

Larkfleet wins National Sustainability Award

Larkfleet Group has won the Sustainability Award from the British Chambers of Commerce for its commitment to the environment and for investing in sustainability-focused research and development.

The company's award highlighted features such as the fact that it builds using sustainable timber frames, minimises waste and the use of materials during construction and protects wildlife around its sites. It also noted that the company's carbon emissions are independently verified and that it is driving down energy and water use, increasing recycling rates and reducing car travel where possible.

Group companies include a major developer of solar power farms and a company which specialises in improving the energy-efficiency of existing homes and other buildings. Solar PV panels were installed at the head office more than three years ago to reduce the company's carbon emissions and continue to reduce the company's consumption of energy.

Larkfleet also invests in research and development (R&D) projects which have the potential to deliver environmental gains for the construction industry and for society as a whole.

Larkfleet CEO Karl Hick was at the British Chambers of Commerce's annual Chamber Awards ceremony, hosted by Fox Sports presenter Georgie Thompson, to collect the award on behalf of the company. He said:

"We are seeking to embrace sustainability in all its aspects.

"We are therefore not just seeking to drive down energy use by managing our own activities and by building energy-efficient homes. We are also trying to create and maintain sustainable local communities wherever we operate – providing local employment, supporting the provision of training for local youngsters, contributing to local community activities and helping to solve the very real problem of providing sufficient affordable, high-quality homes for the region's growing population."

Nora Senior, president of the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC), said: "These awards are the perfect opportunity to thank British businesses, up and down the country, and across all sectors, for their contribution to our economy. I'm constantly impressed by their determination, innovation and commitment to investing in their local communities.

"I have no doubt that the winners and finalists of our awards will be tomorrow's wealth creators and will play a vital role driving forward the future prosperity of the UK economy."



New company launches first site

Allison Homes has announced plans for a collection of ten stone-built properties close to the centre of Stamford, just outside the old town wall.

Anvil Mews is a mix of three-bedroom and four-bedroom town houses arranged around a central courtyard which offers two parking spaces per property plus some visitor parking. Prices range from £410,000 to £595,000.

Work has already started on site and the houses will be ready for occupation in the summer of 2015.

Allison Homes has been launched by Larkfleet to bring an old name in the building industry back to life. Larkfleet Group CEO Karl Hick was at one time managing director of a company named Allison Homes and Nigel Parsons, now managing director of the new Allison Homes, worked for him there as site manager and later contracts manager. More recently he has worked for Larkfleet as managing director of construction.

Nigel said: "Allison Homes is an entirely new company but the name has a real history. We are aiming to recreate the quality and customer service that made the original Allison Homes such a success.

"The Anvil Mews development is the first of several that will be announced over the next few months as we get the business established.

"Anvil Mews is being developed by Allison Luxury Homes, the top-end brand within Allison Homes, and is being sold through Stamford-based agents King West. A recent invitation-only viewing of the plans at a reception in the King West offices attracted interest from a range of potential buyers.



Lark Energy moves north



Lark Energy has launched a dedicated team to develop roof-top photovoltaic (PV) solar power installations.

Lark Energy Commercial is based in Solihull near Birmingham and aims to work with logistics, retail and other firms with large buildings where PV panels could be sited on the roof. Lark Energy has already completed more than 700 rooftop installations, generating a total of around 5 MW.

The company has also opened an office in Edinburgh to service the Scottish market – and already has consent for its first Scottish solar farm near Dumfries.



LARKFLEET GROUP

Larkfleet House, Falcon Way, Bourne, Lincs PE10 0FF
Tel: 01778 391550 www.larkfleetgroup.co.uk

Larkfleet strengthens Senior team

Larkfleet Group has strengthened its senior management team with three new appointments.

Deborah Brown has joined as group legal counsel, John Ellis as group finance director and Paul Shepherd as land manager.



In her new role Deborah will take overall responsibility for legal matters within Larkfleet Group, dealing with day-to-day legal work and liaising with external lawyers as she builds an internal legal and compliance team for the company. She was previously a partner at Roythornes solicitors, specialising in company and commercial matters, and before that worked at Taylor Vinters and hc solicitors.

John Ellis, a Fellow of the Association of Chartered and Certified Accountants, has previously worked in the civil engineering, power generation and transport sectors. Whilst working for companies such as GEC, BTR, Alstom, T&N and more recently Morgan Sindall, John has worked in a number of countries including France, Belgium and Germany as well as across the UK.



Paul Shepherd has come to Larkfleet after a career in land and property management which has included working for major housebuilders such as Taylor Wimpey, Barratt Homes and Redrow Homes as well as in estate agency and his own property portfolio company. His role at Larkfleet is to find and secure potential new development opportunities, with or without existing planning consent, and to work with housing association partners when bringing these forward.



Larkfleet Group CEO Karl Hick said: "As the group continues to develop and expand we need to similarly develop and expand the team of talented people at the top of the organisation who can oversee our progress.

"Deborah, John and Paul bring fresh capabilities and experience which will significantly strengthen our senior management team."

Lark Energy's Innovative Solar Farm at Hanson's Cement Works scoops two National Solar Awards

For the second year running Lark Energy has picked up two prestigious awards for one of its projects.

The company's solar farm at Hanson Cement's Ketton Works in Rutland won the award for best Ground-Mount Solar Site under 10MWp at the Solar Power Portal Awards. It also recently picked up first prize in the UK Solar Awards for Large Ground Mount Installation.

Lark Energy, working in partnership with Hanson and Armstrong Energy, successfully completed and connected the 9MWp solar farm earlier this year. This is the first phase of the project with a further 3MWp currently being completed to the south of the plant.

The project has been built on 20 hectares of former quarry belonging to Hanson Cement. The 38,544 modules will generate enough energy to cover around 10% of the Cement work's annual consumption. This will not only reduce the company's carbon emissions but will also contribute to improving the per capita carbon emissions of Rutland, the smallest county in the UK.

The project was jointly developed by Lark Energy and Armstrong Energy with the latter providing funding partly through an innovative PPA arrangement with Hanson. The company will receive a proportion of the energy for free with the remainder being provided at a market reflective rate.

The project also required a pioneering approach to managing the grid connection. The power from the solar farm connects into Hanson's private 11kv network which is itself

connected to Western Power Distribution's 33kv network. Lark Energy has designed the solar farm to enable active and reactive power management and to protect the grid from reverse current. This has a number of advantages, including minimising the need for costly 33kv upgrade work, reducing the energy costs for Hanson and enabling the inverters to be used as capacitor batteries at night.

The solar farm was officially opened today by Hanson's CEO Patrick O'Shea. Lark Energy's Managing Director, Jonathan Selwyn and Andrew Newman, Director of Armstrong Energy were also in attendance.

"It has been very rewarding for the Hanson Renewable Energy Team to see the first of their projects come to fruition with the switch on of the Hanson Cement Solar Farm at Ketton" said Mark Cox of Hanson Cement. "This is the first of what is hoped are many such projects the company will be involved in over the coming years as we strive to reduce our CO2 emissions and energy costs"

Jonathan Selwyn, Managing Director of Lark Energy commented "We are delighted to have worked with Hanson Cement and Armstrong Energy

to develop this innovative solar project. Large scale solar is perfectly suited to projects such as this on previously used industrial land and where all the energy can be utilised directly by nearby businesses. We look forward to working on some further projects like this in the coming months."

Steve Mahon, Director of Armstrong Energy added: "Armstrong Energy prides itself on being creative in structuring a deal to ensure all sides benefit. This project with Hanson and Lark Energy is an exemplar of this approach and includes an innovative power sales agreement that builds a sustainable market advantage for the host. We believe this approach can be used with large energy users both in the UK and overseas and we look forward to a long and successful partnership with both Hanson and Lark Energy."



Kestrel builds for Premier

Kestrel Timber Frame, has designed, manufactured; delivered and erected the timber frame for a two-storey, 24 bedroom extension to a Premier Inn in Kettering.

Erection was completed in just ten days on a site with restricted access and limited working hours because the existing hotel and restaurant remained open throughout.

It was Kestrel's first contract with main contractor Barnes Construction and also its first job for Premier Inn - but it has already won an additional contract with Sanderson to provide the timber frame for a 22 bedroom, three-storey extension to a Premier Inn in Nottingham.

