

The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

IN THE SWING OF IT

Essential works to four swing bridges on the A82 have been carried out by a team at NEWCo.

The maintenance works on the bridges at Aberchalder, Laggan, Fort Augustus and Banavie had been carried out overnight to limit disruption.

The works are part of a £1,300,000 investment by Transport Scotland, which saw worn mechanical components replaced and repairs made to the carriageway. This section of the A82 is used by around 3,500 vehicles every day.

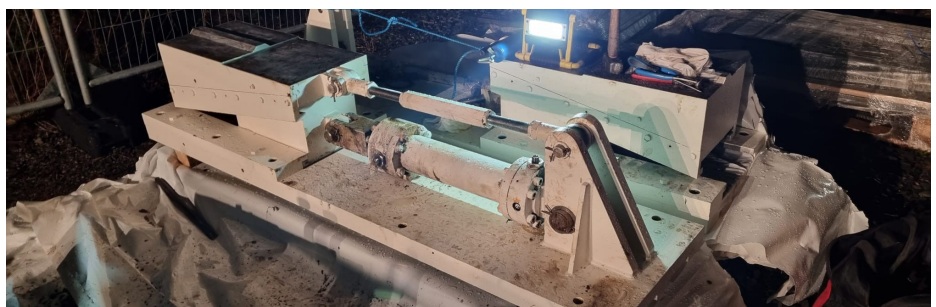
Leading on the project was Willie Lawrie who said: "Our team was working on behalf of Volker Laser who were the main contractors. We secured the contract in December and it was crucial that the works were completed by Easter whilst the canal is shut. By the time we got on site to carry out the works, it was January, so we have had to work fast to make sure that everything was completed on time."

Willie added: "We do a lot of maintenance works like this, so whilst we had to work to tight deadlines, the project went very smoothly.

"Each bridge required different maintenance works. The swing bridge at Aberchalder needed the most works. Overall, the works included replacing the actual wheels the bridge runs on and also the tracks that the wheels move on. We also had to replace a lot of bearings.

"On the bridge at Banavie we did do a small amount of design work. Some old motors were removed, and we had to design and fabricate in our CNC shop, a new casing for the new smaller motors. Apart from that everything was supplied to us by the customer.

"One of the great things was that our team was able to take the old wheels and



Top to bottom: The Banavie Bridge and balance rollers and nose wedges which formed part of the essential works on four swing bridges on the A82.

refurbish them, so that there are now spares if they are required."

Speaking at the time of the project, Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's North West Representative said: "These essential works will help address defects and ensure the continued reliability of the swing bridges for motorists and canal users alike.

"The overnight closures are essential for the safety of road workers and motorists, due to the need to swing the bridge open

for these works. We apologise for any inconvenience caused and have taken steps to limit the overall impact of the project by carrying out the work.

"Our teams will do all they can to complete the works as quickly and safely as they can, and we thank the local community and road users for their patience in advance while we complete these works. We encourage motorists to plan ahead before setting out by checking the Traffic Scotland website for up-to-date travel information."

NEW WORK IN THE PIPELINE

A team of three AJ Engineering staff have been delivering the mechanical fit out for a new Waste Water Pumping station to the South of Oxford at Benson WWTW.

The work involved the installation of two pumping stations with AJE securing some secondary access steelworks too.

M&E Technical Services Manager Wilson Burnett explained: "This original project which was the mechanical fit out of the two pumping stations is just reaching conclusion. The first pumping station took about two weeks to complete and the smaller one has taken about five days.

"The Project is being looked after by Stuart Munro who was in daily contact with the team due to the location and distance away from Forres."

As well as the mechanical fit out of the pumping stations, AJE has secured more work handling the secondary access steel.

"We secured that after we began work on the first pumping station," explained Wilson. Those works are still to be carried out, but it will be the same team that go. As part of the works, they had to have specialist training at the Thames Water Training Centre next to Heathrow before they were allowed to access the site, so it makes sense to send down the same team."

Some of the completed works at Benson



Platform access sweeps the region

Over the last year, the team at NEWCo have designed, fabricated and installed around 10 access platforms to different clients across the Highland and Islands.

One such project was at Alvanche British Aluminium in Fort William, near to NEWCo's HQ which was completed at the end of last month.

Two access platforms of similar design were required to allow the Scottish Environment Protection Agency to access sampling ports so they can carry out safe testing of fumes that are emitted from the plant.

Neil Worsdall, general manager of NEWCo said: "In the last 12 months we have carried out around 10 similar contracts to various clients around the region. The contracts have included all design certification, fabrication drawings, fabrication and installation, all to Execution Class 2 under our UKCA certification."

Working on the Alvanche project was Willie Lawrie who said: "SEPA require access to the sampling ports every six months to



An access platform at Alvanche British Aluminium

carry out testing to ensure that Alvanche is adhering to all the legislation.

"Everything was handled by the team at NEWCo and the projects were completed on time for the customer."

Alvanche is the UK's last aluminium smelter and one of Fort William's largest employers.

Its smelting facilities are driven by hydro-electric power and a complex of on-site bio-diesel units. This combination of renewable energy sources makes the site one of the greenest metal production plants in the UK.

ALVANCE British Aluminium serves the national and international market with semi-finished aluminium, and its vision is to add value through the development of downstream manufacturing based on the liquid aluminium produced on site.

Homeward bound for Antarctica team



HMS Sir David Attenborough which the team began their journey home on

Two AJE teams are on their way from Antarctica after a second successful stint there.

And AJ Engineering has been asked to price for some additional works on the ongoing project.

It is the second time that teams have been sent to the remote Rothera Research Station to carry out steel erection works and cladding.

The team of eight left for Antarctica, where temperatures can plunge as low as -34C, at the tail end of last year.

AJE has been working on behalf of client BAM Nuttall who have an ongoing relationship with the British Antarctic Survey and have secured a 10-year, £500m contract to upgrade and extend their polar research stations.

The works have involved various tasks including erecting steel and installing the cladding on the new 'Discovery Building' which will replace the current science and operations building.

Their deployment to Rothera is part of a three-year project for AJ Engineering.