

Paul Thorneycroft BSc DMS CEng FIMechE

Consulting Engineer



Engineering Expert Witness Investigations, Testing and Reporting

- **Industrial Machinery**
- **Consumer Products**
- **Personal Injury**
- **Design Right and Patent Disputes**

Paul Thorneycroft is a Chartered Engineer and a Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. He has over thirty years of professional engineering experience, including fourteen years experience of Expert Witness work.



Expertise includes mechanical engineering, product design and testing, patent and design right disputes, breakdown and failure analysis, manufacturing issues and the investigation of Personal Injury matters.

I am an accredited and regularly vetted member of the UK Register of Expert Witnesses and listed in Sweet & Maxwell's directory of expert witnesses as one of their 'checked' experts. I am also on the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers database of expert witnesses as a Tier One expert.

I have available a wide range of testing and analysis facilities together with ready access to the expertise of other specialists, such as metallurgists.

Profile

I graduated in 1978 from the Polytechnic of the South Bank, London, with an upper second class honours degree in Mechanical Engineering. Having been elected a Member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and a Chartered Engineer in 1988 I then successfully completed a postgraduate Diploma in Management Studies in 1991. In recognition of my wide engineering experience and responsibilities, and a commitment to a programme of Continued Professional Development, I was elected a Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers in 2003.

Initially I received professional training with the Ministry of Defence in a number of areas including Metrology, Metallurgical analysis and Engineering Development. Following graduation I spent three years at Pirelli Cables, firstly completing a graduate training programme and receiving further experience in various engineering departments before taking up the position of Plant Development Engineer.

After working at De La Rue Systems on the development of high-speed bank-note counterfeit detection and sorting machinery, I joined the staff of Aeronautical and General Instruments in 1983. At AGI I worked on the development and manufacture of weigh scales, marine systems and the design, manufacture and installation of a new generation of runway visibility monitoring systems on behalf of the Civil Aviation Authority for all the major UK airports. I was also appointed Company Safety Officer and received training from the British Safety Council.

In 1994 I joined the University of Southampton as a Consultancy Manager of USITT and was also the Manager of the Mechanical Engineering Consultancy Service and the Central Design Service consultancy for a period of two years. At USITT I worked as a designer, development engineer and project manager on a large number of multi-disciplinary projects for a wide range of prestigious industrial and commercial clients.

In 2006 I left the University to become an independent Consulting Engineer; however I continue to have access to the specialised facilities and expertise there.

I am also an experienced Expert Witness and since my first instruction in 1994 I have undertaken investigations and prepared reports in a wide range of matters, from large industrial systems through investigating and testing domestic products to reporting on Personal Injury cases, including a fatal accident investigation. I have received training in acting as an Expert Witness, including as a SJE and in the requirements of the CPR; I am also experienced in giving evidence in the High Court. My experience has included:-

Expert Witness experience has included:-

Industrial Machinery & Other Industrial/Manufacturing Disputes

- Instructed by Kevin Appleton, Partner at **Bristows** (London) acting on behalf of the Defendant in the matter of PEEK Traffic Ltd and Traffic 2000 Ltd. 1998.
Conducted investigations and prepared a report in respect of the **premature failure of traffic sensors embedded in the highway**.
- Instructed by David Calder, Senior Solicitor at **Murray Beith Murray WS** (Edinburgh) acting on behalf of the Defendant. Napier University Ltd –v– Distell Industries Ltd, 2000.
Undertook an investigation and prepared a report in respect of the counter-claim of alleged failure by Claimant to provide contracted **project management** services.
- Instructed by Mark Aldrich Partner at **Browne Jacobson** (Nottingham) acting on behalf of the Claimant in the matter of Express Dairies and Stork Systèmes Alimentaires, 2001.
Undertook investigations and prepared a report in respect of the alleged **failure of a high-capacity, cream-pot filling machine** to meet specified performance.
- Instructed by Mark Aldrich, Partner at **Browne Jacobson** (Nottingham) acting on behalf of the Claimant in the matter of Saint-Gorbain Pipelines and Wöhr GmbH, 2002.
Undertook investigations and prepared a report in respect of the alleged **failure of an automatic ladle handling and pouring system at an iron foundry** to meet specified performance.

- Jointly instructed by **Blake Laphorn Linnell** (Fareham) and **Zimmers** (London) in the matter of Huhtamaki UK Ltd and Plantas Technik GmbH - **Arbitration**, 2003. Investigated alleged **failings in a machine for crystallizing plastic granules**.
- Instructed by Amanda Mehlin, Partner at **Clarkson Wright & Jakes** (Orpington, Kent) acting on behalf of the defendants. British Sugar –v– Babbini and others, 2004. Undertook an investigation and prepared a report in respect of the **failure of a very large gearbox** fitted to a sugar beet press.
- Instructed by Loren Thompson of **Lockings** (Kingston-upon-Hull) acting on behalf of the defendant, 2005. Undertook an investigation and prepared a report in respect of the **failure of a batch of electronic components leading to a series of fires**.
- Instructed by Seamus Smyth of **Carter Lemon Camerons** (London) acting on behalf of the Claimant, 2008. Undertook an investigation and prepared initial report in respect of the **failure of a window cleaner's cradle system**.

Design Right, Patent & Other Rights

- Instructed by Max Craft, Partner at **Blake Laphorn Linnell** (Fareham, Hampshire) on behalf of the Claimant. Amoena –v– Trulife 1995. Undertook an investigation, prepared a report and **gave evidence in the High Court Chancery Division before His Honour Jonathan Sumption QC**, in respect of an alleged infringement of Design Right in the copying of the shape of silicone prosthesis breasts.
- Instructed by David Brown, Partner at **Bristows** (London) acting on behalf of the claimant. Electrolux –v– Dyson 1999. Undertook investigations, prepared reports and **gave evidence in the High Court Chancery Division before The Honourable Mr. Jonathan Parker**, in respect of the performance of Electrolux vacuum cleaners against recognised international standards.
- Instructed by Gideon Cristofoli of **Bookers & Bolton** (Alton, Hampshire) acting on behalf of the claimant, 2006. Undertook an investigation and prepared a report in respect of the alleged **copying of the design of a bed**.
- Instructed by Hugh Storry Deans of **Harold G. Walker** (Bournemouth) acting on behalf of the defendant, 2007. Undertook an investigation and prepared a report in respect of the alleged **infringement of a Patent for a medical device**.
- Instructed by Damian Bailey of **Kuits** (Manchester) acting on behalf of the claimant, 2008. Undertook an investigation, prepared a report and **gave evidence in the High Court before Mr Peter Prescott QC** (sitting as a Deputy Judge) in respect of the alleged **infringement of a Patent for loft stairs**.

Personal Injury

- Instructed by **Shentons** Solicitors (Winchester) on behalf of the Claimant. 1995. Undertook an investigation and prepared a report as to the **condition of a lorry** involved in an incident leading to a Personal Injury claim.
- Instructed by Harry Suleman of **Lyons Davidson** (New Maldern, Surrey) acting on behalf of the Claimant. 2002. Undertook an investigation and prepared a report in respect of the mechanical failure of a **mountain bike** resulting in Personal Injury.
- Instructed by Nichola Upperton-Evans at **Rowe Cohen** (London) acting on behalf of the Claimant, 2003. Undertook an investigation and prepared a report in respect of a **fire resulting from an alleged failure of an automatic gas valve**, leading to a claim for Personal Injury and property damage.
- Instructed by Gordon Simpson of **Halliwell Landau** (Manchester) acting on behalf of the potential defendant, 2004. Undertook an investigation and prepared a report into the alleged failure of a **bath-lift** potentially leading to Personal Injury.
- Instructed by Eamonn Clifford, Partner at **Burrells** (London) acting on behalf of the claimant, 2005. Prepared a report in respect of a **greenhouse glazing clip** leading to Personal Injury.
- Jointly instructed by Sarah Cross of **Oglethorpe Sturton & Gillibrand** (Lancaster) and insurers, 2005. Undertook an investigation and prepared a report in respect of the alleged **collapse of a wooden chair** leading to Personal Injury.
- Instructed by Tim Ingram of **Keoghs** (Coventry) acting on behalf of insurers, 2006. Undertook an investigation and prepared a report in respect of a **fatal Personal Injury involving automatic gates** at residential premises.
- Instructed by Phil Wilkins of **Hudgell & Partners** (Woolwich) on behalf of defendant, 2006. Undertook an investigation and prepared a report in respect of an alleged **non-accidental injury involving a mechanically powered baby swing**.
- Instructed by Charlotte Woodhouse of **Glanvilles** (Havant, Hampshire) acting on behalf of the claimant, 2006. Undertook an investigation and prepared a report on the mechanical failure of a **DIY power saw** resulting in Personal Injury.
- Jointly instructed by Rachel Shaw of **Archer & Archer** (Ely, Cambridgeshire) and **Vizards Wyeth** (Dartford, Kent), 2007. Undertook an investigation and prepared a report on the **collapse of a folding wooden garden chair** resulting in Personal Injury.

- Instructed by Iain Gould of **David Phillips & Partners** (Liverpool) acting on behalf of the claimant, 2007.
Undertook an investigation and prepared a report on the mechanical failure of a **child's bicycle** resulting in Personal Injury.
- Instructed by Barbara Bentley of **Pinto Potts** (Aldershot) acting behalf of the claimant, 2007.
Undertook an investigation and prepared a report on the safety of a **factory saw** which had caused Personal Injury.
- Jointly instructed by Neil Wainman of **Hancocks** (Banbury) and Iain Smith of **Hugh James** (Cardiff), 2008.
Undertook an investigation and prepared a report on the condition of a **domestic food processor** involved in a Personal Injury.
- Instructed by John Andrews of **Steele Raymond** (Bournemouth) acting on behalf of the claimant, 2008.
Undertook an investigation and prepared a report on the mechanical failure of a **mountain-style bicycle** resulting in Personal Injury.
- Instructed by Ross Pearce of **David W Harris** (Cardiff) acting on behalf of the claimant, 2008.
Undertook an investigation and prepared a report on the failure of an item of **gym equipment** resulting in Personal Injury.
- Instructed by Charlotte Thubron of **Bailey Smailes** (Huddersfield) acting on behalf of the claimant, 2008.
Undertook an investigation and prepared a report on the mechanical failure of a **trade power saw** resulting in Personal Injury.
- Instructed by Ben Kerley of **Pengillys** (Weymouth) action of behalf of the claimant, 2008.
Undertook an investigation and prepared a report on a **flood of hot water** in a house resulting in Personal Injury.
- Instructed by Amie Pinnell of **Harris Fowler** (Taunton) acting on behalf of the claimant, 2008.
Undertook an investigation and prepared a report on likely source of a **water leakage** in a school kitchen resulting in Personal Injury.
- Instructed by Tracy Stanton of **Copley Clark & Bennett** (Cheam, Surrey) acting on behalf of the claimant, 2008.
Undertook an investigation and prepared a report on the mechanical failure of a **bicycle** resulting in Personal Injury.
- Instructed by Neil G Pratt of **Kenyon Son & Craddock** (Doncaster) acting on behalf of the claimant, 2009.

Undertook an investigation and prepared a report on the condition of a **bottle** involved in a Personal Injury.

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Further details appear on the web site at: www.engineeringexpertwitness.co.uk

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