

The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

A WHISKY TOUR OF SCOTLAND

A tour of some of Scotland's distilleries has become part of the day job for one AJ Engineering's project engineers who has been handling a number of jobs at three key sites.

It is hoped the projects for a leading scotch whisky producer which is being handled by AJE on behalf of a new high profile construction client will lead to more work in the future.

Gary Moyes has been managing projects at Cardhu, Blair Athol and Dufftown distilleries.

All of the projects have involved making alterations to the roof of each distillery to allow equipment to be removed and reinstalled and one of the projects has also involved working on the transformation of the visitor centre at Cardhu.

Planning permission to renovate the Cardhu Distillery visitor experience in Speyside was granted in 2019.

Cardhu is one of four Scotch whisky distilleries chosen to represent the 'four corners of Scotland' as part of tourism investment plans. Cardhu's revamped visitor centre will highlight the story of Helen and Elizabeth Cumming, the women who established and ran the distillery in the 19th century. Meanwhile, plans for new external landscaping around the distillery will enhance access and create a new orchard space for visitors.

Gary explained: "All the projects have been quite similar but at the same time they have all had something unique about them as well. For example, Blair Atholl is a very important tourist distillery, attracting upward of 90,000 visitors per year. It was crucial here that the works carried out didn't alter or diminish the stunning aesthetics of the site.

He added: "At Dufftown weather conditions and a very tight completion window meant this job had to be completed safely and quickly so as not to delay the replacement works. The unique blend of skills among our site teams are uniquely suited to assisting this client, where a number of disciplines are required across the job in order to allow removal and installation of equipment in the shortest possible time."

The scope of works for each distillery is outlined on the right and overleaf.

BLAIR ATHOLL

- Remove slates, sarking, cladding and support members above pot stills and condensers to create an opening suitable for copper removal/replacement works
- Remove glass skylight panels within the footprint of the lift area for pot still and set aside to be reused
- Reinstate all roofing and return to the pre-scope standard



DUFFTOWN

- Remove roof panels and steelwork at rear of stillhouse to allow access above condensers for lifting and replacement by client
- Reinstate all roof panels and steelwork as previously configured upon completion of condenser replacement works
- Remove skylight above condenser at front of stillhouse to allow access for lifting & replacement by client
- Reinstate skylight as previously configured upon completion of condenser replacement works



CARDHU still house roof works

- Remove roof panels and purlins immediately above spirit still to facilitate copper removal and replacements
- Upon completion of still replacement activities, replace roof panels and purlins.



CARDHU kiln roof works for visitor centre

- We were tasked with creating a new, reusable roof hatch in the existing roof to allow client to install new equipment via crane
- Once complete, the roof will look exactly as before from the outside but can be quickly opened up for any future maintenance or replacement work.



NEWCO ONE OF FIRST WITH NEW BREXIT STANDARD

NEWCO is believed to be one of the first firms to receive a new accreditation as a result of Brexit.

The company has gained its UKCA accreditation which allows them to produce load bearing and welded structural steel components up to Execution Class II.

The UKCA marking is a new UK product marking introduced due to Brexit, that will be used for goods being placed on the market in Great Britain. It covers most goods which previously required the CE marking.

From next January, the CE marking will no longer be recognised, and products will require the UK Conformity Assessed

(UKCA) Mark from a UK Approved Body to demonstrate compliance.

Fiona Anderson who worked with NEWCO general manager Neil Wordsall to secure the accreditation said: "Our auditor from UK Approved Body, Steel Construction Certification Scheme Ltd commented that NEWCO were the first business that he had issued the UKCA accreditation to.

"There was lot of work put in to gain this accreditation with new factory production control procedures put in place. I visited the NEWCO office from Forres over a number of months to help implement the new procedures and to audit them on the newly introduced processes. The accreditation should lead to NEWCO

being able to secure more work to supply buildings and other structures."

Neil added: "Credit to all the team at NEWCO for achieving the UKCA accreditation with their drive and commitment to our new quality standards."

Last September NEWCO received Quality Standard System standard ISO 9001: 2015. The certificate is valid for the following scope: The design, manufacture and erection of metal fabrications, including structural steelwork, to customer specifications and other mechanical engineering and repair work. Provision of design, precision machining and engineering services.

CHIMNEYS RESTORED AND REPLICATED

Works to a historic visitor centre will include the installation of a repaired and replica chimney.

Teams from AJE and NEWCO have been working on the project in Lyness on the Island of Hoy.

Two existing steel chimneys which are historically significant were transported to NEWCO where the team repaired one.

However, the second chimney could not be restored so a replica has been fabricated.

NEWCO manager Neil Worsdall said: "The replica chimney has now been fabricated with the existing chimney currently going through the workshop. Once completed they will both get transported for specialist painting then off to site for installing."

Orkney Islands Council secured a grant of £1.155 million from The Heritage Lottery Fund for the project.

Scapa Flow served as a sheltered harbour for British ships during war, with some 12,000 people once stationed off the Orkney isle. Lyness became the naval headquarters in Orkney during 1919 before works were undertaken to further enlarge the base in the 1930s.

