BA LVAC
DELIVERING SPECIALIST EXPERTISE
SINCE 1933
Balvac Ltd was originally incorporated in Liverpool as Whitley Moran & Company Ltd in October 1933.

Since then the company has survived the Second World War, developed various patented techniques for concrete repair and been acquired by Balfour Beatty.

Our name has changed twice as well, initially becoming Balvac Whitley Moran Ltd in 1986 before we eventually settled on our current name in 2003.

During our transformation from gunite professionals to the highly specialised, technical structural repair company we are today, we’ve been fortunate enough to work on a broad variety of projects both in the UK and across the world.
Gunite was invented in the early 1900s by American taxidermist Carl Akeley. Dry concrete was blown out of a hose with compressed air while water was introduced at the nozzle as it was released. By 1937 Whitley Moran & Co. Ltd engineers were busy designing improvements to the cement guns they used to apply the Gunite.

In the mid-1930s Whitley Moran & Co. Ltd developed a patented technique known as the Colquhoun-Moran Cavity Lining for Tunnels, Subways and Underground Works. The same principles are still at work today as we provide technical solutions to structural problems in various subterranean environments.

On 7th September 1954, Whitley Moran & Co. Ltd was granted a patent for improvements to the gunite process. This pioneering invention was the forerunner to a number of other innovations such as spray applied levelling and fairing coats.

In the early 1970s, James Milne was working for Balfour Beatty in East Pakistan and Bangladesh. While there he developed a unique vacuum assisted process that was used to repair crumbling brick bridges. Further development by Balfour Beatty Power Construction Ltd followed and the Balvac Process was patented in 1973. It was so innovative that the BBC featured it on its flagship science programme ‘Tomorrow’s World’ in 1975.
1. Cement gun repairs to a beautiful outdoor swimming pool in Rock Park, Barnstaple, 1935.
3. Repairing seawater fire damage, Chicken Rock, Fishguard, 1946.
5. Chicken Rock Lighthouse was heavily damaged by fire in 1941 and Whitley Bros & Co Ltd was contracted to repair it in 1941 using gravel and pressure grouting.
6. Built in the glamorous location of Warrington this vault was commissioned by Barclays to house some of their extensive bullion reserves. Our responsibility on this project was to build the cable supported roof using gunite.
9. Preventing the collapse of the main headquarter building for the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation was the largest project of its kind in the area, 1980.
10. Fire bursts from vents 8 and 9 during the Summit Tunnel fire. Creative intervention West Yorkshire, 1984. We repaired the damaged tunnel using spray applied grout.
11. The now demolished cooling towers of Thorpe Marsh Power Station, 1980. We repaired the concrete using vacuum assisted resin injection.
12. Bridge repair works at Newfield Bridge, Liverpool, using resin-assisted vacuum injection techniques to stabilise and strengthen concrete.
13. Kingston Bridge, Glasgow. We were involved throughout the design stage providing specialist advice and carried out post tensioning and fibre bonding strengthening techniques.
14. The fully rehabilitated Thornton Fisher from the West Span, now open for cycling and walking as part of the Great Yorkshire Walking Trail between Halifax and Queensbury.
15. Protecting the steelwork of the new headquarters building for the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation was the largest project of its kind at the time, 1983-1984.
Looking back at some of the images in our archive, it’s clear that many things have changed for the better since the early years of the company.

Health and safety legislation and practices have, quite rightly, undergone a revolution and we are committed to ensuring the elimination of all workplace injuries, lost time incidents and ill health as a result of our activities.

We are also dedicated to becoming more sustainable in our work and building long-term customer relationships based on successful project delivery, co-operation and trust.

With this in mind we look forward to the opportunities that the next eighty years will bring. But as we do so there is one thing that we are certain will stay the same, and that is our commitment to delivering technically brilliant solutions combined with quality, value and outstanding service.

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