

CORDINERS SAWMILLS GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

There is a family owned sawmilling company in north-east Scotland which continues to go from strength despite the chill winds of recession which have affected the country. Cordiners Sawmills Ltd is situated on the banks of the River Dee in Aberdeenshire and is now in the fourth and fifth generation of the family led by father and son team, Jimmy and James Cordiner. Although the site has operated as a sawmill as far back as the middle of the 19th century there is nothing old fashioned about the operation and the company philosophy.

Indeed recent years have seen a determined agenda to drive forward the business with the injection of substantial investment in both the sawmill and timber treatment plant. This has happened in response to increased demand across the board for its range of products. Recent installations have included a new line for peeled round posts and strainers

and last summer a new quad resaw was added to the sawmill which gives state of the art scanning of the timber linked to computer controlled setting of the bandsaws.

The extra production coupled to an increased demand for fencing timber highlighted the fact that the pressure treatment plants were unable to keep up. The decision was made earlier this year to proceed with a new pressure treatment plant. After thorough investigation an order was placed with C B R Engineering Ltd for a new 12m long plant. The installation was carefully planned and professionally installed by CBR. In less than a week the old plant had been removed and the new plant was up and running. The new equipment has a computerised process control system which monitors the treatment process and ensures that exactly the right amount of preservative is retained by the timber. At the end of the cycle the timber bogeys tilt within



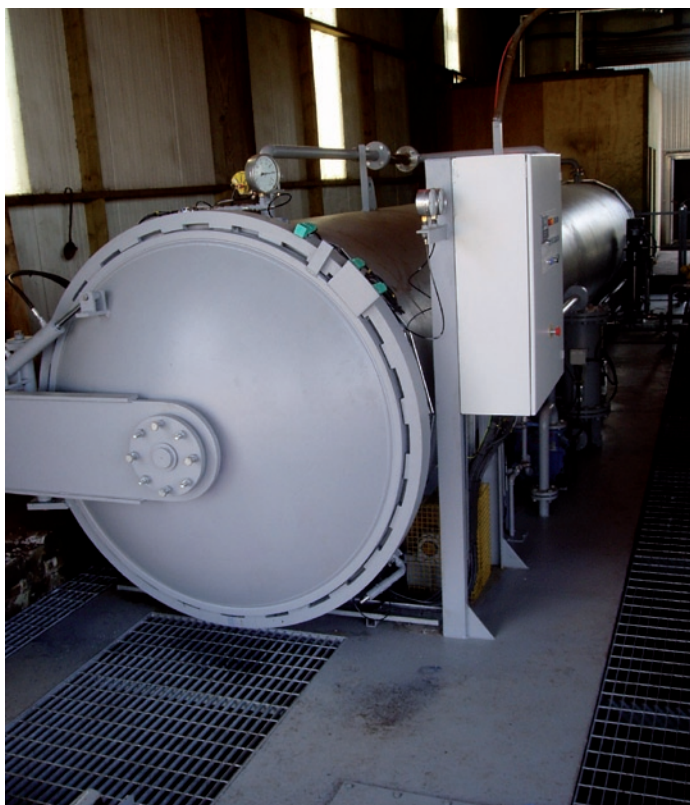
the autoclave to drain off any excess fluid. This results in a much cleaner operation with minimum dripping when the packs exit the plant.

The company philosophy has always been to focus on the needs of the customer and produce what the customer wishes to buy. Because of this Cordiners have gone out of their way to build in maximum flexibility to the production line. Their range of fencing products includes peeled round posts and strainers, sawn rails, pales, posts and feather edged boards. The timber can be off-saw or pressure treated with either brown or green preservatives. Deliveries while mainly in Scotland are spread across the U.K.

There is now a growing realisation that timber is a marvellous product which has been undersold for many years and there is actually a very good story to tell in today's environmentally aware world. It ticks all the boxes in that it is a renewable resource, has a low carbon footprint and can be effectively preserved for long service life.

It looks like there is a long future ahead for the Cordiners and their Sawmill at Banchory.

www.cordiners-sawmills.com



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