

PRESS RELEASE

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1/4/10 FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY NEARS COMPLETION

A 15,000 sq m Observatory built on Fair Isle is now nearing completion. The new, two storey Fair Isle Bird Observatory (FIBO) replaces an earlier 60 year old structure, and comprises bird watching, commercial, conferencing and accommodation facilities, in a building specially designed to withstand Fair Isle's severe weather conditions.

FIBO is a sustainable, mainly timber building, comprising 32 high performance, closed panel engineered timber "pods", fabricated on Orkney. These pods had to be transported by sea for the 12 hour journey to the Fair Isle site and the shipping and erection of the pods had to take place over a 14 day weather window.

To allow for the short building season the new facility was designed using AHW Building Solutions' pre-fabricated full panel modular system. This utilises James Jones & Sons Ltd FSC accredited JJI Joists extensively as the primary structural elements, providing an A rated green material to maintain the sustainable credentials of the building.

Floors, ceilings and walls were constructed with JJI-Joists and roof fabrication with glulam allowed large span openings where two or more modules are joined to form large public areas. All pods are clad with a highly durable laminated timber cladding called Triboard, also supplied by James Jones, which incorporates a layer of spruce sandwiched between two boards of Siberian larch. This was specified to comply with the client brief for "minimal external maintenance".

The roof is clad in high performance metal Metro tiles and includes 5Kw of photovoltaic tiles for energy generation.

The project, which began in June 2009 will be completed on schedule in April 2010.

Photography: 1. sea journey begins 2. locals are intrigued! 3. pod is craned in 4. all pods in situ. All photography must be credited to Dave Wheeler Photography www.davewheelerphotography.com

Editor's Note:

Client:	Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust
Engineered Timber Supplier:	James Jones & Sons Ltd Timber Systems Division
Contractor:	AHW Building Solutions
Timber Frame Manufacturer:	AHW Building Solutions
Architect:	Synergie Scotland
Engineers:	Rubislaw Associates Ends

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