



## Major UK Waste Water Contractor Begins Initial ProGARM Garment Roll-Out

J. Browne are one of the largest waste water contractors in the South East of England, working with major utilities and private clients providing them with utility contracting services and civil engineering. Established in 1971, J. Browne have built up a business that now has annual turnover of over £65m as a major supplier to Thames Water and work on the Waste Network Service (WNS) Contract.

A lot of their work involves breaking ground due to the need to monitor and repair underground water and waste water services and complex civil engineering works. This work involves the potential risk of an ARC flash occurring.

With their increasing need for protection against the dangers of underground services (HSG47), emphasis on behavioural safety training and importance of health & safety culture, J. Browne considered a variety of PPE solutions to find the best solution for them and their operatives.

The best option for them was to opt for ProGARM as the UK's only Arc Flash specialists to provide an industry leading PPE solution, which was comfortable, high-in quality and certified to the relevant EN standards.



*"J Browne is delighted to be working with Progarm to improve the PPE protection we give to our people. The approach and support offered by Progarm has been excellent, and we look forward to ongoing continuous development to better protect our workforce."*

**Paul McMahon – Managing Director**

## The Issue

During 2017 J. Browne approached ProGARM as part of their commitment to achieving health and safety excellence and on the back of a thorough risk assessment process where the need for high-quality solutions to underground service risk (HSG47) was established. J.Browne's strive for industry leading health & safety solutions led to their decision to choose ProGARM as their Arc Flash protection partners.



## The Solution

Typically with 14 Major Works and 15 Minor Works sites on the Waste Network Services contract, it was imperative that a suitable, flexible solution was found that would serve operative across all WNS sites and would be able to protect their work activities. We will continue to work with J. Browne to provide educational toolbox talks to all their employees & sub-contractors on risks of Arc Flash and the benefits of wearing ProGARM garments. Through this work, J Browne have rolled out a full arc flash protection solution to all their WNS sites.



**Ian Watson**  
SHE Advisor

*"As safety professionals we strive for excellence and the company's decision to progress with and the introduction of, the new innovative PPE is a giant step forward for all. It not only demonstrates the commitment of the board, Managers and safety team in protecting our workforce, but it also shows we care"*

*"Whereas PPE will always be the last line of defence after task/process/activity procedures, risk assessments and safe systems of work are in place, it is reassuring to know, that we have the best available PPE as our last line of defence for our operatives"*

## 7 great reasons to choose ProGARM Arc Flash and Flame Resistant protective clothing

### **We're Arc Flash specialists.**

We're 100% focused on Arc Flash and flash fire protection, and we're the only people in the UK that are true specialists in Arc Flash.

### **Not all fibres are created equally.**

Our unique VSX+ Fabric is 100% inherent, ensuring protection for the life of the garment.

### **Durability matters.**

Our Arc Flash garments last up to 70% longer than other leading brands and our Lifetime Seam Guarantee underlines our confidence in our garments.

### **Components are key.**

We use only the best components to ensure that no part of a garment is left vulnerable.

### **Comfort isn't everything, but it helps.**

Workforces are more likely to wear Arc Flash and Flame Resistant protective clothing if it's comfortable so we've made ours as comfortable as wearing pyjamas.

### **No one is innovating faster than ProGARM.**

We believe that you can always make a good thing better so we're always working on the next generation of Arc Flash protection.

### **We don't make garments for anyone else.**

Others may suggest that their garments are as good as ProGARM's and some even copy them too. But as in all things, beware of cheap imitations.

*"Through a risk assessment process and following legal requirements and compliance with HSG47, J Browne endeavour to ensure our employees are not exposed to any foreseeable risk whilst at work. Damage to utility services when breaking ground are a significant risk. Even with more robust risk assessments, they are a common occurrence throughout the industry.*

*That's why J Browne have supplied all our operatives working on the Waste Network Service Contract on behalf of Thames Water with the leading industry PPE. Setting Industry Standards for other contractors to follow.*

*ProGARM deliver Arc Flash clothing that offers our site teams comprehensive protection against an Arc Flash or flash fire incident.*

*The PPE has been well received by the employees with positive feedback relating to the comfort of the garments. PPE is the last form of defense but having belief in the PPE manufactured by ProGARM this gives great confidence to both operatives and Managers within the company."*



Initial feedback from the issued PPE has been very positive with many operatives commenting on the comfort and quality of the garments compared to the protective clothing that had previously been issued.

*"I have worked at J.Browne for over eleven years, and during this period of time I have previously been issued with various brands of protective clothing, all of which have not compared to the quality and comfort of the ProGARM garments.*

*When I was issued with ProGARM Arc Flash clothing kit consisting of trousers, jumpers and polo shirts, I was extremely happy with the products whilst improving my safety at work. The garments also in themselves, are very comfortable and of a great quality.*

*I can honestly say that the clothing supplied by ProGARM is the only protective clothing brand that I don't mind wearing and have no issues with."*

**Mark Fogarty – J. Browne Operative**

It is yet another successful implementation of Arc Flash garments by ProGARM and highlights the importance of educating UK industry on the risks of Arc Flash and how wearing the correct PPE can protect lives as an effective form of last defence.

Speaking on behalf of ProGARM, Technical Sales Manager Hamilton Smith commented:

*"In working with J Browne I have found out they care about their employees and sub-contractors on the WNS contract. The health and safety team are taking a positive approach to the risk and hazards their workforce come across, when breaking ground and are now suitably equipped with the garments required for such work activities. It's been a pleasure to have carried out tool box talks to those wearing the garments, explaining why they are wearing them and the science behind the garments in turn better educating the operatives to understand the importance of wearing the correct PPE garments".*



## About ProGARM

ProGARM is dedicated to protecting lives through the manufacture and supply of exceptional quality ARC Flash and Flame Resistant safety clothing.

Based in East Yorkshire, ProGARM's key goal is to provide Flame Resistant safety clothing, such as its exceptional Arc Flash clothing range, that offers the ultimate protection from the risks and hazards in which the wearers have to work. What offered the ultimate protection yesterday may not be the protection required today.

The ProGARM UK brand focuses on continual improvement with Arc Flash and Flame Resistant clothing and the company constantly develops the next new concept to protect its customers - the wearers. The fabrics have been developed to be the most comfortable in the market place, while offering the levels of protection required from Heat & Flame, Arc Flash and Static.

For more information visit <http://www.progarm.com/> or @ProGARMSafety.