



# The street lighting specialists



## Spotlight on Barking and Dagenham

by Paul Greenham,  
ICP contracts manager

We are at the end of a very successful three months working in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham where we have replaced nine hundred columns and lamps.

### How did this contract come about?

The council concluded many lighting columns in the area were past their usable life and were deemed to fail. There was an obvious need to replace the stock with energy efficient, LED alternatives and so AA Lighting was hired to take on the work.

We were chosen because of our ability to deliver a high quality, full service that would keep costs to a minimum and save time.

And we didn't disappoint. In fact, on our most industrious day, we replaced fifteen columns in eight hours. That's going to be hard to beat.

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**Picture 1; the excavation team digs the footpath**



**Picture 2; the connection team makes sure the live cable is safely capped**

### How do we approach a contract like this?

Once spend is secured the designs are then agreed, the materials are ordered and deliveries are staged to suit the council's schedule. We're then ready for the programme to start.

### Site safety

At the site, we conduct the necessary measures to make the site safe. Pedestrian barriers are installed and passing services identified and marked up.

### Picture 1; Excavations starts

Then the on-site operation starts. Lloyds Approved excavation teams dig the footpath and locate the live network service cable. They then remove enough spoil to achieve required joint bay measurements.

### Picture 2; Jointing and cabling

The connection team then carries out a cut split on the service cable and installs a permanent pot end, making sure the live cable is safely capped. This means they pose no risk to the follow up teams or members of the passing public.

### Picture 3; Lantern and column removal

The mobile elevation work platform (MEWP) then removes the old lantern and bracket. The AA Lighting Hiab carefully removes the redundant column by means of excavating around the base and slowly lifting the column out of the ground. It's then secured on the back of the lorry.

### Picture 4; New column installation

A new replacement steel lamp column is then erected in place of the old one. To save time, the new one will have protective coatings already applied to avoid premature corrosion and guard against the elements. Once installed, the columns will be galvanised to protect against rust and the base will be bitumen coated to ensure longevity of the root.



**Picture 3; the Hiab removes the redundant lamp column**



**Picture 4; a new replacement steel lamp column is erected**

## AA LIGHTING

- ✔ Less time
- ✔ Less cost
- ✔ Less waste



## “Meeting environmental and legislative challenges with a new approach”

By Virgil Tatomir, managing director, AA Lighting.

### A new dawn is upon us in street lighting.

Advances in technology along with a Government drive to reduce CO2 emissions and energy usage, means the highway lighting industry is undergoing radical change.

As such, local councils are on a mission to swap conventional lighting systems with LED technology. This is of course great news for the environment, for communities and for the residents.

However, this incentive has meant huge disruption and expense to councils and their constituents while the work is carried out.

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### One-stop-shop for street lighting

To face this predicament head on, we decided to act. We've worked hard to modernise and streamline our services to make the lives of our clients easier. How? By bringing our services all under one roof.

By introducing a jointing and cabling services to installation and reinstatement, we're increasing efficiency on a scale that was never thought possible.

With our new approach, councils no longer have to employ a number of different contractors. They need only deal with one company, all of the time.

This all adds up to less time, less fuss and less cost.

### A growing company with entrepreneurial spirit

The changes we've made are typical of our entrepreneurial spirit.

Yes, we've come a long way since our humble beginnings in 2009. But despite rapid growth and expansion, we've always maintained our SME culture and feel.

This helps us stay creative and responsive. It also helps us work together more collaboratively, as a team. To us, it's these attributes together with the hard work of our staff that drives us to always do better.

### Lighting the way ahead

Will this drive to improve continue? Sure it will. Our plan is to work towards streamlining street lighting installation and maintenance. At the same time, we will also be keeping a keen eye of new "smart" lighting technologies and consider how the industry will evolve in the coming years.

As a council with the welfare of its constituents and the good of the environment at its heart, perhaps you share our vision. If so, we'd like to know more. Please get in touch!

**Virgil Tatomir, Managing Director  
AA Lighting Contractors Ltd.**

## AA LIGHTING AT A GLANCE:

### ESTABLISHED:

2009

### EMPLOYEES:

100

### SECTORS OF OPERATION:

- Local authorities
- Highway and trunk roads
- Tunnel/underpass lighting

### KEY SERVICES:

- Installation and maintenance
- PFI
- Jointing and Cabling
- Sign Lighting
- Design

### Picture 5; The lights come on

The MEWP then returns, this time to install the new lantern. The power is then connected by our jointers. At this point, the lighting column is functional.

### Re-surface and restoration

Finally, the reinstatement crew works on the ground to prepare and re-surface the area that has been disturbed around the column. From tarmac to grass, block paving to slabs; the team's workmanship will blend the ground so that you'll hardly know we've been.

Our full service approach to replacing lighting stock is our most powerful tool. It's also what makes us stand out in our industry. It's little wonder we're the number one choice for so many councils and highway departments around the UK.



**Picture 5; the power is connected. The lighting column is fully functional.**



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