

Building Matters

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Four-year council housing improvement contract

Charnwood invests in creating more comfortable homes for tenants.



Charnwood Borough Council has appointed Jeakins Weir to carry out maintenance and repairs to its council houses, as part of a programme of planned improvements to housing stock. The council manages around 5,500 residential homes in the Leicestershire borough.

Council house revival

Jeakins Weir will replace bathrooms and kitchens, carry out internal and external structural repairs, and refurbish empty properties to bring them back into use.

The new contract was awarded following a strict procurement process. Jeakins Weir was initially handed a two-year contract, but this has since been extended by another two years.

It's a family affair

Jeakins Weir Contracts Manager, Wayne Pymm, is overseeing the works from Loughborough. Appropriately for a family-owned business, the Jeakins Weir site managers for this contract are father and son, Pete and Dave Barkby. They are both multi-skilled professionals who have worked with the company for many years. In a further family connection, Dave's daughter Chloe Barkby is the new Resident Liaison Officer for the scheme.

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Local community support

Always keen to support the communities in which it works, Jeakins Weir has employed 15 operatives and a quantity surveyor for the contract from the local area.

“We are delighted to have been selected by Charnwood Borough Council for this important project...”
Alistair Weir

In addition, the company supported Charnwood Borough Council with its recent tenant networking event in Loughborough, and is sponsoring the council sports awards later this year. Alistair Weir said: “We are delighted to have been selected by Charnwood Borough Council for this important project which aligns with our core values of delivering excellence in housing improvements whilst making a positive impact on the communities we serve.

“We look forward to working closely with Charnwood BC to create comfortable homes that the community can be proud of.”



Roman history brou

Transforming Jewry Wall Museum into an interactive visitor experience.



JEAKINS WEIR has been awarded an exciting new project with Leicester City Council to refurbish the historically significant Jewry Wall Museum in Leicester city centre.

The museum has been closed to the public for a number of years, and this major reconstruction will create an exciting new interactive visitor experience. The £4.7m scheme has been thoughtfully designed by pHp Architects, with the aim of immersing visitors in the Roman heritage of Leicester.

One of Britain's largest surviving Roman structures

Jewry Wall was built by the Romans in the second century and is one of the largest surviving Roman structures in Britain today.

The complex was uncovered by excavations in the 1930s, revealing the remains of a bath complex and the foundations of walls, rooms and furnaces.

A new building was completed on the site in 1962, featuring the Jewry Wall Museum on the ground floor, with upper floors housing the University of Leicester's new Vaughan College.

The University later relocated away from the site and, in 2016, the building was acquired by Leicester City Council with the aim of developing a new world-class museum. Leicester Museums & Galleries is now working to realise that vision.

Enhancing historic and social value

Jeakins Weir is delighted to be playing its part in creating this important new visitor attraction. As with all its projects, the company is striving to add social value through its work. In May, it hosted a group of MSc Architecture students from De Montfort University, providing them with valuable insights into heritage restoration works.

Jeakins Weir Contracts Manager, James Banaszak, said: “The visit was a great experience for the students, who are studying the refurbishment of the

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museum. They had the opportunity to see works happening live on site, assess drawings and learn more about the listed status of the building and the various design elements of its refurbishment.”

Collaborative design-and-build project

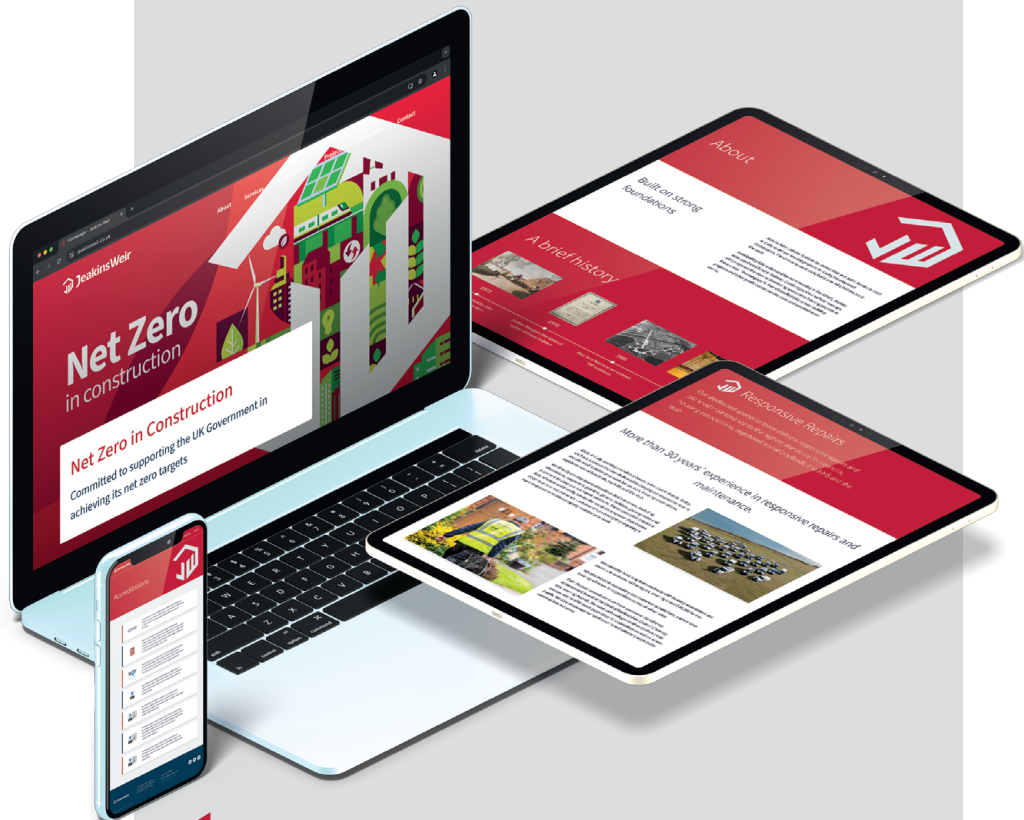
Jeakins Weir is working with a number of key partners on this project, including pHp Architects, The Engineering Practice, Hayley Sharpe Design, CPW, Farrow Walsh, Maber Architects and Pulse Consult. The refurbished museum is due to reopen in early 2025.

Cutting-edge digital presence for rebranded business.

New website unveiled

JEAKINS WEIR has unveiled its latest new construction project – this time in the digital realm. The company’s modern, attractive new website is a fitting showcase for its values, services and projects. Designed to be easy to navigate and incorporating new design elements, the website offers fresh authentic representation of the company’s community-focused ethos and dedication to excellence.

The new website follows the rebranding of Jeakins Weir, which marked its 50th anniversary last year. Both were designed and constructed by [Dsquared](#) – a full-service creative and digital agency based in Stamford, Lincolnshire. Take a look at www.jeakinsweir.co.uk



“Following on from the successful launch of our company re-branding last year, we are pleased to share our new website in celebrating 50 years in business. Our new website has modernised our digital presence and streamlined our core business functions in an easy to navigate, user friendly platform. We have really enjoyed working with local digital design agency Dsquared on the design of both our new branding and website and are very pleased with the outcome and preserving the traditional values of the business”

Sophie Lindsay, Marketing and Bid Manager

Eco-friendly properties to create sustainable new community.

Green homes for Oakham

JEAKINS WEIR will shortly begin a new speculative housing development of 89 houses and 3 bungalows at a site on Braunston Road in the popular market town of Oakham.

Like the nearby development at Spinney Hill, built by Jeakins Weir, all homes will be environmentally friendly, using responsibly sourced materials and will feature air-source heat pumps to provide central heating and hot water.

The new properties will include beautifully designed two, three, four and five-bedroomed homes. To ensure the new development provides opportunities for all members of the community, 30% of the properties will be affordable homes.



Town cent

Affordable new council houses for

THE CASTLE STREET development of 24 homes in Northampton is nearing completion. The project for Northampton Partnership Homes will deliver affordable homes in the heart of the town.

Located in a busy residential district, close to a shopping area and dual carriageway, the high-quality new properties will replace a number of homes on the site that had to be demolished. The development is expected to be completed by early autumn, providing a valuable addition to the council housing stock available to local families.

Workplace insights

An inspiring week at work for budding construction professional.

STUDENT OLIVIA MILNER from The Corby Sixth Form joined Jeakins Weir for her work experience placement in May. Olivia, who is studying Business and Economics, enjoyed a week in the office, spending time with people across the business.

Following her experience, Olivia submitted a detailed review of her week. She acknowledged the friendly, welcoming environment and the willingness of everyone to share their time and expertise – helping her learn all about the business and develop key skills for her future career. Here's an extract from her review:

"My favourite part of my work experience was the people who were so lovely and welcoming, and it felt like a big family who wanted to help me... Overall, my experience was highly insightful, as before I knew nothing about QS's or subcontractors... I think that coming here for my work placement was a brilliant decision and broadened my horizons with all the help I received."

Welcome remedy

Plans to breathe new life into derelict hospital housing estate.

AN ABANDONED housing estate on the site of Leicester General Hospital is being reinstated in a £17m plan to develop 135 new homes on the site. Jeakins Weir has won a £4.8m contract to deliver phase 1 of the rebuilding programme at Hospital Close, which will see 35 homes created across 23 buildings.

Hospital Close was once a vibrant community. The 174 homes on the estate were occupied by nurses, health workers and their families working at the hospital.

However, the homes had to be vacated in 2019 when University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust said it couldn't afford to upgrade them to modern standards.

Leicester City Council bought Hospital Close in 2021, with the intention of transforming the derelict properties into new affordable homes for city residents. The completed homes will comprise a series of three-bedroomed semi-detached houses, along with some one and two-bedroomed flats. The council hopes the scheme will help it meet growing demand for council homes in the city. Jeakins Weir has started work on site. The 35 homes in phase 1 are expected to be completed by late 2025.

re homes on the way

Northampton families



for neglected homes



School projects make progress

Support for primary school expansion in Cambridgeshire

WORK IS GETTING underway on two new school building and refurbishment projects awarded to Jeakins Weir by Cambridgeshire County Council. Construction work is about to commence on a classroom extension at Townley Primary School in the village of Christchurch, alongside repurposing works to create a new reception and pre-school facilities. Meanwhile, at Littleport Community Primary School near Ely, the planned construction of a new seven-class extension and associated facilities is progressing through the design and pre-construction phase. Watch this space for further updates.

Energy-efficient, accessible homes designed for modern life.

Homes with a view

RECENT MONTHS have seen more house-building success for Jeakins Weir in open tender competitions. The company has won a design-and-build contract with New Vista Homes to construct 27 properties for sale on the open market.

New Vista Homes is a subsidiary of Central Bedfordshire Council, established to provide the high-quality, well-designed homes needed in the region to address gaps in the market.

The new development in the village of Haynes, seven miles south of Bedford, will include energy-efficient, accessible flats, bungalows and houses. Among them will be a number of four-bedroomed homes with garages that offer the potential for conversion into one-bedroom annexes – providing flexible living accommodation for the needs of modern families. The development is due for completion by autumn 2025.



Building better communities

£5m-worth of SCAPE framework projects delivered in two years.

TWO YEARS into the latest SCAPE Regional Construction framework, Jeakins Weir has completed 14 projects, with three more currently ongoing. SCAPE is the UK's leading public-sector procurement authority. Its current four-year framework will deliver up to £750m of new investment in the public sector across the Midlands and East of England. Jeakins Weir is one of eight contractors appointed to help deliver ambitious, community-focused construction projects under the framework. The works completed by Jeakins Weir to date have a collective value of more than £5m, and include projects at Kettering General Hospital, Blaby Council offices, RAF Croughton, Market Harborough Cemetery and Corby Technical School.

Value-added projects

Sophie Lindsay, Marketing and Bid Manager, said: "Through these projects, we have delivered £1.2m-worth of social value – which equates to 24% of the total value of the contracts. Representatives of all eight partners on the local framework meet regularly to discuss ways to add social value and tackle environmental issues, including addressing skills gaps, providing apprenticeships and achieving net zero."



Jeakins Weir has two major projects in the pipeline, procured through the SCAPE framework

Evergreen School, Warwick

A £7.8m extension at Evergreen School in Warwick, which will increase the number of places for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The project for Warwickshire County Council will create a new two-storey teaching block at the school's site on Brittain Lane. It will act as a life skills centre for students preparing for life after education, as well providing teaching spaces for younger pupils. It is expected to create up to 60 new places at the school.

Marefair Heritage Park, Northampton

A new heritage park development for West Northamptonshire Council, on the site of Chalk Lane car park in the Marefair area of the town. The £2.1m project will create a new green space with trees, play areas, community gardens, heritage timeline poles, pathways and lighting. The Marefair area has a fascinating history and is the site of the once famous Northampton Castle.

Cllr Dan Lister, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Town Centre Regeneration and Growth, said: "This exciting project will provide important open green space for the communities of Spring Boroughs to enjoy and understand more about the town history."

Two new communities in the making

Sustainable homes bring much-needed social housing to Nuneaton

NUNEATON and Bedworth Borough Council has awarded two house-building contracts to Jeakins Weir – on separate sites less than a mile apart. The design-and-build projects at Byford Court and Vale View in Nuneaton were won via open tender contests.

Byford Court involves constructing 12 affordable homes on the site of former retirement flats that were no longer fit for purpose. These were demolished to make way for social housing. The new homes will include a mix of two, three and four-bedroomed properties in a self-contained development. At Vale View, Jeakins Weir is building 14 new high-specification homes on an area of unused grassland. The site, which once contained prefabricated housing, had long been earmarked for social housing. The new development will include one, two and three-bedroomed homes.

The houses at both sites will incorporate environmentally friendly features, including hydrogen-ready boilers, solar panels, rainwater butts and electric vehicle charging points – as well as special features to attract wildlife.

Councillor Clare Golby, deputy leader and cabinet member for housing and communities at Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, said: "The need for social housing around the borough is high. With these developments not only are we aiming to provide quality homes but also ones that are cheap to run, sustainable and environmentally friendly."

Contracts Manager James Banaszak said: "We are very pleased to be working with Nuneaton and Bedworth Council on these well-designed housing projects. We look forward to working closely with the council and with neighbours in delivering high-quality homes for the local community."

Alistair Weir said: "We are very proud of the part Jeakins Weir is playing in delivering vital assets and community focussed construction schemes under the SCAPE Regional Construction framework. As a key framework partner for over 14 years, we look forward to continuing to deliver valuable public sector projects across Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Warwickshire and Staffordshire."

Surprise celebrations for loyal duo

Two site managers mark 25 years with Jeakins Weir.



TWO JEAKINS WEIR site managers recently celebrated 25 years with the company. Leigh Mitchell and Richard Bolton became only the third and fourth people in the business to reach this quarter-century milestone.

Their landmark achievements were celebrated at surprise gatherings, where they were each presented with a sterling

silver quaich – a Scottish ceremonial gift. Leigh was taken by surprise at the Nuneaton housing estate where he was working, while Richard had his unexpected presentation in the office.

Colleagues gathered to mark the occasions with refreshments and presentations by Alistair Weir and CFO Sulu Chauhan.

“It was wonderful to be able recognise the long service and achievements of Leigh and Richard along with their colleagues. We felt it was a fitting tribute to their loyalty and dedication to present them each with a quaich, which is the traditional Scottish cup of friendship”

Alistair Weir

More about Jeakins Weir

Jeakins Weir is a family owned and run construction company, based in Corby and operating throughout the Midlands.

Its operations cover three main areas: main contracting, responsive repairs and maintenance (for council-owned properties and housing associations) and property development. The business was formed in 1973, and since then Jeakins Weir has built, renovated and extended many hundreds of housing schemes, schools, hospitals, leisure facilities, offices and other public buildings and spaces in the region.

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