



ROCKFACE

SPRING 2022 - QUALITY & SERVICE SINCE 1891



WELCOME

As I write, the Prime Minister has announced an end to the last remaining Covid restrictions in England. By the time you read this, it is likely that there will be no more self-isolation, no more obligatory mask-wearing in public, and no more twice-weekly Lateral Flow Tests.

I say "likely", because the last two years have taught us that we can't take anything for granted. COVID-19 has disrupted our lives for such a long time that it can be hard to make plans, even when things look to be more certain. Many of us have got used to cancelling arrangements or adapting to fast-changing circumstances. That has become our new normal.

In the years since 1891, John Wainwright and Company Ltd has seen many changes. It has survived two World Wars, innumerable recessions, and several periods of political unrest or national crisis.

Of course, in the grand scheme of things, two years is no time at all. If things had been different in 2021, we would have celebrated Wainwright's 130th anniversary in style – most probably with a big event. Covid put paid to any such ideas, but this landmark occasion nonetheless provided an opportunity to gain perspective on our current situation.

In the years since 1891, John Wainwright and Company Ltd has seen many changes. It has survived two World Wars, innumerable recessions, and several periods of political unrest or national crisis.

Throughout, it has remained a steady, dependable presence, providing employment and security for its workforce, driving economic prosperity for the region, and making an important contribution to local communities.

That is the legacy we continue to build on in 2022. As the stories in this edition of Rockface demonstrate, we emerge from the Covid crisis in good shape: investing in plant, developing our workforce, supporting our neighbours through the Wainwright Futures



Foundation, and formulating a strategy to minimise our impact on the environment.

The Wainwright of 2022 is a responsible business, grounded in its values. We operate with a personal touch. We prize professionalism. And we always strive to behave ethically – to do the right thing. These values can be seen in everything we do: they are the subtext of every story you'll read in the pages that follow. They are the very heart of "The Wainwright Way".

While I'm disappointed that we couldn't mark our anniversary year in a more celebratory fashion, my pride in our business remains undimmed. Indeed, as I consider the way the team pulled together to not only make it through the Covid crisis but deliver our strongest ever commercial performance, I am reminded that Wainwright's long history empowers us to keep on growing. Not much fazes us, because the chances are we've seen something like it before.

This edition of Rockface is much like any other; therefore: a snapshot of the Wainwright business at a particular moment in time. But that's what makes it so special. It reminds us of our longevity, our steadfastness. It reminds us that we have a business built to last and ready for the future. Of that, I believe we can all be proud.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter".

Peter Barkwill
Chief Executive Officer



ROCKFACE / Issue 21 / Spring 2022

Cover image: the 1957 Euclid R25 now on display outside Moons Hill HQ.

www.wainwright.co.uk



A BIG UNVEILING

Recent visitors to Wainwright's Moons Hill Headquarters may have noticed a new adornment to the car park. It takes the form of a bright-green 1957 Euclid R25 dumper truck that the company has owned since 1976.

The truck has been in dry store in one of Wainwright's workshops, but Chief Executive Peter Barkwill decided to celebrate last year's 130th anniversary by dusting it off and putting it proudly on display.

"The Euclid is a part of our history and heritage," says Peter. "The workshop team resprayed it to return it to its former glory, and the contracting and estates teams created an attractive plinth for it on the far side of the car park."

The plinth is surrounded by large stones taken from Moons Hill Quarry, which the team positioned by hand. As a result, there is a sense of the dump truck being in its natural environment, surrounded by the stone that it once transported around Moons Hill.

Above: Peter and David (centre of photo) were joined by (from l to r) Communications Director Tim Gibson, Contracting Director Lee Seviour, Financial Director Brian Rexworthy, and People and Culture Director Lisa Saunders.

DAVID DOES THE HONOURS

The official "unveiling" of the exhibit took place on Thursday, 17 February 2022, with Somerton and Frome MP David Warburton on hand to do the honours.

David and Peter were joined for the brief ceremony by Financial Director Brian Rexworthy, Contracting Director Lee Seviour, People and Culture Director Lisa Saunders, and Communications Director Tim Gibson.

David has also contributed a chapter to a forthcoming book being published to mark Wainwright's 130th anniversary. In the chapter, he reflects on the important contribution Wainwright makes to the economy and culture of the Mendips.

"We were really pleased that David could join us for the Euclid unveiling," says Peter. "He's a big supporter of Wainwright and it was good to welcome him to Moons Hill once again."



PERSONAL

WAINWRIGHT

SPONSORS ROTARY

IN FROME COMMUNITY

FUN DAY

The Wainwright Futures Foundation is supporting Rotary in Frome's upcoming It's A Knockout event

Rotary in Frome is recreating the classic gameshow as a community fun day. It approached Wainwright in October about sponsoring the event. With Rotary in Frome hoping to attract a crowd of 3,000, there will be significant costs to cover, from advertising to road closures and toilet hire. The Wainwright Futures Foundation has agreed to provide £5,000 in support of the cause.

The event will be held on Saturday, 2 July 2022 at Frome Rugby Club and will be part of the Frome Festival. The Wainwright Futures Foundation has a great relationship with Rotary in Frome and has made other donations to the organisation in the past, including £1,200 for school uniforms in 2020 and 2021.

"Wainwright is a brilliant benefactor for the town," says Rotary in Frome Treasurer Norman Elmer. "Without their sponsorship we wouldn't have been able to book everything in advance as we have done."

"Having the money upfront has meant we can secure the facilities and people we need to make the event a success, and a lot of charities will benefit along the way because of that. It also means we won't need to charge entry fees, making it an inclusive event for the whole community."



WAINWRIGHT

FUTURES FOUNDATION

HELPS SHEPTON MALLET FC

PLAY ON

The Wainwright Futures Foundation is assisting Shepton Mallet Football Club in keeping its grounds in good order.

Shepton Mallet FC committee member Nick Lumber contacted Wainwright last year about a stretch of tarmac at the club's grounds that needed replacing to meet league standards.

Contracting Operations Manager Matthew Moore visited the football club in November to go over the site. He agreed on a quotation of £4,250 to be funded by the Wainwright Futures Foundation.

"As a Step 5 league team our grounds have to meet certain requirements," says Nick. "We had some tarmac that was worn from years of use, so we had a word with Peter Barkwill to see what Wainwright could do."

"I've known Peter and Wainwright from my own experience in the industry. Their values as a family-driven business mean a lot to them and it's great to see the company giving back to the local community. We're very grateful for what Wainwright has been able to do for us."



VISIBLE PRESENCE

WFF supports local church group

The Wainwright Futures Foundation has donated 24 high-visibility vests to a church youth group in Stoke St Michael.

The "Sunday Stokers" has been set up by Lizzie Rice and Charlotte Corbett. It brings young children together once a month in the War Memorial Hall.

During their sessions, the children learn about a Bible story or theme and complete an activity.

Afterwards, the group walks along to the Parish Church of St Michael and All Angels to join the last part of the regular congregation's Family Service.

"It's the walk in between the hall and the church that we asked the Wainwright Futures Foundation to help with," explains Lizzie. "We needed high-vis vests for the children and helpers so they could be seen on their walk. The Futures Foundation kindly donated them, complete with a Wainwright logo on the back.



"We know that Wainwright is a generous business which is proud of having deep roots in the local community,"

"We know that Wainwright is a generous business which is proud of having deep roots in the local community," she continues. "We are so grateful for its support. The vests look absolutely fantastic."



CONTRACTING TEAM OVERCOMES

UPHILL

STRUGGLES

The Wainwright Contracting team has been hard at work resurfacing roads on North Somerset's infamously steep hills.

In August they visited Monks Hill in Kewstoke, which has a daunting 25 per cent gradient. Health and Safety is always a priority, but especially so on steep inclines where runaway plant and materials pose a high risk to staff and the public.

"At Monks Hill we put down eight lines of sandbags to protect the adjoining road," says Contracting Operations Manager Matthew Moore. "We also kept staff numbers to a minimum and had daily briefings to ensure everyone was on the same page with procedure."

WAINWRIGHT CONTRACTING

AT THE DOUBLE

FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS



NEW

CONTRACTING

PLANT



Cleaner, safer contracting plant

Wainwright Contracting has added to its mobile plant to make operations safer and more environmentally friendly.

The delivery includes three JCB 3TX compact diggers and a new paver. All of the new machinery is powered by Euro 6-equivalent engines, which produce fewer exhaust emissions and are among the most efficient of their kind.

In addition to the standard features, the new plant has been fitted to specifications from Contracting Operations Manager Matthew Moore. They all have auto-cutoff switches which turn off the engine after 25 seconds of running idle, as well as rearview cameras to make manoeuvring the vehicles on site even safer.

"In terms of modernisation we're up there with the best," Matthew says. "Our previous plant was due for replacement anyway, but I always look at what extra options there are to make them as clean and safe as they can be."

Wainwright Contracting recently completing patching work on the M4 as part of its new commercial arrangement with National Highways.

The end of 2021 saw Wainwright Contracting win an important piece of business with National Highways.

The company is now the preferred contractor for emergency repairs on the National Highways network throughout the South West. As a result, Wainwright's team can be called out at any time, day or night, to make good a road surface that has been damaged as a result of an accident or natural disaster.

"This is a significant moment for Wainwright Contracting," says Contracting Director, Lee Seviour. "We have a long history of working successfully with local authorities. But supplying National Highways shows our growing reputation, as well as establishing a further source of demand for Wainwright's asphalt products.

"It's a testament to the professionalism and dedication of our whole team over recent years," he continues. "They've shown resilience and commitment, especially

Supplying National Highways shows our growing reputation.

As part of the commercial arrangement, Wainwright will also be awarded patching work on the motorway network in the region, further enhancing its national reputation and geographical reach.

during the challenges of Covid. A high-profile contract like this is fitting reward for their effort."

MEET

THE

TEAM


DAVID REXWORTHY
Asphalt Plant Supervisor (Avonmouth)

WAINWRIGHT 

Welcome to
Avonmouth
Asphalt

Entrance 

Collection & Delivery 

Visitor Parking 

“ When I joined Wainwright as an Apprentice Asphalt Operative in 2018 I never knew I'd stay here so long. My dad (Financial Director Brian Rexworthy) has worked here for nearly 15 years and has always said what a great company it is. So when I saw there was an apprenticeship at Wainwright I went for it. After six months I realised just how much went on behind the scenes at the plant and I've loved every minute of it ever since.

When I passed my apprenticeship I stayed on as an Asphalt Operative at Avonmouth. For the past few years I've been working to expand my knowledge and help out wherever I can. I'd always ask if there was anything I could do to help out the unit and improve the way things are done.

I was promoted to Asphalt Plant Supervisor at Avonmouth at the beginning of October 2021. It still feels a bit surreal saying that, but I love being a part of running things and looking after the team here. Now I want to

keep working my way up and continue learning from the people around me.

Wainwright is always good at helping staff out when we need it and the company has never said no when I've asked for training. I'm grateful for all the opportunities Wainwright has given me so far. It's great knowing the company's management see these qualities in me and believe in me to progress.”

NEW WEBSITE AT THE READY

W

ainwright's digital presence is set to receive a boost later in 2022, as we launch an all-new website.

The new site is currently under construction, with a live date in the spring. It will be faithful to Wainwright's much-loved teal-and-red branding, with an updated look and enhanced user experience.

The project has been led by a team of three people: People and Culture Manager Kirsty Byrne, Asphalt Plant Supervisor David Rexworthy, and Communications Director Tim Gibson.

“We're really excited by the designs we've seen so far,” reports Kirsty. “It's been a great opportunity to stand back from the business and ask what we really want to convey about Wainwright to the wider world.”



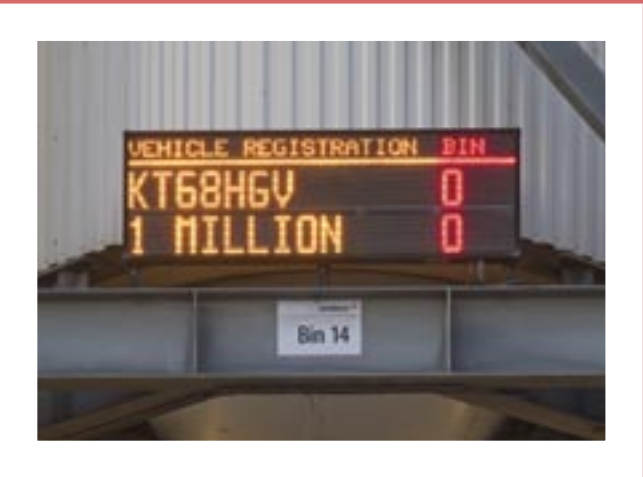
BIG HITTERS

One millionth tonne of asphalt leaves Avonmouth

Avonmouth Asphalt has produced its one-millionth tonne, just five years on from the site's opening in 2016.

The milestone has come sooner than expected as the plant's production has increased consistently year on year. In 2020, Avonmouth generated record output, despite the operational challenges presented by Covid, as new contracts continued to arrive and boost demand.

"It's a great achievement," says Avonmouth Asphalt Plant Manager Antony Rowlinson. "We've pushed the plant quite hard and everyone's really proud of where we've gone and how quickly we've got there."



"In the space of four years we've tripled our output," adds Avonmouth Asphalt Plant Supervisor David Rexworthy. "In 2016 we produced 61,000 tonnes, and last year that increased to 213,000. It's a huge milestone for us. At this rate two million tonnes will come a lot more quickly than the first million."



VIAFIX UPDATE

Busy times ahead for Viafix

A

fter a surge in demand through 2020, Wainwright's Viafix operation has closed out another year of growth.

Output from the Viafix plant increased by roughly a third when compared to 2020, and that's expected to continue in 2022. Winter is always a busy period for the operation, as seasonal maintenance such as pothole repair ramps up.

"We were ahead of budget by the end of 2021," says Viafix Technical Manager Peter Thomas. "We had an extremely busy summer and the business remains buoyant three months into 2022."

Peter is currently working on a project to expand the Viafix facility later in the year. The expansion will increase the capacity of the plant, allowing it to keep up with the continued growth in the utilities market as well as maintenance.

"Most of BT Openreach's gangs throughout the UK are currently taking Viafix, and that's expected to increase even more in the coming months," says Peter. "Viafix is finding its way into more and more places. It's become so useful to people that the demand keeps growing."

That demand isn't limited to the UK, either. A consignment of Viafix was recently shipped to Auckland, New Zealand, where the extreme weather conditions make it a reliable, cost-effective solution for local council maintenance.

"We did very well in 2021 and we're busier now than ever," says Peter. "We just keep doing what we do each day and keep the wheels turning. The team is great at ensuring our operation runs smoothly – they deserve a lot of credit for their commitment and hard work."

MPA AWARDS

Bringing it home for Wainwright at the MPA awards

George Beer, Asphalt Plant Manager at Moons Hill, did Wainwright proud at the MPA and British Precast Health and Safety awards by winning the Young Leader Award.

The award recognises young leaders in the quarrying industry with exceptional commitment to Health and Safety in the workplace. Safety, Health and Environment Manager Matt Bishop recommended George for the award, highlighting his dedication to safe practice on the plant and the culture of thorough, transparent incident reporting he has developed with his staff.

"It's great to bring the award home for Wainwright," George says. "I'm proud to add it to my family's achievements too. My dad works here as well, but he hasn't won an award, so I can laud it over him!"

"It shows how much I've been able to learn and demonstrate over the years at Wainwright. I'm pleased that my journey from starting as a lab tech to managing the Moons Hill plant has paid off, and especially to have achieved so much by the time I'm 26. It means a lot to be able to demonstrate what I can do and be recognised for it."



The Contracting division also received a Certificate of Merit in the 'Safer through improvements in health and wellbeing' category. This recognised the work the division has done to transform workplace welfare for surfacing gangs, improving safety by boosting morale and lowering stress.

"This was a very tough category," Matt says. "Being awarded a Certificate of Merit is a huge achievement and should be celebrated."

DOING THE

RIGHT THING

CREATING A SUSTAINABLE,

FUTURE-PROOF BUSINESS

Wainwright is developing an ambitious sustainability strategy.

Here are some of our targets for the years ahead

During the year of our 130th anniversary, Wainwright's team reflected on the company's achievements to date and looked towards our future.

A major part of this process has involved ensuring we have a business that is sustainable for the long term. This encompasses every facet of our responsibilities to the world around us, including the environment, our neighbours, and the next generation.

"All organisations are under pressure from the government to reduce their carbon footprint, increase circularity and enhance biodiversity," explains sustainability consultant Dr Miles Watkins, who is working with Wainwright to develop its sustainability strategy. "Considering these pressures and looking forward, we have reached a landmark moment in Wainwright's corporate life, when the company commits to its first set of sustainability targets."

"These targets are benchmarked against our core values – Personal, Professional, Ethical," says Wainwright's Sustainability Coordinator, Chloe Hart. "That way, we ensure that the building blocks of our success are stronger than ever for the years ahead."



PERSONAL



Our people

Our people are at the very heart of our business, and always have been. This is reflected in our sustainability strategy, where staff safety and wellbeing are central.

We commit to providing the best conditions in which our people can work, helping them to thrive in their roles. We treat everyone with respect and fairness, showing sensitivity to their personal circumstances and supporting them in every phase of life.



PROFESSIONAL



Our products

“Until now, Wainwright has operated a largely linear business model,” explains Miles. “It takes virgin aggregates from the quarry and sells them as dry materials or processes them into asphalt products. Traditionally, when roads need repairing, the existing surface is planed and replaced with new material, creating waste.”

Now, this needs to change. It is estimated that we would need 2.6 planets to maintain our current levels of demand for natural resources. Since that’s not possible, companies like Wainwright are recycling more material, reducing waste and minimising carbon outputs.

“The move is from a linear to a circular business model,” Miles says. “It is very much the way to safeguard our future.”



ETHICAL



Our planet

The move to zero carbon won’t happen overnight, but we have established realistic targets that help us reduce our contribution to climate change over the coming two decades.




We’ll be carbon neutral for Scope 1 emissions (from our owned or controlled sources of energy) and Scope 2 emissions (from the generation of purchased energy) by 2035.




We’ll have reached net zero for Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions (those relating to our non-energy supply chain) five years after that. We’ll also have increased biodiversity by 15 per cent by 2030.

To achieve this, we’ll update our processes to reduce energy consumption and switch as much equipment as possible to electric power. We will increase our on-site production of renewable energy and, where carbon reduction is out of our hands, we’ll offset it by engaging with credible schemes.

We’ll also use our significant landholdings to make a direct contribution to biodiversity, working with partners such as the Wildlife Trusts and local communities (see pp 16-17) to maximise the opportunities on our estate.

“We commit to providing the best conditions in which our people can work, helping them thrive in their roles.”

Our products		
	Quantified carbon footprints per order	2022
	25% recycled content across products	2030
	50% recycled content across products	2040

Our planet		
	Carbon neutral (scope 1 and 2)	2035
	Net zero (scope 1, 2 & 3)	2040
	15% on-site biodiversity net gain	2030

Measuring our progress

We'll produce our first sustainability report this year. This will cover our historic performance and establish further targets that develop our strategy.

By adopting a bold and proactive approach now, Wainwright will be ahead of the market when it comes to sustainability, helping protect and preserve our business success for many years to come.



A VIBRANT

LANDSCAPE

Wainwright has teamed up with Somerset Wildlife Trust to help improve biodiversity across its estate, as Sustainability Coordinator Chloe Hart explains

As part of our desire to increase biodiversity on site, we are pleased to announce a new partnership for 2022 with the Somerset Wildlife Trust.

We have donated to the Trust for several years and are delighted to be supporting its 10-year strategy, Wilder Somerset 2030 to create a Wilder Mendip, by improving our on-site biodiversity.

SURVEYING THE ESTATE

Over the next year, the Somerset Wildlife Trust's team will undertake a survey and review of Wainwright's landholdings. They will map the site to identify key opportunities for nature restoration and recovery, enabling us to create a management plan that enhances biodiversity for the future.

Preparing Wainwright's sites for the impact of climate change is a critical part of our long-term business planning. The Trust's experience in ecological surveying and in building ecological resilience is vital for protecting the special habitats on our doorstep and ensuring they have a positive impact on the wider landscape.

RESILIENT NATURE RECOVERY

The results from the work will support the Trust's ambition to build a resilient nature recovery network across the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The network will stretch from the Bristol Channel to the wooded valleys of East Mendip, wrapping around the communities of Shepton Mallet and Frome and on to the ancient forest of Selwood and the Wiltshire border.



Our Mendip sites play a key part in that network and every space matters. From large-scale wilding projects to our parks and gardens, Wainwright will help the Somerset Wildlife Trust achieve its objective of having 30 per cent of land and sea in the county positively managed for nature by 2030.

Never has it been more important to work with major landowners to restore the county's biodiversity and put nature back into everyone's life.

POSITIVE PARTNERS

"We are really looking forward to taking our relationship with Wainwright forward," says Simon Clarke, Head of Nature Recovery for Somerset Wildlife Trust. "Never has it been more important to work with major landowners to restore the county's biodiversity and put nature back into everyone's life."

"Everything we can do as individuals, businesses and communities counts, and we're looking forward to supporting people to take action and share their experiences with others to inspire them to join in."

A TEAM EFFORT

The partnership will also invite Wainwright staff and local communities to play an active role in restoring nature as part of Team Wilder - an initiative designed by the Trust to achieve a social tipping point, by empowering 1 in 4 people in the county to take meaningful action for nature.

As part of this initiative, the Trust will work alongside Wainwright staff and managers at the Somerset Earth Science Centre to introduce a programme of training and support. It will also engage local schools to become Wilder Schools, enabling them to enhance their grounds for wildlife and embed nature education in the curriculum.

"The Somerset Earth Science Centre has had a longstanding relationship with the Somerset Wildlife Trust," says Adel Avery, Business Manager at the Somerset Earth Science Centre. "It's really exciting knowing we will be working even more closely with its team."

"We're already planning a programme of educational events next year, focusing on wildlife gardening, growing trees from seed and managing hedgerows. It's great that Wainwright has committed to working with partners to ensure nature recovery and create resilient local landscapes for the future."

DRIVING SUSTAINABILITY

WITH LOWER CARBON FUELS

Sustainability Coordinator Chloe Hart explains how an innovative new fuel is reducing Wainwright's environmental impact

To deliver Wainwright's target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030, we must reduce our emissions from our vehicles. The gas oil used to run our vehicle and mobile plant fleet accounts for 26 per cent of our direct emissions, but in recent months we've been exploring ways to reduce this proportion.

Put simply, all our vehicles need to be emission-free by 2030. Zero-carbon vehicle technology such as electricity or hydrogen fuel sources is developing rapidly. But purchase costs are steep and the reliability isn't yet there for the range of specialised vehicles in our fleet.

A NEW FUEL

The technology will continue to improve and costs will decrease in time. But we need a short-term solution to reduce our vehicle emissions until these technologies are viable. To do that, we're excited to announce we will be switching our fleet to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) fuel.

HVO is a drop-in replacement fuel made from commercial and industrial waste oils, by reacting the waste with hydrogen at high temperature and pressure. Despite the energy required to transform the oil, due to its waste origins it provides an average 90 per cent reduction in carbon emissions compared to gas oil. It is also cleaner to burn, making it beneficial to the health of our employees working on site, and the public.

THE ROAD TO ZERO CARBON

"To reach zero carbon, significant action will need to be taken," says Wainwright's sustainability consultant Dr Miles Watkins. "The switch to HVO is both a sensible and credible measure on that journey. While many organisations are waiting to see what future technologies offer, Wainwright is acting now, which is the responsible thing to do."

This switch is the start of Wainwright's journey to removing vehicle emissions entirely. The carbon savings and health benefits HVO provides evince Wainwright's commitment to doing the right thing. We hope our decision will inspire others across the industry in their own path to sustainability.

SUCCESSFUL TRIAL

Last year Aggregates Business Manager Ben Dormer piloted running a Volvo A40 dumper on HVO. The trial was a success as the vehicle performed to the same standards as its gas oil equivalent. We're excited to follow that by transitioning our fleet to HVO, starting with our contracting team's mobile plant vehicles.

Currently, the mobile plant within our contracting fleet accounts for 11 per cent of Wainwright's direct carbon footprint. Swapping to HVO will save up to 144 tonnes of carbon next year — the equivalent of the annual emissions of 14 UK citizens.

"The move to HVO fuel within Wainwright Contracting continues to show our environmental commitment to our customers and stakeholders," says Contracting Director Lee Seviour. "It also shows that as a business we continue to push boundaries in this important area."



LAB TEAM PROFILE

The silent team: getting to know the technical lab's testing experts

At the far end of Moons Hill, tucked away from the bustle of the asphalt and Viafix plants, is the technical lab. Among the striking quarry pits and heavy plant, the lab can seem small. But it plays a huge role in supporting Wainwright's business and dedication to doing things right.

"A lot of people don't know what we do," says Technical Manager Ian Sweetman. Under the guidance of Technical Director Andy Robinson, Ian leads a trio of Quality Assurance Technicians — Chris Marshall, Joe Robinson and Ben Foyle. It's their job to test every product that goes out under the Wainwright name.

The goal is to ensure the company is always meeting its high standards of quality and compliance. Every material produced by the company has a strict set of requirements, from its makeup to its working temperature ranges. The lab team demonstrates that Wainwright's products meet the right specifications.



CHECKING THE RECIPE

They do this by heating up the asphalt to remove the binder; and testing the aggregates using specialist software. It's like taking a cake apart to make sure all the ingredients listed in the recipe were included in the right quantities when it was baked.

Analysing the makeup of materials and checking it against the recipe helps to understand what's happening in the plant. In that way, the technical team links with the asphalt, Viafix and drystone operations to give an assurance of quality before anything hits the road. With a natural resource like stone there's a lot of room for variation, and that makes it crucial to test materials.

EVOLUTION AND GROWTH

Ben joined Wainwright in 2009 and first became part of the technical team five years ago. He says he has seen his role evolve alongside the company's own growth.

"Wainwright has expanded so much in the years that I've been here," he reports. "Avonmouth Asphalt opened in 2016, plus there's the launch of innovative products like Viafix. It keeps us nice and busy in the lab, especially the asphalt testing from Avonmouth and Moons Hill. But we tend to be a fairly quiet team: we get our heads down and get on with the job."



GREEN CREDENTIALS

The technical team's quality assurance analysis helps Wainwright be more cost-effective, but it also enhances the company's green credentials. By ensuring products are right when they leave the plant, there's less waste to end up in landfill and fewer emissions put out by contracting gangs.

"It's all about getting things right first time," says Ian. "If we send out a product that's not right it's only going to get ripped up again. That's a waste of resources, a waste of money, and a waste of time for the gang that travelled 50 miles and spent a day laying it."

The lab also helps with Wainwright's focus on circularity by stopping unused material being thrown away. Whether it's blacktop taken from a resurfaced road or surplus from a customer order, the asphalt returns to the plant and is crushed into tiny fragments. The team at the lab then tests those fragments to identify the makeup, meaning they can be used in a future mix as Recycled Asphalt Planings (RAPs).

"We've always got to be forward-thinking," says Ian. "We have to be sure that the products we put down today can be recycled when they're torn up in 10 years' time."

QUALITY, QUALITY AND QUALITY

Ian sums up the role of the technical team as one underpinned by nothing but "quality, quality and quality."

A MULTI-SITE OPERATION

The technical team is split across Wainwright's sites, with Joe conducting plant checks at Avonmouth and Andy, Ian, Chris and Ben based in the lab at Moons Hill. Being such a small team means they are naturally close-knit.

"We all work well together," says Chris. "I've only been in the lab a year but have got to know everyone really quickly."

Part of what unites the team is the challenge of their roles and their commitment to maintaining Wainwright's high standards. "I leapt at the chance to join the technical team," says Joe, who became a Quality Assurance Technician in 2020. "My role involves daily sampling and managing the mixing to head off issues before they arise. We're here to provide our customers with the best-quality material."

"I really enjoy working with the tech team," Ben adds. "We work with both the aggregates and asphalt operations so we get a great overview of everything that happens across the business."

"People in this industry are very proud of what they do," he says. "They care immensely about where they work and what they produce, and we're giving them the assurance that the materials they lay will always be of the highest quality."

Main photo: the Board (from l to r): Wayne McKeown, Christopher Saunders, John Luff, Philip Percival, Gavin Isle, Peter Barkwill, Brian Rexworthy



AGM

Wainwright enjoyed an in-person AGM in 2021. Here are some photographs from the day









MEMORIAL STONE

Laurie leaves a mark at Moons Hill

W

hen former Wainwright haulier Laurie Banfield died, his daughter Elaine Sharp knew exactly what she'd like to do with his ashes.

"Dad said the quarry was where he belonged. When he died, I wanted to return him to that place he loved so much," she says.

With that in mind, Elaine contacted Wainwright to ask if Laurie's ashes could be dispersed in the quarry at Moons Hill. She asked if they could be scattered near a blast site, so that he could remain a part of the Wainwright fabric even in death.

So it was that Elaine came to Moons Hill on Thursday, 27 January to witness Laurie's ashes being included in a blast. She was joined by Aggregates Business Manager Ben Dormer, who made sure the operation was conducted safely and respectfully.

"Dad has now become a part of the process of which he was inordinately proud," Elaine says. "He can continue his journeys across the South West in the lorries he loved, doing a job he relished."

Laurie's connection with Wainwright was lifelong. Born in Stoke St Michael, he worked in the quarry from the age of 16. After a brief time away for National Service and a short stint at the Clarks shoe factory, he returned as a lorry driver – and there he stayed until his retirement at the age of 65.

"Wainwright was fundamental to Dad's life," says Elaine. "He always said the quarry was where he belonged. I'm so grateful to the company for allowing us to honour his memory in this way."



MEET THE TEAM

CHLOE HART

Sustainability Coordinator

“

I joined Wainwright last year after completing my Masters in Global Sustainability Solutions at Exeter

University. I hadn't heard of Wainwright before, but I was excited to join a local company with such a commitment to being a good employer.

As Sustainability Coordinator I'm trying to help Wainwright set and achieve its sustainability goals. That means everything on the environmental side, including carbon, energy use and waste, but also setting out a plan for staff wellbeing and training. It's about the future vision of the business, identifying how we can be the best today to ensure we can continue tomorrow.

I've only been here a few months but I'm so excited to see this work come to fruition. Especially our on-site biodiversity plan, because we'll be able to see a physical improvement with new plants growing. It's really empowering being part of a company that wants to do the right thing from both a business and moral perspective. We've been able to turn work around quite quickly because nothing is off limits.

“It's really empowering being part of a company that wants to do the right thing.”

There's such a community focus at Wainwright. I still haven't met everyone because of Covid and home working, but everyone I have met has been really welcoming. There's so much support for each other and everyone wants to listen to your ideas. I'm really pleased to be here, and hope to grow with the business over the months ahead.”



STAFF BENEFITS

Wainwright has launched a new range of staff benefits, as People and Culture Director Lisa Saunders explains

As a company, Wainwright has always valued its people. That is the reason we named “Personal” as one of our core values and it is why we always strive to do the right thing by our team.

As part of that commitment, we recently reviewed our staff benefits package to ensure we were offering the very best support.

In addition to longstanding benefits like life assurance, a health cash plan, wellbeing support, volunteering days, and sick pay, we have introduced a variety of new measures. These give our staff every opportunity to thrive.

For example, Wainwright employees can now claim a generous contribution to the cost of annual gym membership from the business. They can also trade up to three days’ holiday in exchange for salary.

We’ve enhanced our maternity and shared parental leave payments, and we’ve given employees the opportunity to make additional pension contributions as part of a salary sacrifice scheme.

These measures are all about showing our people how much we value them. With our new benefits package in place, Wainwright’s employees have better support than ever, meaning we can be confident that we are living our values, every day.

A WORLD OF

OPPORTUNITY

Quarrying Industry Careers Fair

Somerset Earth Science Centre
8th March | 2pm - 8pm

Featuring a variety of businesses and activities, the event offers attendees the opportunity to find out more about the world of quarrying.

Activities include:

- A range of industry experts present to answer any burning questions regarding careers in the industry
- A variety of companies exhibiting and showcasing the different aspects of the industry
- Heavy plant vehicles and machinery to explore and walk around on site
- A mobile plant simulator, an immersive experience for a taste of what it's like to work on a live-site
- Quarry site tours throughout the day of the event (2pm - 5pm)
- Refreshments available on-site throughout the event



To register your attendance to the event and to book your space on a quarry site tour, scan the QR code or visit [sesc-careers.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.sesc-careers.eventbrite.co.uk)

National Careers Week
NCW

Somerset Earth Science Centre,
Moons Hill Quarry, Stoke St Michael,
Radstock, Somerset BA3 5JU



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s we go to press, Wainwright's team is gearing up to contribute to a quarrying industry careers fair on Tuesday, 8 March.

The event, based at the Somerset Earth Science Centre, is intended to raise awareness about the variety of stimulating careers available in the extractives sector. It will feature talks from industry professionals, stands from employers, and the chance to get up close to large quarry plant.

“It’s really important that we inspire the next generation to pursue a career in our industry.”

“It’s really important that we inspire the next generation to pursue a career in our industry,” says Somerset Earth Science Centre Education Manager Dr Gill Odolphie. “Events like this play an important role in helping young people understand the range of opportunities available in the sector.”



NEW BABIES

Matilda Rose May (Tim May)

Congratulations to Plant and Transport Programmer Tim May and his wife Carol on the birth of their daughter Matilda Rose, above, born on Friday, 17 September 2021 and weighing 8lb 2oz.

Max Garrett (Sophie Garrett)



Congratulations to Sales Coordinator Sophie Garrett and her partner Toby on the birth of their son Max, born on Tuesday, 15 June and weighing 6lb.



MEET THE TEAM



JASON DANDO

Maintenance Supervisor

“

I came into quarrying after quite a few years as a vehicle technician. I had friends in the quarrying industry and their work always sounded a lot more interesting and more challenging than changing the oil filter on a car. That led to 10 years with the maintenance team at Aggregate Industries and a year as a contractor at Hanson.

I joined Wainwright as Maintenance Supervisor in January 2021 and immediately felt like part of the team. Everyone knows who you are and asks how you're doing, including the Chief Executive, Peter Barkwill. In the long run I'd like to move up to a Maintenance Manager position and oversee more of the system.

My focus since January has been improving our maintenance operations on site to end our reliance on contractors if a fault occurs. Preventative maintenance and a strict routine of weekly inspections have become a priority, and we're always looking at what we need to improve or update out on the plant.

I've also been working to ensure the maintenance team helps Wainwright achieve its sustainability goals. We've already halved energy costs in the workshop by changing all the lights to LEDs, and stopped using paper inspection forms in favour of the digital CheckProof system. It's reassuring that Wainwright is always thinking about the future and that anyone with ideas can be part of that. I feel very empowered: it's great to feel as if we're all pulling together to make a difference.”



A DEGREE OF

DIFFERENCE

Congratulations to **Aggregates Business Manager Ben Dormer** on his recent graduation with a **BSc (Hons) degree in Minerals Management from the University of Derby.**

Ben completed the degree in 2020, but his graduation ceremony was delayed by Covid restrictions. He was finally able to don gown and hood at the end of 2021, celebrating his degree after a total of five years of hard graft alongside his day job.

"The course was a two-year 'top-up' degree from a three-year Foundation degree I completed in 2010," Ben explains. "The top-up option wasn't available back then, hence the break. This posed a challenge, as I had to get back into the studying frame of mind after a long period away."

Trying to balance the demands of his career, family life and study was by no means simple. But Ben adopted a disciplined approach – driving into work or his parents' house on Sunday mornings to hit the books without distraction.

His reward was an Upper Second classification, in a programme that covered a variety of industry-specific and general management topics and culminated in a 15,000-word dissertation.

"I sometimes questioned why I was putting myself through it all," laughs Ben. "But the knowledge and understanding I gained aids my role within Wainwright. And it's a lovely feeling to have the qualification behind me now."

Photo: Ben Dormer celebrates his BSc (Hons) on graduation day at Derby.



NEW QUARRY

PLANT

New mobile plant boosts efficiency at Moons Hill

Moons Hill has taken delivery of a new Volvo A45G hauler to upgrade the quarry’s fleet and improve efficiency.

The new plant replaces the older A40 that has been in service at Moons Hill for almost 10 years. As a newer model, the A45G will be more reliable and has updated operator features. More importantly, it has a larger capacity than the A40. This means it will be able to move more material for the same amount of fuel, making operations more efficient while also lowering emissions.



“We aim to make our load and haul fleet as reliable, up-to-date and sustainable as possible.”

“We’re always looking to optimise efficiency,” says Aggregates Business Manager Ben Dormer. “This is our third new truck in 18 months as we aim to make our load and haul fleet as reliable, up-to-date and sustainable as possible.”



John Wainwright & Co. Ltd

Moons Hill Quarry / Mendip Road / Stoke St Michael / Radstock / Somerset / BA3 5JU

01749 840274 / info@wainwright.co.uk / www.wainwright.co.uk