

The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

## FLAGS WILL FLY WITH EASE AT HISTORIC BUILDING

**Plans to make a safe access onto the roof of one of Forres' most historic buildings are gathering pace with the new steps due to be installed this month. (April)**

AJ Engineering has been working with the Forres Heritage Trust to create a way for trustees and volunteers to safely access the roof of the Tolbooth in order to raise flags at key times of the year.

AJE has worked with the team at the FHT to engineer steps, but due to the project involving a historic building which incorporates a sloping roof, how the access was handled had to be done carefully.

However, this month, the stairs will be installed and just in time for the King's Coronation when the trustees of the building will be asked by Moray Council to erect the Royal Standard.

Project manager, Andrew Fyvie explained: "It is great to see this project reaching a conclusion. We have worked really closely with the FHT who are a charity. They own the building and they work extremely hard to maintain this building which is not always easy when they have to adhere to safety regulations but also be sympathetic to the structure and historical significance of the building. The current access is not ideal and could potentially be unsafe particularly in certain weather conditions. Thankfully, due to the location of the access to the flagpole, it is hidden from public view, so on this occasion, we have not had to worry too much about the aesthetics."

Andrew added: "On the face of it the project sounded fairly straightforward, but it's actually been quite tricky because where the roof hatch is, there is a gully and two sloping roofs to contend with. However, we have managed to come up with a solution that will be safe and importantly for the FHT is not too costly."

"To ensure the installation goes smoothly, we will be doing a trial assembly in at AJE HQ. We hope to be able to take the steps up through the inside of the building, so it's crucial we give this a trial run. Once we have done that, the steps will be sent off to be galvanised and once back, will be installed."

Over the last few years, major renovation works have taken place at the Tolbooth. AJ Engineering was involved in the design, fabrication and installation of a new staircase which gives access to the clocktower which has now been opened to the public for the first time.



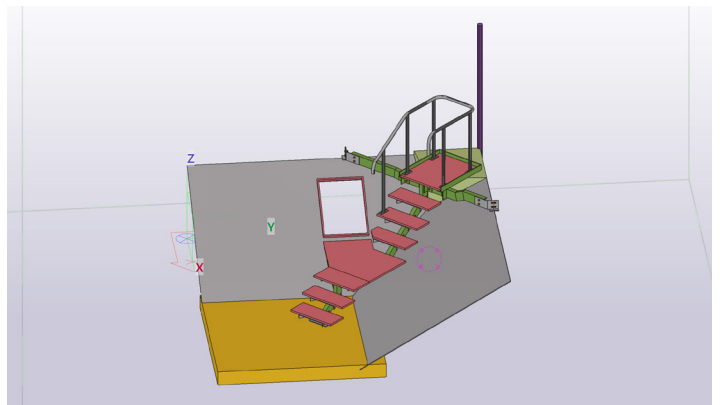
The Tolbooth clock tower



The flag pole



The Royal Standard flying for the Princess Royal visit



The plans for the new staircase

## Strong bond helps production

**A 23-year relationship with a local mill continues with an AJE team being on site almost every day this year to work on various projects.**

Project Manager Matt MacPherson said: "AJ Engineering has an ongoing relationship with West Fraser (formerly Norbord) and so far this year we have had labour there every day, mostly working on improvement projects but also on maintenance jobs as well. West Fraser are a company that are continually trying to improve the running of their plant".

One of the latest projects at West Fraser, which manufactures Oriented



One of the galvanized ducting units

Strand Board (OSB), has been to install galvanized ducting units connecting makeup air fans with built in heat exchangers blowing warm air into the forming line and blending hall buildings."

Matt added: "Recently we have had a team of three, Nathan Shearer, Donald James and Joe Finlayson working on this project to install the galvanized ducting units, these units had been fabricated in our own workshop by Cliff Robertson and Nathan Shearer.

"Basically, these units connect the new heaters to the building. The units blow warm air into the building to help keep the building at a constant temperature and to make up the air removed by the dust extraction systems. If the temperature can be maintained this helps the efficiency of the OSB production line."

The Inverness mill was the first in Europe to manufacture OSB and was also the first OSB plant in Europe to receive Forestry Stewardship Council® accreditation, demonstrating their commitment to the environment.

## Smooth build for offshore wind project

**A substation for Moray West an 860MW offshore wind farm in the outer Moray Firth has been fabricated and installed by AJ Engineering.**

Led by project manager Kevin Smith, the works for Robertson's Construction on behalf of Siemens Energy has progressed smoothly.

Moray West of which Ocean Winds is the majority shareholder selected Siemens Energy for the supply of the onshore substation back in 2021.

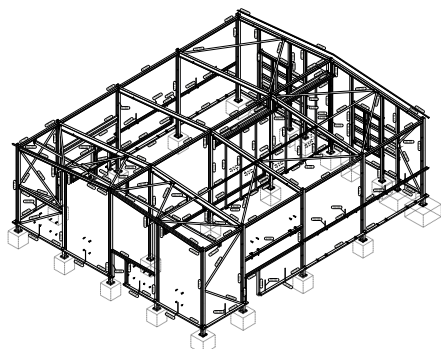
The onshore substation for the wind farm will feature Siemens High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) equipment.

AJ Engineering were awarded the contract for the substation building in November last year as Kevin explained: "The project agreement was finalised in November 2022 and we got on site at the end of February. There was a slight delay

due to the snow, but it has gone really smoothly. It's been very straightforward really."

The substation is located at Whitehilllock, near Keith and will step up the voltage from 220 to 400 kilovolts (kV). Its location has been selected to minimise environmental impact and allow connection to existing national electricity transmission system infrastructure at the neighbouring Blackhilllock substation.

Speaking about the project, Lee Bink's AJE's Business Development Representative said: "AJ Engineering's diversity means that we can fabricate and install an onshore substation building, an offshore transportation grillage or even machine tooling used in seabed surveys, we are very well positioned to support the upcoming boom in the offshore wind sector."



The plans and the start of the build for the substation at Whitehilllock near Keith

## GOING FOR GOLD

**AJ Engineering has enhanced its membership with a local business group by taking Gold Partnership status.**

The company is now a Gold Partner of the Moray Chamber of Commerce lead by its Director & Chief Executive Officer, Sarah Medcraf.

Speaking of the partnership, Sarah said: "AJ Engineering has been part of the chamber network for over 15 years and are no stranger to the work that we do. I am delighted that they have joined us as Gold partner so they can continue to support us, to support the wider business community."

Chambers of Commerce perform several functions for their members including gathering a collective business voice with a view to influencing decision making that will affect that local business community.

The Chamber is also a networking forum which facilitates the making of contacts and the sharing of knowledge and experience and they provide services for members such as training, mentor matching, events, learning opportunities and business support. Members can offer discounted professional services to fellow members.

AJE director and general manager Graham Alexander sits on the board of directors for Moray Chamber.

Speaking about the new gold partnership, Alan James said: "We are delighted to be a Moray Chamber of Commerce Gold Partner and having the opportunity to enjoy the significant benefits of being closely associated with Moray's premier business organisation and also as part of Scottish Chambers of Commerce with their significant influence and lobbying ability."

