



# TOBERMORE NORTHERN IRELAND

SUCCESS THROUGH INNOVATIVE  
END-OF-LINE PACKAGING SOLUTIONS

**Client:**  
Tobermore  
Northern Ireland

**Customer contact:**  
Trevor Smyth, Production Works Manager

**Theme:**  
Strapping and Hooding for  
Concrete Products

**Year:**  
2023

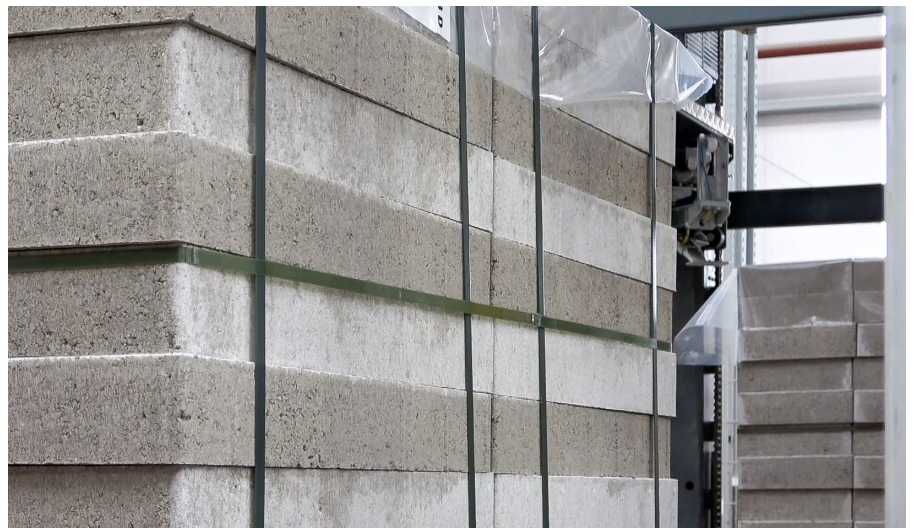


# Tobermore

Tobermore, a leading manufacturer of high-quality block paving, paving flags and retaining walls in the UK and Ireland, recently commissioned the fourth line of its growing concrete operation.



# “We felt strongly about having Signode contribute the end-of-line packaging segment



**The “state of the art” Hall IV development, commissioned in 2021, reflects the ambition of Tobermore to be a major player in the block paving market, crowning 20-years of continual growth.**

Presently, Tobermore employs approximately 350 skilled professionals across the UK and Ireland and boasts a diverse range of concrete products for both consumer and commercial applications.

The Hall IV development, predominantly responsible for production of block pavers, was particularly unique due to the timing of the project. The facility was completed at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, which revealed its own challenges amidst supply chain issues, restricted travel, and social distancing requirements. Such a large project with added challenges requires strong partnership and understanding with equipment manufacturers. Tobermore reached out to the Signode team, who had previously supplied an innovative end-of-line packaging setup for the Hall III development.

## Horizontal and Vertical Strapping followed by Lachenmeier Stretch Hood



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**Signode - The One Stop Shop that offers complete transit packaging solutions to its customers.**

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**Signode, a total solutions company and leading manufacturer of packaging equipment, tools and consumables, not only had the resources to assist, but also the remote commissioning skills, developed within the Signode PackagingPlus® Team, required to operate within the restrictions presented by the pandemic.**

“We felt strongly about having Signode contribute the end-of-line packaging segment of the Hall IV development,” said Trevor Smyth, Production Works Manager at Tobermore. “The collaboration has been very productive, the machines have shown great results, and the after-sales service was reliable.”

Continuous production capabilities combined with high-performing and reliable equipment were key to the success of this new facility.



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# Horizontal / Vertical Strapping

By running two uninterrupted 12-hour shifts per day, Hall IV is capable of producing over one million square meters of concrete block paving per year.

## **TSM6500**

*Applying 4 straps in total along the length of the pack at speeds of up to 160 mm/sec.*

Once a pallet of block pavers has been stacked, it is automatically transported to the "Signode Packaging Zone" to be secured for transit and further protected from the elements during outside storage.

The pallet first moves through the TSM6500 vertical strapping station applying 4 vertical straps.

This pallet continues its journey through the HSM3000 horizontal strapping station applying 1 horizontal strap.

Finally, the pallet arrives at the Multi Flex1 stretch hooding station where a logo printed hood is applied increasing pack stability, adding weather protection and increasing marketability.

The TSM6500 can be used as a single vertical strapping station or as in the Tobermore application, transported to 3 additional positions applying 4 straps in total along the length of the pack at speeds of up to 160mm/sec.

Designed for use with Signode's Tenax® 16-19 mm strap (flat or embossed) applying tensions ranging from 500-6500N.



The machine's compact, robust design caters for a wide range of different brick, block, and tile applications, aligning with the diverse needs of the construction industry.

The HSM3000 can be used as a single horizontal strapping station as in the Tobermore application or can apply multiple straps down the height of the pack.

Designed for use with Signode's Tenax 9-13mm strap (flat or embossed) applying tensions ranging from 200-3000N.

Both strapping stations include:



1

## Steel Bayonet

The "Construction Package" inclusive of steel bayonet and blow out system, reducing down time due to concrete dust and debris accumulation.



2

## Modular Head

Simple head design employing brushless drive motors (no clutch or belt drive ware) and modular sealing head technology for quick replacement of parts maximizing machine up time.



3

## Uniform Tension

"Floating head" design for the trap tension to be distributed uniformly around the pavers reducing the possibilities of strap/block damage.



4

## Tenax Strap

Both systems use Tenax Polyester (PET) strap, available in Standard 25Kg reels, Jumbo 70Kg reels, Super Jumbo 115Kg reels, the Super Jumbo reels holding 4 times

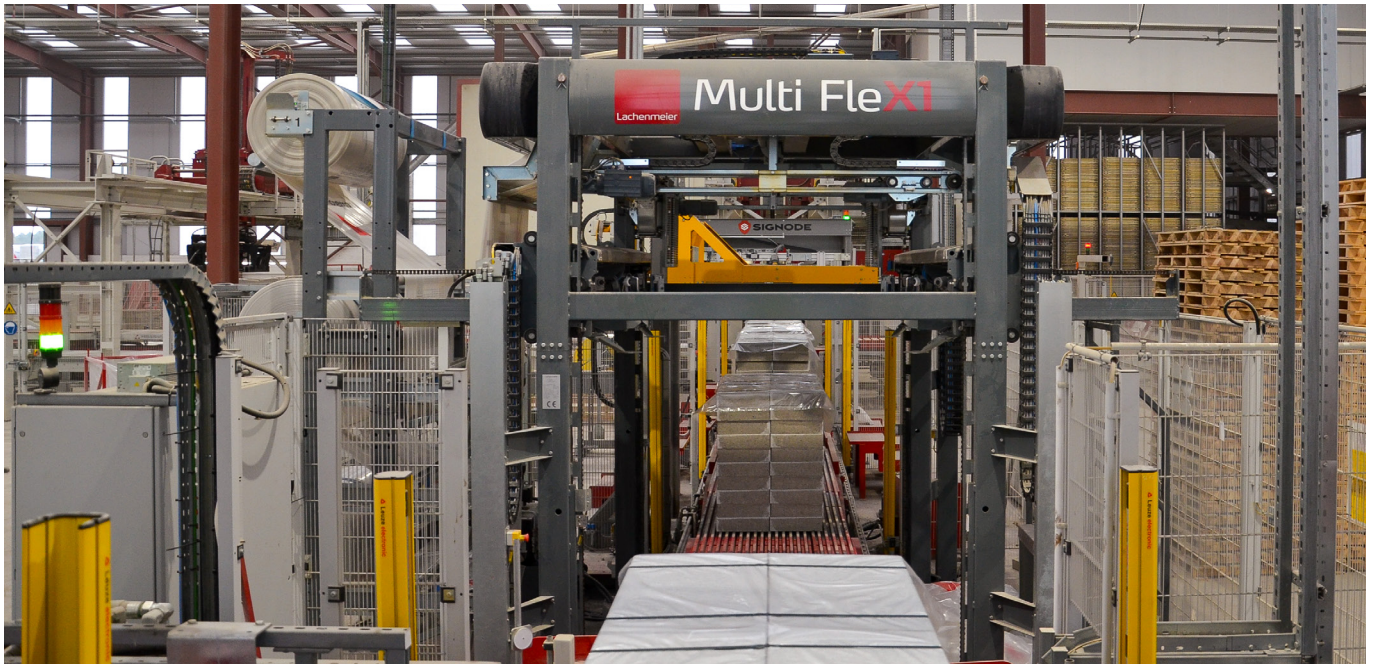


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## Robust Design

Both the TSM/HSM's flexible, compact, robust design cater for a wide range of different brick, block and tile applications within the construction industry.

# LACHENMEIER MULTI FLEX1 STRETCH HOOD



**The Multi FleX1 applies a 5-sided stretch hood/cover to the pallets, stabilizing the loads for transport through the supply chain and protecting them from adverse weather conditions while in storage.**

The Multi FleX1 employs a “flexible gripper” system, which can create any 4 sided regular or irregular shape, “tailormaking” a hood to suit various load shapes, sizes or heights. The profile shape is monitored during hood application to have the film applied as close to the load as possible, avoiding overstretching of the film, preventing holes and film damage.

Other features of the Multi FleX1 include the unwinding film technology for improved corner protection. The system winds film onto the grippers for application but winds film back off the gripper during the initial pre-stretch phase increasing the length of the “sweet spot” stretching zone, which allows us to use thinner films.

Stretch hood film can be transparent, coloured, perforated and printed with logo to actively promote the company's brands. Tobermore's stretch hood film is a mix between virgin film and 30% recycled stretch hood film, adding to the company's already impeccable sustainability credentials.

From a routine maintenance point of view the patented “top-down” system allows floor level access to the film sealing/cutting systems for easier and faster servicing. Film replacement is also completed at floor level to increase machine up time.

Due to the challenges presented by the pandemic, the Multi Flex1 stretch hooder was configured remotely, networking directly with the upstream equipment within the Signode Packaging Zone and the main factory control system. Networking allows each machine to be scanned and monitored remotely by trained Signode engineers reducing down time and increasing the up time of the machines.

"Tobermore's reputation rests on the foundation of delivering exceptionally high-quality products," says Smyth. Signode's strapping and wrapping solution not only helps preserve this high quality, it also allows us to scale to demand, meet our aggressive production

targets, enhance operational efficiency, and make sure that our products arrive at their end destination in pristine condition".

Combining advanced Signode packaging equipment with the corresponding consumables all supported by Signode's PackagingPlus Reliability Service team help customers like Tobermore find and assure the optimum packaging solution at the lowest possible TCO (Total Cost of Ownership).

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WE'LL PROTECT IF FROM HERE