

The Micron



The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

FLOOR POURED AT WATERFORD

A significant step with the multi-million-pound development at Waterford has been completed with the pouring of the concrete floor and the arrival of equipment.

In December AJ Engineering announced it was expanding its site to a neighbouring location in Forres and the project is on track.

Last week, three pours of concrete handled by contractor Lovie Construction took place in one of the buildings at the site and overhead cranes also arrived.

Company director, Graham Alexander said: "The development at Waterford is progressing really well and it was great to see the concrete floor being poured

in one of the buildings. It's a significant step as is the arrival of the over-head cranes. There's still a lot of work to be completed, but it is on track and the next steps will be to carry out the roof and wall cladding on the buildings."

Waterford is a former sawmill site and in early summer new a FICEP Automatic CNC Drilling & Saw Line will be installed.

AJE had previously rented the buildings and ground from Moray Council but bought the site in December last year. The purpose of the investment is to make AJE more efficient and be able to take on more projects and the three-year, three phase project is also expected to see the creation of a number of jobs over that time.



Steelworks complete for new four-star hub

The structure of a new four-star hotel which it is hoped will connect guests to the magic of the island it is situated on, has been completed by AJE.

Led by project manager Allan Martin, AJE has supplied and erected the steelwork for the Bracken Hide Hotel on the Isle of Skye on behalf of Curley Concepts, the principle contractor.

The development comprises the main hotel building (The Hub) which will be complemented by 27 luxury en-suite cabins which will sit scattered across the landscape. The Hub will have a large

reception and entrance area complete with a full-size lemon tree, a restaurant, a whisky bar and a family lounge with games and a screening room. There will also be a separate sauna building.

AJE has carried out the steelwork for The Hub and sauna and will return to complete a steel staircase for the former.

Allan said: "This is the first time we have worked with Curley Concepts and its certainly an ambitious project with unique designs. The steelwork for the Hub and an additional portal frame sauna building is now complete. There was a slight

delay due to Covid, but we got on site last November and with a team of three it took about four weeks. The team were working in some horrid weather, but despite all that it has progressed well.

The total steelwork weight for the project is approximately 70te and the team will return to install an internal stairway as Allan explained: "We need to wait for the concrete to be poured for the flooring and once that has been done we will liaise with the architects so we can work on the height required for the staircase. Then we will fabricate that and install it."



Challenging remote location

A project which was delayed due to the Coronavirus epidemic has finally been completed. AJ Engineering had begun work at Goat Island on Stornoway to design, fabricate and install a new building which will become a food processing factory for the Stornoway Port Authority.

However, the team had to down tools and did not get back on site until after restrictions had eased last August.

Project manager James Attridge explained: "It's a relief to get it finished. We're used to working in remote places and the challenge that can bring but this time we were delayed due to Covid. However, we managed to get back on site in August and the works were completed by the end of March. We had squads of three and the job was completed over three separate deployments."

Building upgrade complete

The Inverness branch of a company which specialises in a variety of services from mechanical and electrical installation, renewable energy and fire and security alarms has a new roof thanks to the skills of the AJ Engineering team.

G & A Barnie Group has offices at the Carsegate in the Highland capital but the roof of the building which consisted of double skinned asbestos needed replacing.

Project manager James Attridge explained: "The building in Inverness is old and it needed a bit of TLC to make it look better and also make it serviceable as it had been leaking. Refurbishment projects are always a challenge as you never know what you are going to uncover, but this project went relatively smoothly.



"We had a fantastic team on site who have a great attention to detail and they are very good at dealing with situations as they arise. They were on site from December to March and they had to work in some pretty horrid weather. January they were working in snow and then in February they had to contend with the wind and rain."

He added: "The newly clad roof which was done using Kingspan Composite Built Cladding looks so much better than it did."



Rail depot roof on track

A complicated project working on a maintenance depot for trains is underway at Craigenfinny in Edinburgh.

Working for BAM Nuttal, AJ Engineering had to ensure a team of 12 employees were PTS trained to ensure they had the correct training to work on the railway line.

The job itself is to replace the roof cladding, a skill which AJE specialises in.

But this roof is no mean feat as the building itself is 185m long and 20m wide and involves numerous sub-contractors.

The project also involves the installation of a permanent walkway to allow the roof to be accessed for maintenance.

Handling the project is James Attridge who said: "The actual work itself is pretty straightforward for our team, but there are quite a few variables and of course we are working on a live railway line.

"One of the first hurdles was that we needed to get the staff the PTS training, and I would like to thank Fiona Anderson for managing to get them all through the training at very short notice. We do have employees who had this certificate, but they did not have the required skills for this specific job. However upskilling staff is never a bad thing and hopefully it will stand us in good stead to secure more rail jobs in future."

James added: "The team were deployed at the start of March and so far we have installed 25 per cent of the south pitch roof sheets. The project is on track and it's good to be working in an area where we don't often venture. AJ Engineering is renowned for rural and remote locations so working in Scotland's capital has been quite different."

Nursery project underway

Plans are currently being drawn up for AJE to supply and install 450sqm of cladding for a nursery building at Sleat in Skye.

The project is being led by James Attridge is for MacQueen Building Contractors on behalf of Highland Council.

James explained: "We are currently in the drawing phase of the project so it's in the early stages and that is being handled by Pat Quinn and Alan Stewart. It's a great job in a superb location. We are working with the customer at the moment to decide on the final finish. One of the options is a standing seam finish style cladding which is more decorative and gives a really nice finish and visually looks

particularly good. It's also a different type of install to other types of cladding and requires more tools and equipment and more attention to detail when installing."

It is hoped that a team will be on site by early May, however as James explained there have been some challenges: "We are working closely with the client and unfortunately there have been some supply issues with the materials that we had hoped to use. AJE is renowned for its customer service and we are now conducting a feasibility study to see if there is an alternative that we can use so we can push this project along. It may be that we stick the original plan but we like to help our customers where we can."

Once the project gets underway, it is expected there will be a team of three working over a five-week period.

In 2019 and following extensive consultation with parents and local communities, Highland councillors agreed that the new nursery unit to accommodate both English and Gaelic Medium in Sleat should be built. The decision to build the new Sleat nursery unit was identified as a Council priority.

AJE has previously worked with MacQueen Building Contractors on another project on the Isle of Skye when AJE managed the steelwork and cladding for an extension to its Skye Ferry Filling Station shop.