



Welcome to McLay Collier

We are delighted to welcome on board the staff from the former McLay Collier, who have now all moved into the Citypoint offices in Glasgow. The McLay Collier team moved into Citypoint at the end of August where they have formed a new MOU3.

Initially as the Scottish Office of a London Consultancy, the firm of A J McLay & Partners was formed in 1980 and joined forces with Jack Collier & Partners some 12 years later. The firm was largely focussed on Civil and Structural Engineering and in particular

building structures. The practice has experience across a wide range of construction sectors and in recent years have specialised in residential, healthcare and commercial projects. McLay Collier employed 30 staff and former Partner Peter McMillan has been appointed as a Director in the Division.

This acquisition is a further step in Scott Wilson's strategy to compliment our successful organic growth and balance our sector portfolio in the Division. Their resources will further augment our successful and growing property business.

Green Apple Award



A project undertaken by two north-east based Scott Wilson planners has been awarded the Green Apple Award 2007 for Environmental Best Practice and Sustainable Development. Claire Dobinson and John Dixon undertook the Green Space Strategy during their time at North Tyneside Council and are glad to see their hard work has been nationally recognised. The Strategy involved a quantitative and qualitative assessment of green spaces across the borough and aims to meet deficiencies identified through the planning process.

The Green Apple Award is for work undertaken with young people in the

Borough. The Council worked in partnership with Planning Aid North to encourage young people to play a greater role in the future of their local neighbourhood. In turn young people assisted planners in the assessment of green spaces and the findings were subsequently presented to Council Members. This has resulted in a number of green space improvements with further enhancement schemes being taken forward by young people.

The award ceremony for the Green Apple Awards is to be held in November 2007 at the House of Commons.

Architecture Award for White Star House



White Star House in Belfast has received a Commercial Architecture Award; one of only twenty buildings in the UK to receive such an award, and the only one in Northern Ireland. The scheme was designed by our Architects with the support of our Structural and Civil Engineers and is a high tech, highly sustainable office development for the Northern Ireland Science Park. The building is situated beside Thompson Dock where the Titanic and her sister ships were fitted out and references to the area's history have been designed into the building.

The four storey structure makes a bold statement that is easily incorporated into the client's ethos of technological innovation and follows on from the industrial innovation for which the site is famous.



The building was designed to a flexible, multi-tenant layout, but quickly attracted the attention of a global banking organisation, who now occupy the entire space. During the project, Scott Wilson also designed the fit-out of all floors for the sole tenant.

Digital Media

The Digital Media Team in Belfast has been busy developing new technology and services. These latest advances in Real Time technology are available to all disciplines within Scott Wilson.

3D Interactive Solutions

These files allow everyone to instantly explore and interact with your 3D models, in realtime available for everyone on the net, cd-rom or office applications. The interactive solution will enable all stakeholders involved to walk around the visualised environment simply by using the arrow keys and mouse on a standard keyboard, creating a true "virtual walkthrough" experience. When you find an angle you are interested in you have the option of saving it as a high quality visual, move features around, replace them, try new options, review with all parties or simply save for use in brochures, advertisements and other materials. This interactivity will also indicate how the proposals would affect passengers, business partners and also provide an information database accessible not only through the web but also on disc, handheld device and through other outputs' as appropriate, this creation would be future proof and could easily be added to and updated where necessary.

Landscape Simulation Software

Working alongside the software developer, our Digital Animators helped create a new generation of landscape simulation software, LandSIM3D. The software



combines simplicity and performance, allowing you to visualise interactively 3D complex geographic data covering large territories at any scale with an exceptional level of realism. LandSIM3D is a landscape simulation and design tool dedicated to territory management or urban planning allowing the visualisation of large infrastructure integration into the landscape. This software was only previously available to the military. LandSIM3D makes intensive use of simulation and 3D visualisation to help the decision making process. This allows better presentation and helps explain in a clear and common language the complexity of the project throughout

the design process. This is the latest advancement in technology for our industry and we proud to be the only UK company to have been involved in its development. The team will continue to work closely with the software company to develop the software over the coming years ensuring we are always ahead of our competitors and offering these tools to clients before any one else.

The software is due to be launched in the UK in October 2007. For more details please contact Paul Wilson in Beechill House, Belfast.

Villagers Celebrate A66 Bypass



As a pre-runner to the official opening of the A66 Temple Sowerby bypass in Cumbria in October, the local villagers arranged a celebration walk on Sunday

morning of 16th September. Scott Wilson has been involved in the project since 1999, acting as designers and then the Highways Agency's agents on site.

Alan Frew is PD and John Forshaw PM for the scheme. Scott Wilson was represented on the walk by John and his wife, along with about 700 others, which was a surprise as the village has a population of just over 300!

Target Zero Safety Awards

Scott Wilson has received a Target Zero Safety Award for their work on the the A66 Temple Sowerby project.

A82 Fort William to Torlundy cycleway

On the morning of Saturday 1st September the 2.9km A82 Fort William to Torlundy cycleway was declared safe to open for public use, just days ahead of 40,000 spectators visiting the area to view the 2007 world mountain bike championships.

The cycleway forms an important community link connecting Torlundy and Lochybridge to Fort William, but more importantly it also provides safe traffic free access to the Nevis Range ski area which doubles up for most of the year as downhill cycling facility. Many of the spectators and competitors used the cycleway for access to the championship event. Previously, pedestrians and cyclists would have gained access by using the A82 trunk road.

Most of the cycleway is constructed over areas of very deep peat. This has been



overcome by use of a floated embankment construction. Another feature of the project is the 3 river crossings. Currently these have been spanned using temporary bailey bridges, but will be replaced later in the year with permanent single span bridges using hardwood timber harvested from sustainably managed forests. Spans range from 15 metres to 28.5 metres.

Scott Wilson has been involved with the project for some time however it was not until very late on in the programme, when agreements were finally reached regarding acquisition of land, that the client was prepared to embark on the procurement of a contractor. This meant that the tender period and the construction programme were all much shorter than would have been comfortable and it is therefore a credit to staff from both Scott Wilson and the main contractor, RJ Mcleod, that the cycleway was opened on time ahead of the championships.

The cycleway was designed in accordance with the cycling guidance note 'Cycling by Design' which coincidentally Scott Wilson was also very much involved in the development.

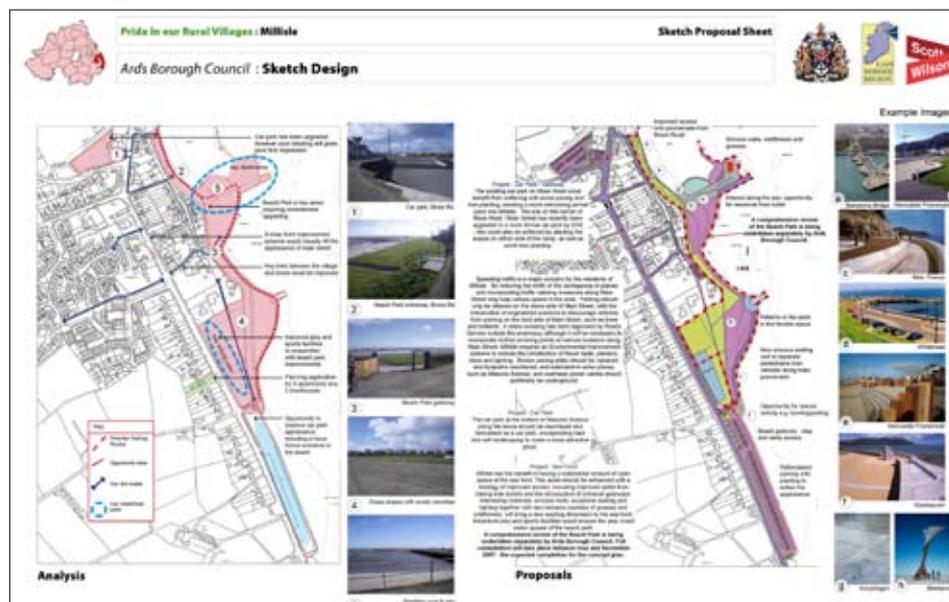
Development Plans

In August 2006 Scott Wilson's Town Planners in the Belfast office were employed by the East Border Region Tourism Partnership (EBRTP) to prepare Comprehensive Development Plans for 27 towns and villages across the Districts of Ards, Down and Armagh.

The purpose of the project was to carry out detailed consultation with local communities, prepare design proposals and graphical strategies, which would identify public realm projects within each village to improve their appearance. Such projects might include the

creation of gateways and open space, improved building frontages, as well as environmental improvement schemes and traffic proposals. The resultant Plans will be used as tools to lever funding from Interreg III.

Although this project is near completion (and ahead of schedule!) it is a good example of a large project that was co-ordinated from our Town Planning department, and that required help from nearly all disciplines, such as Architecture, Engineering and Landscape Architecture.



Munro Challenge Update



Just to let folks know that the Beechill Munro Challenge Teams raised a total of £4653 for Wateraid. The Munro Challenge aims to have teams of volunteers on the summits of all the mountains over 3000ft simultaneously in the UK and Ireland. Our target was £4500 so we were very pleased. Wateraid is hoping to raise £250,00 from the event, which will enable it to continue its work in the world's poorest countries.

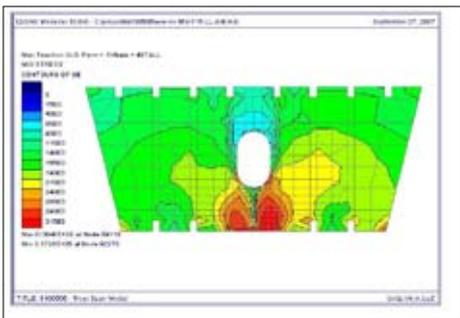
It was a great weekend with excellent weather, and although the climb proved to be fairly difficult, all 26 who participated reached the summit. We are aware that much of the money collected by our 4 teams was donated by the staff in Beechill House. Thank you once again for your support and generosity, which will be used to change people's lives for the better.

M8 White Cart Viaduct

Airdrie to Bathgate



We have been involved in work on the M8 White Cart Viaduct at Glasgow Airport since undertaking a structural assessment in 1997. Originally constructed in 1968, the 23-span steel/concrete composite box girder viaduct carries around 80,000 vehicles per day and is now undergoing a phased programme of strengthening and refurbishment.



The principal elements of the Works are as follows-

- Phase 1 - New Parapets and Lighting Columns
- Phase 2 - Waterproofing, Resurfacing and Expansion Joint Replacement
- Phase 3 - Box Strengthening
- Phase 4 - Painting and Concrete Repairs

Current work on the viaduct is being coordinated by Derek Ogilvie and Chris Curley and includes the detailed analysis and design of strengthening works for Phase 3 using complex finite element methods.

The Division is providing design support to Railways Division for the detailed design phase of the £300m Airdrie to Bathgate project. The allocated work includes the design of 11 no. road over rail bridges, 10 no. replacement decks on existing substructures, approximately 10 no. foot/cycleway bridges and 3 no. access road bridges. This follows on from the Approval in Principle stage which commenced in Autumn 2006. Network Rail is the client and the current (challenging) programmed date for completion of the detailed design is June 2008. A large structures team has been assembled in order to meet the key dates for the project; MOU1 staff in Glasgow are led by Stephen Leckie and the bridge design work is nearing completion under Andy Gillespie's supervision.



Route of Airdrie to Bathgate Railway

Additional assistance is being provided by our colleagues in Edinburgh and Central Division.

The bridges section is also preparing to provide further support to Railways Division for another major railways project in Scotland - a £130m scheme which will re-open a rail link between Edinburgh and Galashiels.

Dublin

Busy, Busy, Busy!! The office in South Dublin, Ireland, has been working at a frenetic pace since its inception and more so after becoming part of Scott Wilson. We have seen our office grow from approximately six people, depending on which day of the week you counted heads, to a lofty sixteen in the office and thirteen on site. This growth occurring in little over two years.

In the next Benchmark we will give an insight into two of the major projects we are currently working on in Southern Ireland in association with local consultants. To give a little teaser the projects to be highlighted will be the M8/N8 Cullahill to Cashel bypass and Dundrum Town Centre Phase II. Each one being well over 100 million Euro in construction costs.

Middlesbrough

Scott Wilson Middlesborough have been awarded a one year extension to the existing three year Design Partner Framework with Darlington Borough Council. The framework provides building services including Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Structural Engineering, QS, M&E and Planning Supervision. The framework will now run until December 2008.

Sonic Drilling

Gordon Bathgate is providing contractual advice to a new Client (drilling Contractor), who is pioneering the use of sonic drilling techniques for ground site investigation work in a UK nuclear electricity generating facility. Gordon reports that sonic drilling can retrieve soil samples where conventional drilling techniques just can't reach, providing invaluable information to geotechnical and nuclear engineers. We are delighted to be associated with this 'ground-breaking' contract which will have implications at a national level. Arrangements are in hand for the Client to demonstrate the system to our Geotechnical Unit and others who are interested.

A Plea from Reception in Glasgow

The reception area at the Glasgow Office is now "manned" from 8.30am each day. Could staff, where possible, issue their Direct Dial numbers to regular callers. This would lighten Susan's load as the switchboard is extremely busy and she also has to answer the calls for SWRL. Thanks!!

A2 and the A1 Belfast to Dublin Road



The summer holiday period certainly hasn't slowed us down and we are pushing ahead with our major projects including the Newry Transportation Study to assess the feasibility of a range of improvement options to relieve traffic congestion in the city centre by providing a new link road between the A2 and the A1 Key Transport Corridor. This project builds on our considerable experience in the area and brings together the expertise of our roads, environment, geotechnics and structures teams. In summer 2007, we held a workshop for Roads Service departmental heads and key staff to explore the improvement options. The workshop was a huge success and prompted some very good client feedback.

Newmachar Nursing Home



Glasgow's Building Structures team under Nigel Williams has been working closely with architects Jewitt Archavir & Wilkie on the design of a £5m, 72 bed nursing home in Newmachar, Aberdeen. As well as the structure, the team has designed the supporting infrastructure. The project is about to go out to tender, and is the first of a series of nursing homes planned by client Visioncall.

A68 Dalkeith Bypass

The Bridges Section has continued to provide a substantial input into the A68 Dalkeith Bypass, a £30m design and construction project linking the Edinburgh City Bypass to the existing A68 at Fordel Mains. Contractor Morgan Est commenced work in September 2006 and is due to complete in November 2008. Giovanni Scilipoti is leading a team in the detailed design of twelve bridges, including the River Esk Bridge, a 94m long twin composite steel box girder structure. Stewart Fagan has controlled the draughting output, using AutoCAD and CADS-RC to ensure that the complex reinforcement detailing of



some of the elements is workable. The relatively small number of comments from the independent checker, and from site, is testament to the success of the team's efforts.

A6 Derry to Dungiven Dualling Stage 2

This major project builds on the success of our Stage 1 work on the 60km A6 dualling between Castledawson and Londonderry, which at £500M is the largest roads project in Northern Ireland.

Over the last few weeks staff in Glasgow and Belfast have worked to prepare the public information leaflets and display boards and to meet and greet the council representatives, VIPs and the local residents at the 4-day public exhibition event. Now for the fun part!

Following on from this successful study,



Scott Wilson and Faber Maunsell have been commissioned to carry out the Stage 2 Study on the 30km Derry to Dungiven section of the route. The scheme is to choose the preferred route and has a value of £320M. The project will involve staff working from our Beechill House, Stockman's Way, Glasgow and Derry offices.

Scottish Freight

We are also pleased to confirm that Scottish Enterprise has commissioned Scott Wilson to undertake research into the need for, and potential contribution to Scotland's economic competitiveness of, improved freight facilities at various locations throughout Scotland. The aim of this important project is to ensure that a strategic approach is taken to the development of Scotland's key freight facilities to improve Scotland's economic competitiveness and to identify opportunities which could contribute to other objectives such as promoting modal shift to more sustainable means of transporting freight, including rail and sea.

Doing our Bit for Charity

Since April, both Middlesbrough and Newcastle office staff are running a 'Casual Friday' event which takes place the last Friday of the month when each employee (who wishes to participate) pays £1 to wear casual clothes for the day.

Each month the participants names are put into a hat and one winner drawn receives half the money raised with the remaining money going to charity. This gives staff an additional incentive to participate, therefore raising more money for charity.

STAFF NEWS

New Starts



The Middlesbrough office welcomes **Sally Atkinson**, Principal Engineer to their expanding Civil and Water engineering section in the North East. Sally has a wide range of technical expertise on a range of multi-disciplinary projects.



Newcastle office welcomes **Steve Pierpoint**, Senior CAD Technician. With 14 years of wide experience including RC detailing and Foundation schedules he is a welcome addition to the office.



The Newcastle office also welcomes **Becky Smart**, Assistant Administrator. Becky joins us after working in admin/retail for a number of years. After offering to play in the Newcastle

five a side football team she is already appreciated as an energetic member of the office.

The Glasgow based MOU1 would like to extend a warm welcome to **Neil Bailie** and **Colin Sangster**, who have recently joined us as Graduate Engineers.

MOU10 are delighted to welcome two new members of staff to their team - **Chris Nichol** and **Andrew Simpson**. Chris joined in June 2007 and is working on Transport Assessments throughout Scotland. Andrew joined us in September after graduating from Glasgow University during the summer. We hope they thoroughly enjoy working with us, there's never a dull moment!

The Dublin Office is pleased to welcome three new graduates - **Anton Lennon** and **Karl Quinn** from Edinburgh University and **Avril Kinsella** from Dublin Institute of Technology. Also a new Technician - **Jayanta Bhattacharjee**, who joined in August this year after two years with PHMcCarthy

The Finance MOU has two new members **Andrea Shaw** in Glasgow and **Ashley Johnston** in Belfast.



The Property Team in Edinburgh is pleased to welcome **Jamie Scott** as a Graduate Structural Engineer. Jamie, a Borderer, graduated in 2007 from the University of Edinburgh with a Master Degree in Civil Engineering.



Peter McGroarty has recently joined the Digital Medial team in Beechill House, Belfast, as a Digital Animator. His interests are with 3-D technology and the programmes that go hand in hand with such a medium, ploygon modelling, texture mapping, rigging and animation to name a few.



Philip Murray, also joining the Digital Media Team, is an imaginative young designer. A year out student, he is currently studying design and communication at Magee College, Londonderry.

Professional Bodies



Steve Metcalfe, Director, MOU7 Steve was voted Chairman for Tees Branch of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE).



Les Orange, Associate, MOU2 Joined the committee of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE).



Tony Buckley, Associate, MOU7 Joined the committee of the Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE).



Phil Lightfoot, Senior Technician, MOU7 As you will all have read in Interchange earlier this year, Phil Lightfoot became the very first Technician Member of the Institution of Structural Engineers (TIStructE).

Louise Lilburn from Stockman's Way in Belfast has joined the local graduate and student committee of the Institution of Civil Engineers, and is tasked with the organisation of several forum events for graduates and students over the next twelve months.

Wedding Bells



Congratulations to **Mark McIntosh** from the Middlesbrough Architectural section, who got married to Jenny on 7th September. Mark and Jenny who are both keen climbers met

whilst mountaineering. Claims that Mark used the fabled 'rope tethering technique' to help win Jenny's hand is greatly exaggerated.

Congratulation to **Susie Edward**, who married Scott Luttrell on 24 August 2007.

Peter Kremser and **Iwona Dudzicz** both from the Stockman's Way office in Belfast got married in Poland early in September. We wish them well for the future.



Cathy Fee, Business Development Officer in Beechill House, Belfast was married to Matt Williamson on 6 September. We wish them all the best.

Congratulations to **Gayle Christie** who has announced her engagement to her partner Nik.