

# The Micron



The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

## COMPANY EXPANSION TO NW ENGLAND

**AJ Engineering has expanded to the north-west of England with the employment of a new eight-man team.**

The new employees which include a Contracts Manager, Estimator and six steel erectors/ cladders and supervisors.

Three of the steel erectors/ cladders and supervisor have already been given a 'curveball' by being deployed to Stronsay, Orkney to work on a substation building.

The team was put in place after Graham Alexander made contact with Contracts Manager Chris Roberts.

Chris said: "Graham made contact with me and I came up to meet the team in Forres and learn more about AJE. I was very impressed with how much has been invested at AJE and the fact that it is not just focused on steel and cladding and that there are other revenue streams too. It was easy to see there has been a lot of growth in the company and they have fantastic accreditations."

However, Chris did not come alone as he explained: "My background had been working for the tier 1 companies including large pharmaceutical companies. From speaking with Graham and Alan, it became very clear that because of our location, we could expand the team and AJE's presence in the north-west of England.

"It also means that the whole team is a known entity and the supply chain that we have worked with via our previous employer, Border Steelworks, know us and will want to continue to have a connection with us.



Left to right: Ryan Scott, Chris Roberts, Keith Hodgson and Stephen Jones at a new project in Marston Vale

"AJE have also picked up projects that were left unfinished due to the collapse of Border Structural Steelwork. We will need to perform on these projects and that will open another strong avenue for AJE."

Chris added: "We have also brought on Andrew Poole who had been an Estimator for Border for a number of years. He has worked for some of the UK's largest construction companies, and we are very lucky to have him. He has amazing contacts within the industry and this will allow us to price for jobs that AJE might not have been aware of."

Speaking of the project in Stronsay, Chris laughed: "It was a bit of a curveball, but they have completely embraced it. They have been well looked after. They are used to travelling all over the UK, but we have to admit, there has not been anything as remote as this until now."

As well at the HQ in Forres and its sister company NEWCo located in Fort William, AJE now boasts a base in London headed by business development representative Lee Binks and now its new base in Carlisle.

Alan James said: "We are absolutely thrilled to welcome the new team to AJE. Chris and the team will bring a whole new wealth of knowledge about the industry south of the border. They have great connections and we have no doubt they will add to the AJE portfolio."



Left to right: Lee Thompson, Martin Jones and Ross Pattinson



## Giant crane for 'heaviest' bridge ever



The new bridge being lifted into place at Forres

**A completely new route to Forres wastewater treatment works has been created by AJ Engineering which had to bring in a mammoth crane to install what is 'probably' the company's heaviest ever bridge to date.**

The 44-tonne bridge required a 650 tonne crane to lift the whole roadway into place over the Mosset Burn.

The new route means that Scottish Water no longer have to access the site through

Christie Elite Nurseries via the level crossing on the railway line.

The project was managed by Kevin Smith for Livingston-based Cleantech Civils on behalf of Scottish Water.

AJE provided two main girder beams and 24 cross beam sections for the bridge which is 16 metres long and 8 metres wide.

Kevin said: "It's always nice to get a project close to home and you can't

get much closer than this, a two-minute walk from our Waterford facility where the bridge was fabricated. It was built on site and then installed in one piece and despite its size, it was actually a very straightforward project."

Scottish Water has invested £5.6million in Forres wastewater treatment and AJE has worked on other parts of the investment.

The main part of the project which began in 2020, involved refurbishing the existing works, including mechanical and electrical equipment at the site being upgraded or replaced to increase capacity.

The Forres Wastewater Treatment Works currently serve a population of around 14,500 people and the upgrade will mean the depot is able to continue to meet the needs of the growing community while protecting the environment.

Leading on the project for AJE was Wilson Burnett, M&E Technical Services Manager.

He said: "AJE has a long history of working on different wastewater projects and this one has been straightforward. Our role has included refurbishing the eight existing biological filter beds, including new penstocks to control the flows. We have also installed new access steelwork to the penstock chambers and to the new inlet works area, where debris and grit will be screened out of the incoming wastewater."

## New access for important tourist attraction

**A new walkway to allow people to access the historic Spurn Light Vessel in Hull is being fabricated and installed by AJE.**

Following a 14-month restoration project, the lightship is currently docked at a temporary berth in Hull Marina.

It's being restored as part of the Hull Maritime project, and she will return to use as a floating museum, hence the need for the new walkway.

The project is being delivered by Hull City Council and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and AJE has been contracted by Spencer Group on Hull City Council's behalf.

Spencer Group are located in Hull and have been contracted to create a whole new dock for the iconic vessel which is part of a major regeneration project.

Much like some of the Forres works that AJE secures (see Forres WwTW story), Spencer Group has secured this project which is just yards from its Hull HQ.

Kevin Smith, project manager said: "Our part in this development is relatively small, but the whole regeneration scheme is massive, so it's great to be involved one way or another. It has huge historical significance in Hull's maritime history and

is a fascinating project. It's also great to be working with Spencer Group once again as we have an ongoing relationship with them."

In 2020, AJE was tasked by Spencer Group with fabricating a replacement of the inspection gantry for the Kessock Bridge. The inspection gantry is used to carry out examinations on the bridge and the contract which was worth £300K involved all the skillsets that the AJE boasts.

Alan James said: "It is great that we are continuing our relationship with Spencer Group. They are renowned for taking on more unusual projects and they have used us on many occasions to fabricate and install more bespoke pieces. It's great to see that we are now involved in another interesting project."

Built in 1927 by Goole Shipbuilding, Light Vessel No.12 Spurn was based at the Spurn station outside the Humber. The lightship was key to guiding vessels as they navigated the Humber estuary.

It was decommissioned in November 1975 then purchased by Hull City Council in 1983 and restored as the Spurn prior to being opened as a floating museum in Hull Marina.



The new walkway being fabricated



The vessel at Hull