

# The Micron



The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

## NEW EQUIPMENT NOW IN PLACE

**New equipment which is enabling AJE to become a key player in the production of transmission structures is now in operation at the company’s Waterford site.**

The £700K investment in the kit also means the firm is currently advertising for new machine operators and other staff.

The equipment was imported from America-based firm Peddinghaus who produce the toughest steel fabrication machinery in the world.

The investment in the Anglemaster HD Angle Line which was made possible after AJE secured a grant from Energy Transition Zone (ETZ) was made at the tail end of last year with the equipment finally arriving and being installed at the end of July.

General manager and director, Graham Alexander, said: “The minute that we had placed the order for the equipment we were able to start bidding for work in this sector, so now that it is here, we have been able to get it operating straight away.

“This is a new market for us, but we saw an opportunity and decided to invest in machine. Electricity transmission is big business throughout the UK.”

Graham added: “All the parts that are required to make a transmission structure can be manufactured on this piece of kit. It now means that we are actively looking for to expand the team as we need more staff to manage the orders and operate the machine.”



Fabricator Welder Joe Finlayson operates the equipment



# STANDING STONES PROJECT FOR AJE

**AJ Engineering has been successful in securing yet another exciting and interesting package in the Outer Hebrides with a long-standing client.**

The Calanais Visitor Centre is a project that has been in the making since 2010 and is run by the Charity Urras Nan Tursachan (Standing Stones Trust).

In May, planning permission was granted for the major redevelopment of the visitor centre which is the most visited landmark on the Isle of Lewis.

Calanais, also known as Callanish Standing Stones are 5,000 years old, predating Stonehenge and were used for rituals for about 2,000 years.

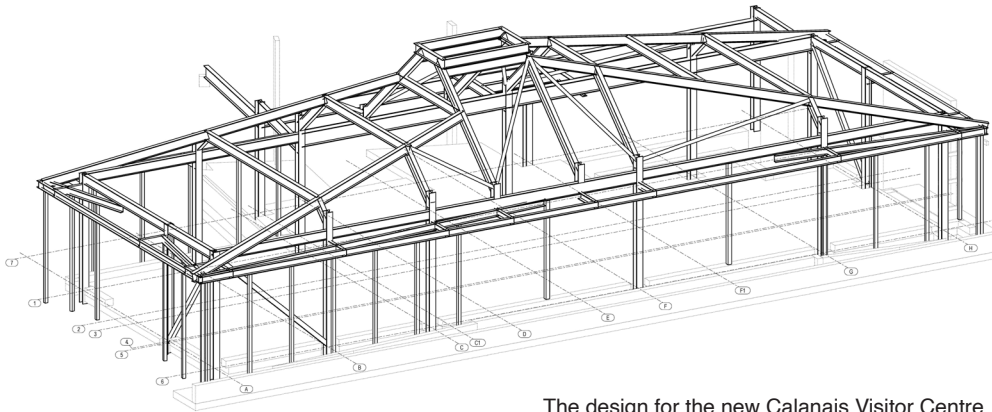
The granting of the planning permission means the Trust can now move ahead with creating the five star attraction and community facility.

Lee Binks, AJE's pre-construction manager said: "We are delighted to be supplying just under 20 tonnes of intumescent coated structural steelwork for the visitor centre project, the project itself is not very big in terms of tonnage however it is remote and in a challenging location for anyone on the UK mainland.

The Calanais Stones are steeped in history and have drawn visitors this interesting site for thousands of years and we look forward to playing our part in its redevelopment."

More than 150,000 people visited the site in 2019, with estimates the number of visitors could rise to 200,000 by 2020.

Funding for the planning phase of the Calanais 2025 project has been granted by Highlands and Islands Enterprise.



The design for the new Calanais Visitor Centre

## INVESTMENT IN TRAINING

**AJ Engineering's commitment to training is ongoing with a number of new apprentices and trainees currently on the books.**

Over the last few weeks, the company has employed one new graduate apprentice, three fabricator welders undertaking modern apprenticeships, one modern apprentice CNC machinist and there are three employees at Nigg Skills Academy who are due to finish their 16-week course in fabrication welding who are also undergoing the modern apprenticeship.

There is also an employee doing an SVQ3 at UHI Inverness.

Alan James, a former apprentice himself has frequently described apprentices as the "lifblood of the company."

As well as this, there are eight other employees at various stages of different kinds of apprenticeships.

Current and past apprentices at AJE



## DOORS OPEN DAY

**This month, the public will be given the chance to have a glimpse behind the scenes of the Waterford facility.**

As part of the company's 25-year anniversary celebrations, it is taking part in Doors Open Day, Scotland's largest free festival that celebrates places and stories, new and old.

The £2.5 million complex was officially opened by The Princess Royal in 2021.

The public will be welcomed to the site which was a former sawmill between 10am and 2pm on Saturday, September 7.

Visitors will be guided through the site by a member of staff who will explain how the facility was developed and what its future may hold.



Graham Alexander and Alan James at the Waterford facility.