



FABWorld

THIRD EDITION

**Fabricating and installing structural
steel for the nation.**

WELCOME to **FABWorld's** third edition.

Welcome to the latest edition of Fabworld, our magazine that keeps you up to date with everything happening in the world of steel and fabrication, both at SCH Site Services and across the wider industry.

It's been a busy time, with plenty of movement in the sector, new challenges to navigate, and exciting developments taking shape. Here at SCH, we've been involved in some great projects, tackling everything from large-scale structural steelwork to more intricate secondary steel installations. It's always a proud moment to see the hard work of our team come to life, and we're excited to share some of these updates with you.

Beyond our own work, the industry itself is constantly evolving. Whether it's changes in materials, regulations, or new innovations in fabrication, there's always something to keep an eye on.

In this edition, we'll be looking into some of the key industry insights, as well as giving you a behind-the-scenes look at what's been happening here at SCH.

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WELCOME

Foreword from Gary

As we bring you this latest edition of Fabworld, I want to take a moment to thank every single person who continues to support SCH Site Services, whether you're a client, a partner, or part of our incredible team.

The last few years have seen continued growth at SCH, and I couldn't be prouder of what we've accomplished. With four consecutive years of consistent profits, we've built a stable, high-performing business that delivers for clients, project after project.

We've retained our long-standing relationships with major clients like MGL Group, Willmott Dixon, Robertson, Mandale Group, Tilbury Douglas, Wates, K-Home International, and Durham County Council, while also welcoming exciting new names including Lindum, Caddick, Galliford Try, Kier and GMI.

We've also expanded our capabilities with the introduction of offsite fire protection of steelwork, a service that strengthens both our offering and our commitment to delivering comprehensive, high-quality solutions.

While we've seen a few familiar faces move on, our core team remains strong. Our average staff retention rate is 10 years - something we're truly proud of - and a reflection of the culture, stability, and shared purpose that drive SCH forward.

We've also picked up several awards for health and safety, which is always at the heart of how we work, on site, in the factory, and everywhere in between.

With a trusted team, valued clients, and new opportunities on the horizon, we're more focused than ever on delivering steel solutions that set the standard in our industry.

Thank you again for being part of the journey.

Enjoy the read!

Managing Director, SCH Site Services

Gary Finley





Celebrating 20 Years of SCH



This year marks an incredible milestone for SCH Site Services, 20 years of growth, innovation, and commitment to excellence in steel fabrication and site services. From our beginnings as Spennymoor Crane Hire to becoming a leading name in the industry, the journey has been nothing short of extraordinary.

Our story started in the early 90's as Spennymoor Crane Hire, operating with just four cranes and four drivers. But ambition and demand quickly pushed the business forward. By 2005, the company rebranded to SCH Site Services, expanding into steel erection and on-site fabrication alongside crane hire. These early years laid the foundation for what was to come, a company built on expertise, adaptability, and quality craftsmanship. By 2011, SCH Site Services took a bold step forward, purchasing our current premises.

With this move came the hiring of a contracts manager and estimator, bringing greater structure to the business and opening new opportunities.

From here, we set our sights on industrial refurbishment projects and secondary steelwork, working on everything from staircases and platforms to access ladders and custom structures.

As our reputation grew, so did the scale of our projects, clients returned, and new opportunities came our way, expanding our scope beyond steel erection into comprehensive fabrication and installation solutions.

One of the defining aspects of SCH Site Services is our approach. Unlike many in the industry, we don't sublet our site services, we have a dedicated, in-house team handling every aspect of a project. This means full control over quality, compliance, and efficiency. Our own policies, procedures, and site labour allow us to deliver exceptional results while maintaining the highest standards of safety and professionalism.

Over the last two decades, SCH has had the privilege of working on some incredible projects such as the Energy Centre, Science Central, Newcastle Upon Tyne, in collaboration with Engie Regeneration and Hitachi Rail Welding and Painting Facility, Newton Aycliffe, Partnering with Willmott Dixon.

From structural steel installations in major commercial developments to intricate refurbishments and custom fabrication work, every job has played a role in shaping who we are today.

"From our beginnings as Spennymoor Crane Hire to becoming a leading name in the industry, the journey has been nothing short of extraordinary."



FACT:

Steel is one of the most recycled materials globally. It can be recycled repeatedly without losing its properties, making it both economically and environmentally valuable.



Creating Social Value at SCH Site Services – Why It Matters to Us

At **SCH Site Services**, delivering high-quality structural steelwork is what we're known for, but there's more to our business than the materials we fabricate or the buildings we help bring to life.

We believe we have a responsibility to do right by our people, our community, and the environment. That belief is at the core of how we operate every day.

Social value isn't something we treat as a side effort, it's something we consciously build into the way we run the business, from the people we employ, to how we engage with local schools, charities, and suppliers.

It's about building with purpose, not just profit.

Investing in Local People

Our team is largely made up of people from right here in County Durham and the surrounding areas; something we're genuinely proud of. Local employment keeps our community strong and gives us the benefit of working with people who care about the work they do and where it's going.

There's a real sense of ownership in what we deliver. Right now, we have four apprentices on board who are learning the ropes from experienced hands. Apprenticeships aren't just about filling roles, they're about shaping the future of our industry. These young people are gaining real-world experience in steel fabrication, installation, and site work, while also developing the professional skills and confidence that will stay with them for years to come.

It's rewarding to watch that growth and know we're playing a part in creating long-term careers.

Supporting the Local Economy

Choosing to work with local suppliers and subcontractors is more than a business decision, it's a value we hold.

By keeping our procurement as local as possible, we're investing directly in other businesses in our region and helping build a supply chain that benefits the whole community.

These partnerships also bring added reliability, stronger communication, and a shared pride in the work we're delivering.

There's a real benefit to working with people who are close to the action and just as invested in the success of a project as we are. That local connection brings a collaborative energy that's hard to replicate otherwise.



Giving Back to the Community

Our community support goes beyond our day-to-day operations. One cause that means a lot to us is the Solan Connor Fawcett Family Cancer Trust, a fantastic local charity offering practical, emotional, and financial support to individuals and families affected by cancer.

Their work is personal, compassionate, and deeply rooted in making a real difference. We've been proud to support the Trust through sponsorships and fundraising efforts, and we're continually inspired by the strength and resilience of the people they help.

Being able to contribute, even in a small way, to the lives of those facing unimaginable challenges is a reminder of what really matters.

Building More Sustainably

As a construction business, we're very aware of our environmental responsibilities. That's why we've taken steps to operate more sustainably; sourcing our steel from electric arc furnaces, using energy-efficient machinery and vehicles, and actively reducing waste across our sites and workshops.

It's not about ticking boxes. It's about actively reducing our environmental impact and building a culture that values long-term thinking.

Every project we take on is an opportunity to improve how we operate and influence better practices across our supply chain.

Sustainability isn't a separate strand of our work; it's something we continue to weave into every stage of our process.

Looking Forward

As we grow, so does our responsibility to make sure that growth benefits more than just the business.

We'll keep investing in people, partnering with schools, supporting the local economy, and giving back where we can. We'll keep challenging ourselves to do it better, because that's what progress looks like.



Reflecting on a Key Role in Project Newton, Billingham

At SCH Site Services, we thrive on challenges, and when it comes to large-scale steelwork projects, we're always ready to rise to the occasion. Project Newton in Billingham, completed in 2022, remains a great example of what we do best: combining precision, expertise, and collaboration to bring ambitious structures to life.

Project Newton was a major development for a leading pharmaceutical company, designed to expand their bio campus with a brand-new four-storey office and laboratory facility. This ambitious project, executed in collaboration with Willmott Dixon, demanded nothing short of excellence. With 900 tonnes of steel required to bring the vision to life, it was a challenge that SCH Site Services was proud to take on.

Every great structure begins with meticulous planning. Our team worked four to five months ahead of site operations, ensuring every aspect of the project was accounted for. From October 2022, we initiated the fabrication drawings, laying the groundwork for an organised and efficient build.

With the planning phase complete, we moved on to fabrication and installation. Our scope of work for Project Newton included steel fabrication, steel installation, primer coat of paint, landing metal decking packs, installation of pre-cast concrete stairs, and lift shafts. These essential elements formed the foundation of the facility, ensuring both strength and longevity.

Transporting and erecting 900 tonnes of steel is no small feat! This steel, the backbone of the new facility, was delivered in 54 separate loads, each carefully timed to align with the project's evolving needs. Planning and accuracy were key, ensuring that progress remained smooth and uninterrupted. We successfully delivered and installed all 900 tonnes of steel on-site within 12 weeks, meeting the contract programme requirements.

While steelwork is our specialty, SCH Site Services brings more to the table. In addition to fabricating and installing the structure, our team also handled the installation of concrete stairs and lift shafts, critical elements in ensuring the building's functionality. Three months after the initial phase, we returned to install a 60-tonne galvanised plant deck, adding to the project's overall structural integrity. By offering comprehensive solutions, we reinforced our reputation as a company that delivers beyond expectations.



Project Newton stands as the largest project we've undertaken in terms of weight, and its success remains a reflection of our expertise. The collaboration between SCH Site Services, Willmott Dixon, and the pharmaceutical company resulted in a state-of-the-art facility that met every expectation, on time and to the highest standards.

Looking back, Project Newton was a milestone for SCH Site Services, proving that we have the capability to handle projects of this scale. Since its completion, we have continued to build on this success, taking on even more ambitious projects and further solidifying our reputation as industry leaders.

At SCH Site Services, we don't just build structures, we build trust, reliability, and excellence. Project Newton remains a proud achievement in our portfolio, showcasing our ability to compete with the best in the industry.





FACT:

Bessemer Process: Invented by Sir Henry Bessemer in the 1850s, this process revolutionised steel manufacturing by making it more efficient and cost-effective. It played a pivotal role in advancing the Industrial Revolution.



Woodlands Academy, Scarborough:

A Proud Milestone for SCH Site Services

We recently completed another stand out project - Woodlands Academy in Scarborough, working in collaboration with Galliford Try Construction.

This brand-new Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) school has been built from the ground up, providing modern, purpose-built facilities designed to support students and staff in an enriched learning environment.

Our team played a key role in delivering the structural steelwork and fire protection, ensuring the framework is robust, compliant, and built to last.

The project involved fabricating and installing 150 tonnes of structural steel, forming the L-shaped, two-story building that now stands as a vital educational facility in the region.

A major part of this project was applying 60-minute fire protection, making it our largest fire protection project to date. We partnered with Sherwin-Williams, manufacturer of FIRETEX FX6002, to determine the correct thickness required for the fire-resistant coating.

To ensure flawless application, our management team completed specialist training, equipping them with the expertise to apply this advanced three-coat system in-house at SCH before the steelwork made its journey to Scarborough.

Carrying out the fabrication, painting, and fireproofing at our facility gave us full control over quality and compliance. Every stage of fire protection was thoroughly documented and inspected, guaranteeing that all structural steel met the highest regulatory standards before installation.

This attention to detail not only ensured the safety and longevity of the new school building but also reinforced our expertise in handling complex fire protection requirements.

The completion of Woodlands Academy marks another significant milestone for SCH Site Services in delivering high-quality steelwork for the Department for Education.

With the existing school remaining operational during construction, our team worked efficiently to ensure minimal disruption while delivering a new, energy-efficient facility built with sustainability in mind.

We are proud to have played a part in this transformational project, ensuring that Woodlands Academy is built to last, providing a safe and inspiring environment for future generations.

"We are proud to have played a part in delivering a safe, inspiring environment for future generations."



Celebrating One Year of Andy at SCH Site Services

It's been a full year since Andy joined the team as Commercial Manager, and what a year it's been!

From introducing improved commercial processes to jumping into the detail of day-to-day project delivery, Andy has brought both structure and humour to the role. We caught up with him to reflect on his first 12 months....

Let's dive into Andy's one-year check-in...

Can you believe it's been a year already? How would you sum it up in 3 words?

Challenging, Rewarding, Teamwork

What have been some of the key highlights or achievements in your role so far?

Bringing in some commercial management processes in the business. Cost and sales reporting and management, ordering, contract admin, as well as implementing some new software has improved some of the already good systems in place (I hope!). It's great to be in the day to day running of the jobs – really getting into the nitty gritty of things!

How has your role evolved since you first joined the business?

I've learnt so much this year and understand things a lot better. I've been helping supplement our estimating team recently and I've gradually just got more and more involved with different things to the point where anything with a pound sign, I'm all over!

If your time at SCH were a film, what would the title be?

Fear and Loathing in Newton Aycliffe... Just kidding but that is actually quite difficult to answer. I am trying to be clever and showing my extensive movie repertoire in answering with a play on words... I've got nothing!

Clueless!!

Are there any particular challenges you've faced that stand out and how did you overcome them?

Just standard construction related dispute resolution processes and getting things over the line. Most of them are overcome with hard work and input from others! That's probably much less glamorous a response than I would like but is the truth.



How would you describe the pace and variety of work at SCH compared to previous roles?

Generally fast and diverse. We do a lot of different types of projects in a lot of different sectors. Whether it be a school field, a new facility in a Petrochem plant, secondary on a mega shed there is normally a lot to do in a short time frame!

What's been your go-to desk snack over the past year?

I don't snack at work but Mike keeps me sweet (no pun intended) with the odd bag of Maoam Strips.

What's your favourite part of the job now, one year in?

This is going to sound corny, but honestly, my colleagues. That and measuring!!! I love colouring in!

What part of the role do you find the most rewarding, and why?

Cost and financial reporting. I just love number crunching because I am a saddo!

It's rare in a commercial role to get any kind of external praise for your work as no one likes getting variations pinged at them, left, right and centre but it is nice to get positive feedback from clients that we have done a good job!

How would you describe the culture and team environment at SCH?

It's really good! You've got the freedom to make decisions whilst having the support to carry them out. It's a good place to work with good people, all pulling in the same direction. Everyone is great fun – we honestly laugh everyday!

What do you think sets SCH apart from other places you've worked?

Having the factory to think about rather than just the construction element. We are a whole team. It's also great that everyone's on the same page and pulling in the same direction.

What feedback have you had from clients or colleagues that's meant a lot to you?

I had quite a positive review after my probation – so probably that!
Side note: Andy's colleagues were asked to describe Andy!! We had:
"Canny and no bother."
"Professional and knows a lot."
"Keen eye for detail."
"Grumpy!!!!"

Looking ahead, what are your goals for the next 12 months in your role?

Successfully deliver all of our upcoming projects on time with improved margin, ideally.

Looking Back and Moving Forward

Andy's first year has been packed with progress, from tighter cost control and stronger systems to the occasional packet of Maoams! His honest, practical approach (and love of colouring in, apparently) has made a real impact across the team and with our clients.

"We're proud to have Andy as part of the SCH Team."

The Voortman-V310: Revolutionising Production at SCH Site Services



At SCH Site Services, we are always investing in cutting-edge solutions to improve productivity. The Voortman-V310 plate processing machine has completely transformed our workflow.

With its plasma cutting, drilling, and automated waste disposal, this machine operations, maximising efficiency and reducing manual labour.

Replacing our previous cutting system, the Voortman-V310 brings a new level of precision and speed to our fabrication process. After extensive research and industry consultations, it was clear that this machine was the right choice for our business, offering reliability and superior performance.

With meticulous preparation, including air pressure upgrades and factory adjustments, installation was completed smoothly.

The machine made its journey over from Holland and arrived on two 45-foot wagons, and our team ensured an efficient offloading and setup process.

Thanks to its advanced technology, commissioning went efficiently, and production quickly integrated its capabilities into daily operations.

Now fully operational, the Voortman-V310 is making a significant impact. It performs the work of four men, allowing us to take on projects faster and more cost-effectively while maintaining the highest standards of quality.

This investment, at half a million pounds, reinforces our commitment to efficiency and innovation in steel fabrication.

If you think the Voortman-V310 could help optimise your processes, we are happy to hire out time on the machine. Get in touch to see how we can support your next project.

VOORTMAN-V310



Improving **Efficiency** with **STRUMIS** at SCH Site Services



Investing in Innovation

At SCH Site Services, we're always looking for ways to improve efficiency, and our investment in STRUMIS, a world-leading steel fabrication management system, is a major step forward.

Our office and production management teams have recently undergone comprehensive training on the software, which is already making a difference in how we manage projects.

Transforming Our Operations

STRUMIS streamlines every stage of fabrication, from estimating and procurement to production and delivery. It enables faster, more accurate costings, real-time tracking, and improved inventory management, helping us reduce waste and optimise resources.

The system also integrates with CAD and steel detailing software, ensuring smooth transitions between design and production.

Enhancing Client Experience

For our clients, this means quicker project turnaround times, improved communication, and even greater quality assurance.

By adopting STRUMIS, we're reinforcing our commitment to efficiency, precision, and delivering the best possible service.



A Final Word from Gary

Thank you for taking the time to read this edition of Fabworld. We hope you've enjoyed the updates, insights, and a look at what we've been working on here at SCH Site Services.

If anything you've read has sparked your interest, or if you'd like to know more about how we work, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

We'd also like to invite businesses who are keen to feature in the next issue to reach out. Fabworld is all about showcasing the people, partnerships, and progress that keep this industry moving. We're here to help put steel and fabrication firmly on the map.

A huge thank you to our incredible team for their continued commitment and hard work - none of this would be possible without them - and to the companies who continue to trust us with their projects, thank you for your ongoing support.

We're proud of the relationships we've built and the work we continue to deliver together.

Until next time,



Managing Director, SCH Site Services

