

Driving Down Heating Costs for a Greener Showroom

For nearly two months in 2008, Encompas were involved in the largest underfloor heating and heat pump technology project ever undertaken.

A vast new motor store, designed by Glasgow based Opfer Logan architects, was being built for Arnold Clark near Stafford, with space inside and outside for some 900 cars.

The £15 million showroom covers an area of 4,600 square metres and it was the laying of underfloor piping for the purpose of both heating and cooling the showroom that was one of the most important elements of the work. The underfloor piping - manufactured by an Italian company called Valsir - was laid onto special quality floor insulation. The piping's layout design was governed entirely by what the client wanted to deliver into the building in terms of heating and cooling.

Outside the showroom on the 10 acre site, engineers drilled over 50 boreholes, each of them 100 metres deep. This is the first step on the way to harnessing energy from the earth for this large scale project.

The pipes are linked together through a brass manifold, manufactured by another Italian company, Pettinaroli. The manifold also serves as a control valve, allowing clients to switch zones on and off in the building. Semi-dry fibre screed, a mix of sand, cement and polypropylene fibres was laid by hand around and on top of the pipework.

From start to finish, it's been a wonderful showcase for the expertise and dedication of our team, and for all the different sides to our company. In the end much of the work at Stafford may neither be seen or heard but the people who pass through the showroom, to view the hundreds of cars on display, will most certainly feel the difference that Encompas has made.

