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A profile of the practice

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Robert Bruce & Sons is an independent mechanical and electrical engineering consulting practice, founded in 1908, working internationally and specialising in industrial plant, machinery and electrical installations.

The Practice has experience of manufacturing and process plant, mechanical handling, industrial power generation and electricity distribution. Our experience has encompassed all aspects of project definition, design, implementation, project management and post-contractual support.

Our client portfolio includes multi-national companies, public service providers, utilities and professional practices both in the United Kingdom and overseas. Our industrial clients, large and small, include producers of pulp, paper, tissue, packaging materials, chemicals, minerals, aluminium and other metal products. Utilities served have included water companies in the United Kingdom and overseas, public and independent power generators overseas and regional electricity companies in the United Kingdom.

We are centrally situated near to the major industrial centres of the Midlands and North of England, and Manchester Airport, within an hour's drive, offers direct services to principle European and major intercontinental destinations.



Engineering Success... with Safety

At Robert Bruce & Sons, we know the elements essential to a successful engineering project: clear objectives understood by all parties, coupled with effective planning, control of physical resources, programme and cost. We understand the importance of establishing an appropriate contractual framework and can advise on terms of contract to suit the individual needs of each project.

Through consultation and careful attention to the special requirements peculiar to every project, we assist the client to clarify the objectives. We understand how to express those objectives in clear, concise and unambiguous language. This is reflected in our reports, specifications and communications.

It is our experience that successful projects are fostered by the creation of a harmonious relationship between owner, contractor and consultant, based upon mutual respect and trust within a clear contractual framework.

Our approach to project management is devoted to the control of cost and ensuring adherence to the contractual specification and programme. This is achieved by application of appropriate checks and documentary procedures.

We are ever conscious of the importance of safety in engineering matters. Our efforts are continually directed towards ensuring that human safety, in the widest sense, receives priority throughout the life cycle of the plant. We know that failure to attend to safety issues is not only irresponsible and costly in terms of human suffering - it results in serious economic damage to the enterprise in terms of its public reputation, as well as actual financial loss.



An Independent View...

Throughout our history, we have provided operational support to many industries, drawing on our broad experience to advise on performance problems, maintenance issues and the procurement of engineering supplies. We believe that thorough consultation and investigation at strategic and operational levels is essential to the formation of a balanced opinion. Our advice may be relied upon to make an unbiased and independent contribution to the management of engineering assets and the maintenance of efficient production.

Supporting the Home Team...from afar

For many years, distant overseas clients have confidently entrusted us with the tasks of representing their interests in Europe during procurement and of providing post-contractual liaison with their suppliers of plant and equipment. It is our endeavour, by adopting an open-minded and flexible approach, to integrate our activities seamlessly with those of the project team at the client's home base, and to promote good relations between the client and his contractors overseas. Our effectiveness is reflected in the continuing relationships (some of over fifty year's duration) that we have maintained with overseas clients, particularly in Australia.

Assisting the Court...

Forensic engineering and expert witness services have been key parts of our professional programme for over twenty years. We are trained and experienced in providing the independent, unbiased expert evidence demanded by litigators and insisted upon by the Courts. Our experience includes matters of contractual dispute, personal injury and intellectual property. We are familiar with the requirements of the British Civil Procedure Rules, Protocols and Practice Directions (CPR) and we are careful to ensure that we comply with its requirements whether acting as Expert Advisor, Party Appointed Expert or Single Joint Expert.

Principal

E R J Ward

BSc(Eng) CEng FIEE MIMechE FConsE MAE

Dick Ward graduated with Honours from London University in 1968 and is professionally qualified both as a Chartered Mechanical Engineer and as a Chartered Electrical Engineer. He joined the Practice in 1970, became a partner in 1973 and Principal in 1986. His international experience, gained throughout Europe, Australia, and the Asia-Pacific region, includes all the major stages of project implementation from initial definition, through specification, design, manufacture, testing, installation, commissioning to the provision of operational support for industrial plant and machinery. This experience enables him to address the specialised areas of technology mentioned in this brochure as well as more general matters of engineering practice and industrial safety. He has provided engineering support for litigation alongside his conventional consulting practice since 1978. He is a Member of the Academy of Experts, trained in the requirements of the Civil Procedure Rules (CPR) and the particular requirements it places upon experts in general and Single Joint Experts.





Associate Consultants

D J F Davies

DipEE CEng FIEE MConSE MCIBSE

James Davies has over thirty years experience in the generation, transmission, distribution and utilisation of electrical energy in the United Kingdom, Africa, the Middle East and Oceania. His career has encompassed all aspects of electrical project design and management at senior levels in industry and consultancy practice. He is an experienced expert witness.

J D Butterworth

BSc(Hons) CEng FICE MCIWEM

Jonathan Butterworth has over twenty-five years experience in the design and management of multi-disciplinary construction projects in the United Kingdom, the Arabian States, India and the Caribbean. He graduated with Honours in Civil Engineering and is a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers. He has gained extensive experience in the structural and civil engineering design of projects in the Industrial, Water, Transport and Power sectors. He is a trained adjudicator and has acted as Technical Expert for litigation on a number of cases in the United Kingdom and Overseas.

Scope of Services

Investigations, Studies and Reports

- Feasibility and pre-feasibility studies
- Design studies and reviews
- Evaluations of used plant and machinery
- Investigations of current practices and available technology for industrial applications
- Investigations of failures, accidents and defects
- Preparation and presentation of expert testimony

Project Engineering and Supervision

- Conceptual design and specification
- Administration of contract documents
- Analysis and adjudication of tenders
- Supervision of manufacture
- Inspection and supervision of tests
- Approval of protection and packaging for shipment
- Co-ordination of forwarding and shipping arrangements
- Inspection of site installation works and supervision of commissioning
- Post-contractual liaison



Procurement

- Sourcing of engineering supplies
- Preparation of enquiries
- Placement and administration of orders
- Expedition and co-ordination of deliveries

Quality Assurance

- Pre-contractual reviews of vendors' quality systems
- Surveillance of quality assurance procedures during manufacture, testing and commissioning



Fields of Experience

Construction (General)

- Project design and management
- Owners' advisors and technical representatives
- Expediting, Inspection and Test Witnessing during manufacture and commissioning
- Planning Supervisor duties under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (The CDM Regulations)

Mechanical Engineering

- Prime movers: diesel engines, steam and gas turbines
- Industrial power engineering
- Mining and quarrying machinery
- Air compression and pneumatic systems
- Fluid pumping and handling systems
- Mechanical handling

Electrical Engineering

- Electricity generation and distribution
- Industrial power and control systems
- Rotating machinery, transformers, switchgear and protection systems



Industrial Processes

- Wood pulp production
- Paper and board manufacture
- Paper conversion
- Packaging
- Mineral extraction, crushing and grinding
- Metal manufacturing and finishing
- Chemicals manufacture
- Waste material handling and recycling

Energy

- Diesel power generation
- Combined-cycle power generation

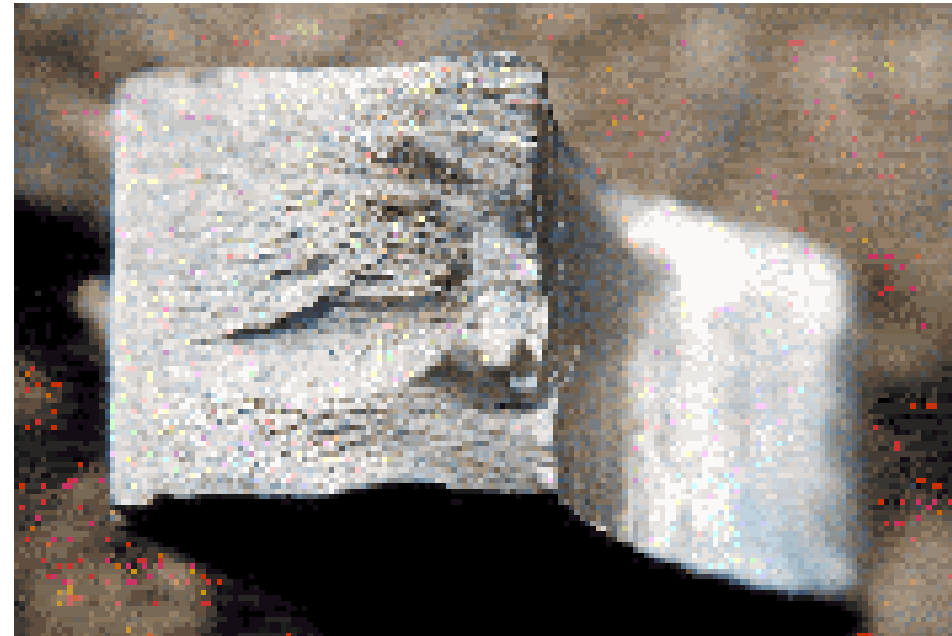


Expert Services

- Site investigations and inspections
- Assistance with the drafting of statements of case
- Preliminary advice following examination of case papers
- Provision of detailed expert's reports
- Reviewing engineers' reports submitted by the other side
- Advising counsel on engineering matters prior to trial
- Advising instructing solicitors and counsel during trial
- Expert witness

Areas of Expertise

- Mechanical machinery and prime movers
- Mechanical handling systems
- Electrical machinery and installations
- Electrical control systems
- Industrial power generation and distribution
- Industrial process machinery
- Machinery for the manufacture of pulp, paper and board
- Paper conversion and packaging systems
- Metal manufacturing machinery
- Industrial safety





Contact Information

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Robert Bruce & Sons is a Member Firm of the Association of Consultancy and Engineering

