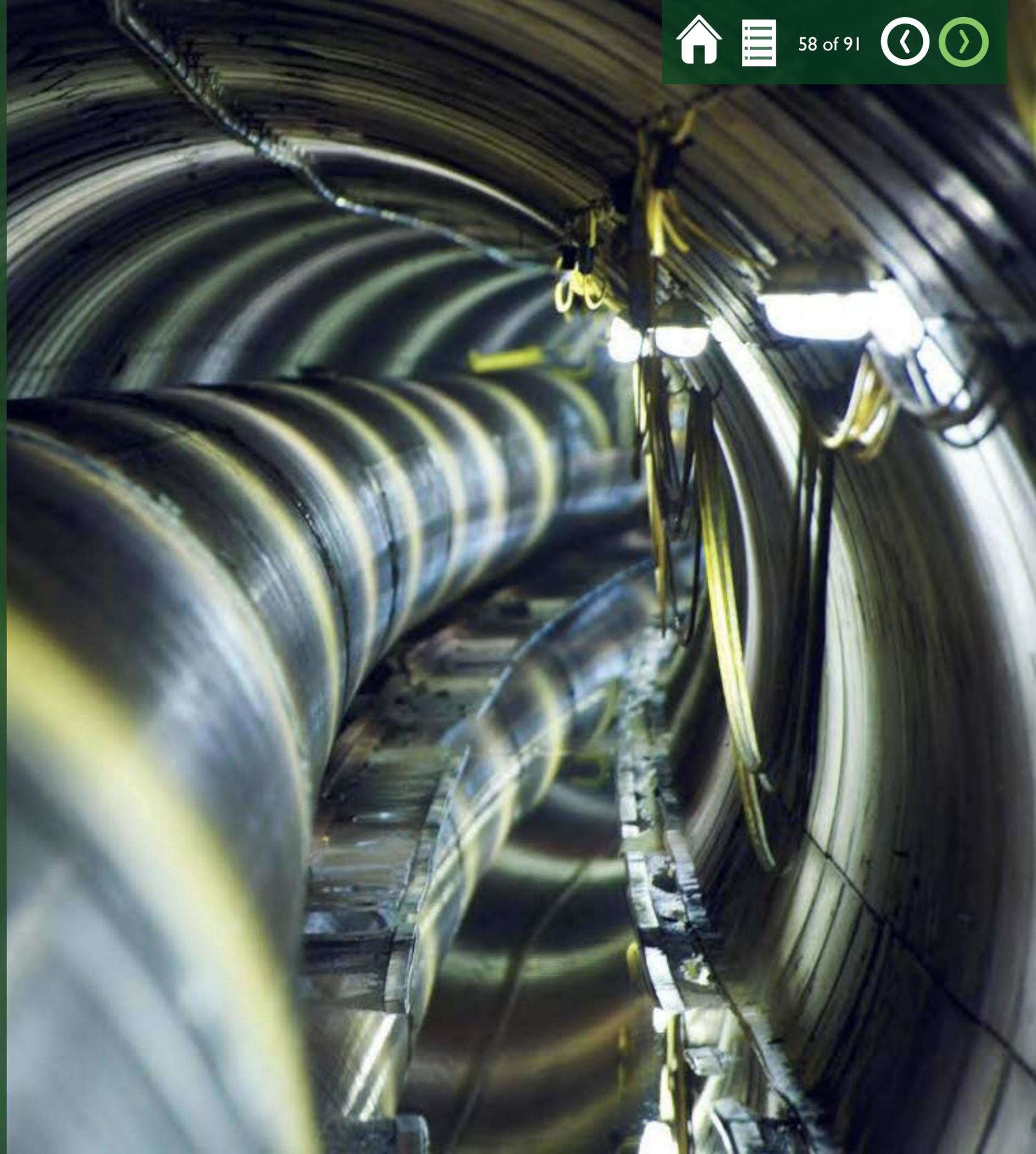
Opposite (clockwise from top left)  
Hambleton Lock construction, River Thames  
TBM preparation at tunnelling plant  
Chinese Pagoda, a present to Birmingham City transported and erected by Murphy  
Preparation of Segments for Silver Street Jacked Underbridge  
Above  
Deck upgrade of Westminster Bridge, London

## 2000s

This was another period of high-profile consolidation of existing Murphy rail and energy operational skills, working alongside big industry names on a spectrum of projects. A joint venture with Hochtief involved twin tunnels under the Thames for the Channel Tunnel Rail Link. Then in 2001/2002 Murphy undertook a joint venture in Norway with Veidekke, to construct an oil pipeline using principally subsea tunnels.

A further significant contract was the award of a 3 year framework by United Utilities to a joint venture of Kier, Murphy and Interserve to deliver the asset management programme, a multi million contract since extended to 2015.

In mid-decade Murphy made headlines in the UK trade press with 'Murphy Wins Olympic Gold' – reference to the first major contract award connected to London's Olympic Park and facilities. This was also a time of recognition for a company never afraid to break new ground. Murphy picked up the Utilities Industry liP award in 2001, was named Company of the Year at the Gas Industry Awards in 2005 and finished off in 2009 with the Project of the Year Award from the Association for Project Management for the power lines cable tunnels underground project in the Olympic Park.





Opposite  
1200mm diameter Gas Pipeline in tunnel – Harefield to Southall  
Above (clockwise from top left)  
Channel Tunnel Rail Link breakthrough celebrations  
Westminster security street furniture and paving  
Pipe laying on the Aberford to Pannal Pipeline







Opposite (clockwise from top left)  
Installing rock netting, Isle of Mull, Scotland  
Reinstatement on Brecon to Tirley 107km x 1200mm pipeline  
Teesside Gas Port – LNG offloading facility  
Above  
Salford Central station reconstruction







Opposite  
New electricity generation, West Boldon sub-station, Tyne and Wear  
Above (clockwise from top left)  
GIS Sub Station, Chadderton, Oldham  
Faversham to Whitstable cable installation  
Street furniture security, Whitehall, London

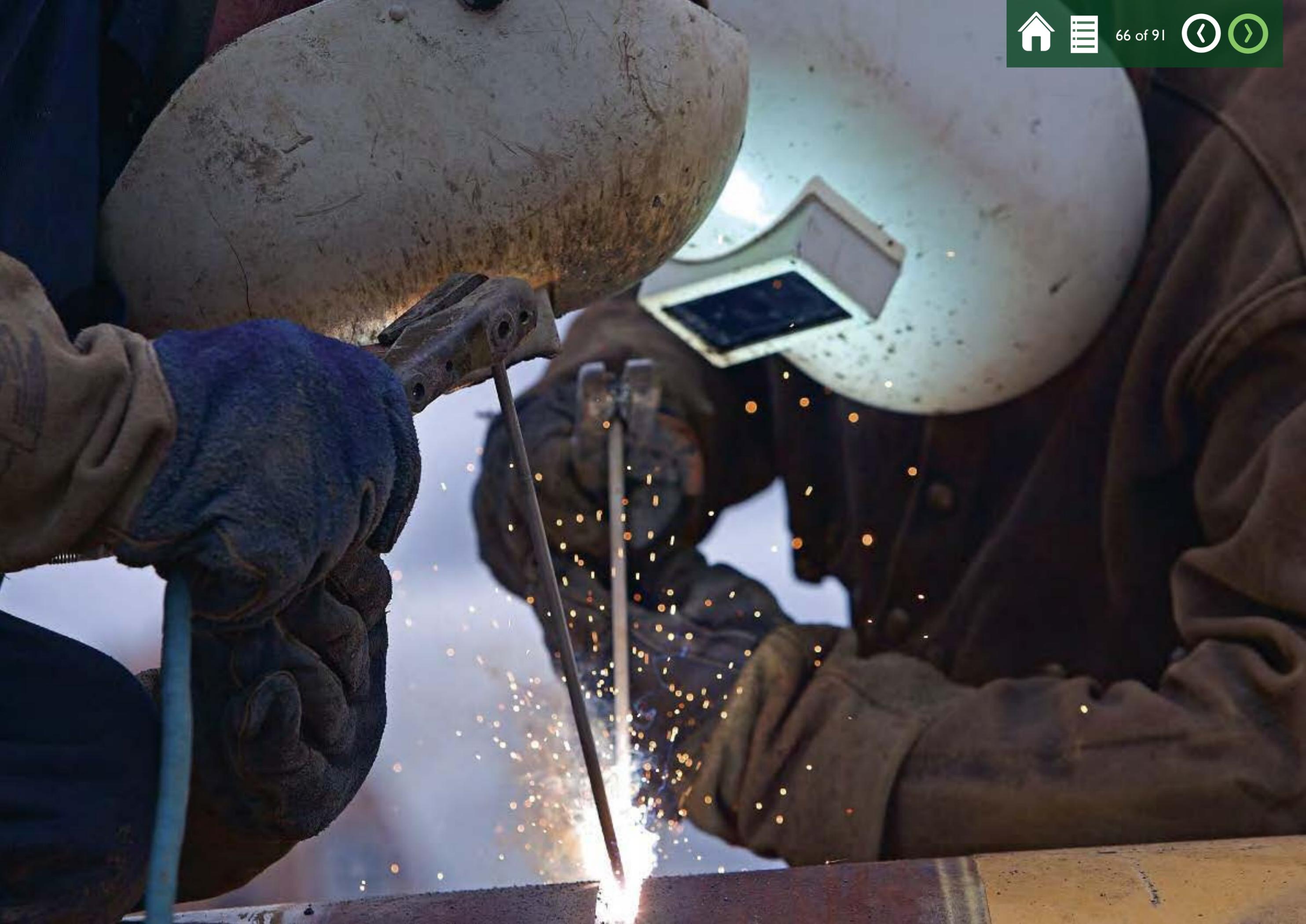






Opposite (clockwise from top left)  
Aerial view of Murphy Head Office and depot, Kentish Town  
Aberford to Pannal cross-country gas pipeline, Yorkshire  
Development of south concourse, Liverpool Lime Street station  
Above  
Sandhills railway station improvements, Liverpool







Opposite  
Tradesmen at work  
Above (clockwise from top left)  
Hornsea sea defence civil works  
Basement of Bow sub-station, Olympic Site, London  
Environmental mitigation works on pipeline route

# 2010s

After decades of innovation, experience and hectic activity, Murphy can legitimately claim to be the top pipeline company in the UK. In support of this, the company built on its success in major tunnelling projects by securing involvement in the £200m Plumstead to North Woolwich section of the Crossrail Tunnel Project – continuing the working relationship with Hochtief Solutions AG.

On the other side of the world, Murphy bought 50% of a growing pipe and civil engineering business in Australia and is in the process of developing into a major player diversifying into the tunnelling and cable-laying markets.

Back home, a Framework contract with Thames Water has been signed to work on infrastructure for clean and waste water in the Thames Valley and North London until 2015. This includes major replacement of London’s worn-out Victorian water mains.

To keep the success story on track, Murphy has just received a major award from Network Rail for standards in safety training.



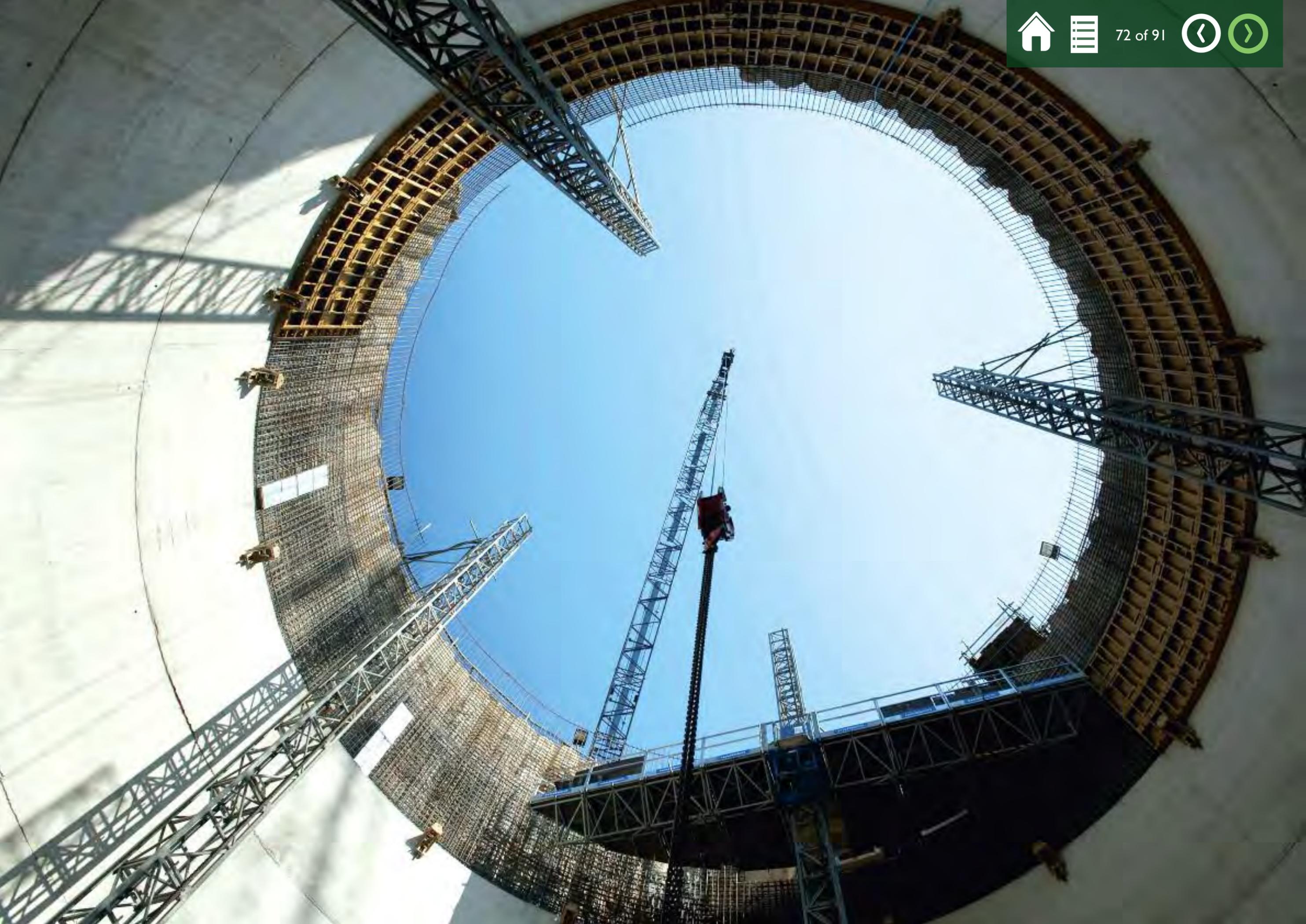


Opposite  
Multi-utility diversions to facilitate a Crossrail Station  
Above (clockwise from top left)  
Successful tunnel bore at Crossrail C233 multi-utilities diversion  
Crossrail Contract C233 site access  
Construction of new household waste recycling centre at Market Rasen, Lincolnshire





Opposite (clockwise from top left)  
Construction of new household waste recycling centre at Market Rasen, Lincolnshire  
Inlet works upgrade at Deephams Sewage Treatment Works at Edmonton, London  
TBM launch and press day, Newton-Le-Willows, Merseyside  
Above  
Graduates induction visit, Deephams Sewage Treatment Works, London





Opposite  
Inlet works upgrade at Deephams Sewage Treatment Works at Edmonton, London  
Above (clockwise from top left)  
Mammoth warehouse, Hemel Hempstead  
Crossrail enabling works  
Bridge replacement between Gospel Oak and Barking, London







Opposite (clockwise from top left)  
New utility connections at Millenium Point, Birmingham  
Piling rig preparation  
Design and construction of Hindhead water storage reservoir  
Stourbridge College at completion of new utility connections  
Above  
New footbridge and station buildings, Prestatyn station







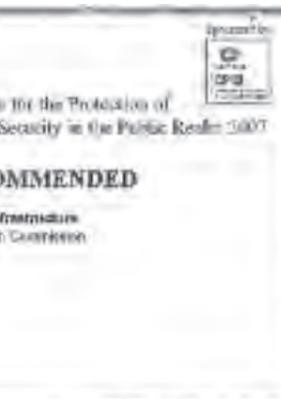
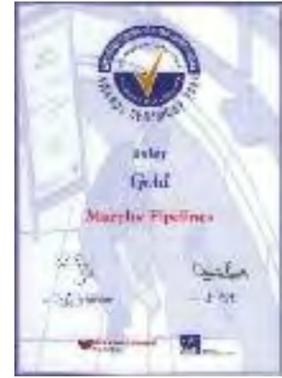
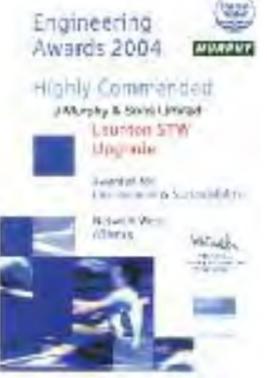
Opposite  
Night possession of track for Burley Park footbridge replacement, Yorkshire  
Above (clockwise from top left)  
Norton Lane sub-station cable pulling and trench preparation, Stockton-on-Tees  
TBM launch and press day, Newton-Le-Willows, Merseyside  
Embankment construction at quarry works





Opposite (clockwise from top left)  
170 piles completed by JM Piling, Holloway Road, London  
Inlet works upgrade at Deephams Sewage Treatment Works at Edmonton, London  
Bankside to Farringdon cable tunnel  
Above  
Excavation works, West East Link Main







## Industry accolades and recognition

It would not be possible to list the many awards and accolades Murphy has received over the years. The company has achieved recognition in a wide spectrum of markets, receiving awards ranging from health and safety, sustainability, customer care, and quality, as well as individual awards for project managers and engineers.

We're proud of all of our achievements. We've selected some of our favourites in the display on the opposite page. Some more that we'd like to remind ourselves of in particular include the Thames Water Ring Main British Construction Industry Award High Commendation in 1994; the Channel Tunnel Rail Link's 1 Million man-hours without a reportable HSE accident in 2001; City of Westminster's Considerate Contractors Schemes 'Best Contractor' Award in 2004; the Society of British Gas Industries' and Institution of Gas, Engineers & Managers' award for 'Company of the Year' to Murphy in 2005; the Project of the Year for the Olympic Power Tunnels and the Network Rail Partnership Awards Winner of Health & Safety Category in 2011.

Murphy continues to champion best practice and excellence in performance across the construction industry, with nothing being more important than safety – it's at the heart of who we are and at the core of every project we deliver.





## Now

After 60 years of breathing life into infrastructure, the Murphy Group is in a pretty good shape itself. The founder's promise 'to get the job done' still holds good, even on the most complex and challenging of projects. Murphy has a habit of setting industry standards when it comes to solving problems and delivering projects on time and on budget. For instance, Murphy was first to start and finish major pipeline contracts in a single weather window – March to October – to mitigate environmental impact. And Murphy's lack of bureaucracy also helps things get done more quickly against deadlines. Being responsible and treating people with tolerance and respect always starts with the workforce at Murphy. It's a philosophy based on John Murphy's personal concept of stability and consistency that continues to attract good people and keeps them on board.





## The Future

At Murphy, the goals of tomorrow are anchored firmly and unashamedly in the past. Murphy's ethos contains the true essence of foresight and forward-thinking that has fuelled its decades of progress. The will to harness innovation to what customers actually want is a part and parcel of what Murphy brings to every project. Adapting skills and expertise to a wide variety of infrastructure needs has been one of our great strengths over the years and continues to be so.

Murphy is committed to retaining its longstanding clients and winning new ones, as it always has been. But some things never change. Our ability to refocus on key areas which are in demand, commitment to increasing the portfolio of markets we serve, and hunger for excellence. This is underlined by Murphy's expansion into Australia in 2011 with a 50% shareholding to form Murphy Pipe & Civil.

The Murphy ability to breathe new life into existing and ever more diverse sectors looks set to maintain business viability for many years to come.



Opposite: Twin pipeline installation plough, Murphy Pipe & Civil, Australia



## Thanks

Our story illustrates the entrepreneurial leadership and great determination of John Murphy. He was an uplifting and invigorating presence to all his employees, customers and supply chain. His achievements are testimony to the dedicated workforce he gathered around him, each of whom he was fiercely proud of.

Let us remember a great and exceptional man in the knowledge that his legacy will continue to thrive through his surviving family and loyal employees.

The Murphy family and Board of Directors thank Cedric Brown for the foreword and all those who contributed photographs and stories for inclusion.



Bernard Murphy, Director







