

The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

## PONTOONS ENABLE WASTEWATER WORKS

**The AJE team working on improvements to a wastewater treatment plant in Bolton has had to undergo specialist water safety training as they are working on floating pontoon platforms whilst installing the steelwork.**

The team has been working on the pontoons which allows them full access to connections when spanning the steelwork across the water lanes without disruption.

The decision to work in this way was taken by the client, JN Bentley for United Utilities.

The project which is being led by Chris Roberts has been awarded further work packages over and above the original scope.

The AJE scope of works was to design, detail, fabricate, supply and install a new steel framework 134m long x 26m wide over the existing sludge plant lanes at the wastewater treatment works. The new structure will also incorporate raised walkways running the full length, consisting of a primary walkway with goal post support frames for mechanical installation and two tertiary walkways. There will be a further 12 walkways spanning the width.

Working from the pontoon platforms was a decisive move by the client's management team as Chris explained: "The initial solution was to drain down each tank individually, clean them, erect scaffolding and then install the steelwork. Once one lane was complete the reverse process would be to remove the scaffolding and then refill the tanks before moving onto the next one. This would have meant periods of inactivity for the steelwork installation whilst waiting for lanes to become available.



One of the pontoons at the wastewater treatment plant in Bolton

"However, using the pontoon system, whilst unusual, has meant that the teams have been able to continue uninterrupted from one tank to another without the need to drain down. This has provided AJE with continuity on the project. The decision to install the pontoon platforms was a positive and innovative decision by the client which has had a big impact to the methodology and sequencing of works"

Chris explained that the project which is due to be completed in April is on track, even incorporating the additional work packages awarded.

"From a steelwork installation point of view we are nearly at the halfway point and we are on track for our April completion date. The fabrication of the primary and tertiary steelwork is ahead of programme and that has allowed us to deliver additional work packages. We are now working on some mechanical items such as a lever captivation mechanism, which we are assisting with developing the design and then fabricating and installing. These additional mechanical packages will require works at our CNC facility at Forres meaning the CNC team are now also involved in the project."

Chris added: "I am really delighted with how this project has gone. Everyone involved in this project deserves a huge amount of credit especially the Waterford workshop fabrication team who have pulled out all the stops time and time again. They have delivered on time and managed to incorporate the additional work packages awarded. It's a massive achievement."



Current progress at the Bolton Wastewater Treatment Plant

# AJE TEAM PRAISED FOR “BEST PROJECT TO DATE”

**Project manager James Attridge has said he is excited to see work coming to an end on a project which he has described as the “most successful job in his portfolio to date.”**

Teams from AJ Engineering has been working for Morgan Sindall on behalf of Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) to fabricate and install a new grid supply point substation at Gremista near Lerwick on Shetland.

The overall project will ensure that Lerwick becomes connected to the British Energy System for the first time.

AJE secured the contract in October 2023 with the project involving the fabrication and installation of three new buildings which will process the electricity generated from the Viking windfarm.

Now, after being on site since March 2024, the project is coming to a close as James explained: “This project has been an absolute pleasure to work on from our perspective, but we have also been getting great feedback from the client and other contractors that we have been working with.

“There is a team there now, finishing up, but honestly, they are working on extra jobs that was given to us as the project went along. The original programme has been done successfully, on time and within budget. I think it must be one of the most successful projects in my portfolio.”

James added: “The success of this project is down to teamwork. Ross Gardner was promoted to foreman and he really stepped up to the plate. He has been consistent throughout. By the end of November, the team had achieved a substantial completion of the original scope. Matt Dilks, construction manager who joined

AJE in June 2023 has also played a crucial part and he has done his job liaising brilliantly with myself and the teams on site.

“Morgan Sindall is very good at recognising hard work and each week they credit a Team of the Week and Moment of the Week, our guys won both of these in the first week they were on site. We have also had comments on LinkedIn about our professionalism and there have been emails sent complimenting us on our efforts. That doesn't often happen in the industry. All going well, it is expected that the AJE teams will complete the reminder of the works by March.”

The Viking Wind Farm is not new to AJE.

In 2023, the company worked on three separate projects there which involved the detailing and installation of a total of nine buildings which are now being used in various ways to support the infrastructure of the windfarm.

The new grid supply point substation at Gremista. Credit: Ross Gardner



## FIRST CLASS HONOURS

**Another AJE employee has become a graduate apprentice with first-class honours.**

Quality and Environmental Advisor, Jazmin Kellas, graduated at the end of last year with a degree in Business Management.



Jazmin Kellas

Jazmin joined AJE in 2017 as the company's HSQE administrator. This was the same year that it became one of the first in the north to take on an engineering graduate apprentice when the scheme was first launched.

Speaking of her accomplishment, Jazmin said: “I am very proud to have completed my degree with first class honours. Robert Gordon University were extremely supportive throughout my learning and understood the challenges of balancing work, life and study.”

In December, we told how 17-year-old Calum MacPherson joined AJE to undertake a graduate apprentice in design and manufacturing with Robert Gordon University.

## SCOUTS INSPIRED BY FIRM'S CARTY RACES

**AJ Engineering's sponsorship of the carty races at Grant Park 100 last year, has led to scouts from across the district creating their own contest.**

Jack Lowes, graduate project engineer organised the concept and two carties were built to his design for people to race with on the day.

The races were spotted by 1st Forres Scouts who were volunteering on the day and as a result, they created their own carty competition which took place at Kinloss Barracks.

John Berry, leader with the group said: “We want to thank AJE for the idea and the loan of two of the carts for our carting competition. I can report that everyone who attended, leaders included, had an absolute hoot when Scouts from across the district, some as far as Dufftown, came together to race their carts in the sports hangar at Kinloss Barracks.”

The Scouts at Kinloss Barracks



He added: “The competition was close fought but there was one clear winning team, Blue 42, driven by Leo and propelled by Rory from Forres Scouts who walked away with the Kyle Cartmell Karting Competition trophy by winning the two fastest laps and the overall head to heads, a round robin race programme of 36 races.”



One of the scouts own carts in action