



**APPLEBRIDGE**  
FAMILY

# NEWS

EXTERNAL NEWSLETTER // OCTOBER 2022 // ISSUE 2

## IN THIS EDITION:

- > STAFF GROWTH AND GROUP DEVELOPMENT
- > APPLEBRIDGE CONSTRUCTION UTILITIES DIVISION RECEIVES TIER 1 STATUS BY VIRGIN MEDIA O2
- > APPLEBRIDGE AWARDED 4TH BEST SME EMPLOYER 2022





# A WARM WELCOME FROM OUR MD

**Hello, and welcome to our second external newsletter from the Applebridge Family. A lot of changes have taken place since our maiden publication in 2021, and I wanted to take the opportunity to give an insight into recent updates of the ever-changing landscape that is the Applebridge Family.**

What a year 2021 turned out to be; like all in the construction industry, there has been (and continues to be) a vast array of challenges for Applebridge from material shortages to skill shortages, but I am pleased to say that at Applebridge, we are tackling these challenges head-on, creating opportunities from adversity, and relishing them.

## STAFF ARE KEY

With many companies seeing the effect of the 'Great Resignation' I am pleased to say we can boast a vast increase in new employees. This is in no small part down to our investments in apprentices through our Applebridge Academy. Our staff retention is at a record high; this again can be attributed to schemes such as our upskilling programme as well as simply being a great place to work (not that I am biased at all), as employee wellbeing is a chief concern to the group.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

Since our last publication, we have invested heavily in infrastructure across the group, with over £6 million being spent on plant, machinery and equipment.

Our GeoCast plant has seen over 1 million pounds worth of investment, including a brand new 25,000ft square warehouse, a brand-new batch weighing system, and updated technology and software.

These investments allow us to cut costs, reduce waste and improve quality, making us an ever-more reliable supply chain for retaining wall products.

## RESULTS

In a world that seems to be in a constant state of uncertainty, I am proud to say that our direction is running in line with our strategic goals: investing in staff, risk averse working, and investment in charitable work as we continue to build into 2022 and beyond.



**"I am pleased to say at Applebridge we are tackling these challenges head-on, creating opportunities from adversity, and relishing them."**

**CHRIS BROWN**

Applebridge Family, Managing Director

# MEET THE BUSINESSES THAT MAKE UP THE APPLEBRIDGE FAMILY



# THE CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITIES OF THE APPLEBRIDGE FAMILY

The Applebridge Family boasts an enviable scope of capabilities and capacities that allow the businesses to deliver a comprehensive end-to-end sequence of works to clients, across an array of industries.



**ZTL**

## EARTHWORKS

Geo-technical Services  
Ground Stabilisation  
Earthworks and Land Surveys  
Demolition  
Remediation  
Waste Disposal

**T:** 01924 917 700

**W:** [www.ztlcontracting.com](http://www.ztlcontracting.com)

**E:** [info@ztlcontracting.com](mailto:info@ztlcontracting.com)

**HEAD OFFICE** | CARGO FLEET LANE | MIDDLESBROUGH | TS3 6AG  
**YORKSHIRE OFFICE** | 23 TADMAN STREET | WAKEFIELD | WF1 5RF



**AD PLANT  
HIRE**

## PLANT HIRE AND SALES SERVICE

Plant  
Tools  
Equipment  
Attachments  
Welfare and Accommodation

**T:** 01642 233 400

**W:** [www.adplanthire.co.uk](http://www.adplanthire.co.uk)

**E:** [info@adplanthire.co.uk](mailto:info@adplanthire.co.uk)

**HEAD OFFICE** | HUGHES HOUSE | MIDDLESBROUGH | TS3 6AG  
**YORKSHIRE OFFICE** | 23 TADMAN STREET | WAKEFIELD | WF1 5RF



**APPLEBRIDGE**

## CIVIL ENGINEERING

Groundworks  
Roads and Sewers  
Foundations  
Plot works  
Section 278 and 38 Packages  
Drainage

**T:** 01642 233 400

**W:** [www.applebridge.com](http://www.applebridge.com)

**E:** [info@applebridge.com](mailto:info@applebridge.com)

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**YORKSHIRE OFFICE** | 23 TADMAN STREET | WAKEFIELD | WF1 5RF



**APPLEBRIDGE  
UTILITIES**

## MULTI-UTILITIES

Gas (GIRS) Approved  
Water (WIRS) Approved  
Electricity (NERS) Approved  
Telecoms

**T:** 01642 233 400

**W:** [www.applebridge.com](http://www.applebridge.com)

**E:** [info@applebridge.com](mailto:info@applebridge.com)

**HEAD OFFICE** | HUGHES HOUSE | MIDDLESBROUGH | TS3 6AG  
**UTILITIES DEPOT** | WHICKHAM BANK | SWALWELL | NEWCASTLE | NE16 3BP  
**YORKSHIRE OFFICE** | 23 TADMAN STREET | WAKEFIELD | WF1 5RF





**APPLEBRIDGE**  
BUILDING SERVICES

## BUILDING SERVICES

Insulated Concrete Formwork  
Installer (ICF)

Refurbishments

Education and Industrial  
Frameworks

Bespoke Joinery

**HEAD OFFICE** | HUGHES HOUSE | MIDDLESBROUGH | TS3 6AG

**YORKSHIRE OFFICE** | 23 TADMAN STREET | WAKEFIELD | WF1 5RF

Commercial and Residential  
Construction

**T: 01642 233 400**

**W: www.absltd.uk.com**

**E: info@applebridge.com**



**GEOCAST**

## MANUFACTURING RETAINING WALL SOLUTIONS

**GEO WALL:** Timber-effect concrete  
cladding panels

**GEO ROC:** Textured and smooth  
rock face retaining wall panels

Sole providers to Retaining UK

**T: 01642 233 400**

**W: www.retaininguk.com**

**E: info@retaininguk.com**

**PRODUCTION SITE** | UNIT 1 A&B | REDWORTH STREET | HARTLEPOOL | TS24 7LG

**HEAD OFFICE** | HUGHES HOUSE | MIDDLESBROUGH | TS3 6AG

**YORKSHIRE OFFICE** | 23 TADMAN STREET | WAKEFIELD | WF1 5RF



**RETAINING  
UK**

## RETAINING WALL SOLUTIONS

**Supply and installation of GEOWALL:**  
Decorative walls up to a 1 metre of  
retained height

Precast installation specialists of  
flooring systems and ground beams

**Supply and installation of GEOROC:**  
Decorative concrete rock face,  
mechanically stabilised earth, retaining  
walls to any height

**T: 01642 233 400**

**W: www.retaininguk.com**

**E: info@retaininguk.com**

**HEAD OFFICE** | HUGHES HOUSE | MIDDLESBROUGH | TS3 6AG

**YORKSHIRE OFFICE** | 23 TADMAN STREET | WAKEFIELD | WF1 5RF



**TARCON**

## ROAD SURFACING CONTRACTOR

Road Surfacing

Playground construction

MUGA's

Traffic Management

White Lining

**T: 01642 233 400**

**W: www.applebridge.com**

**E: info@applebridge.com**

**HEAD OFFICE** | HUGHES HOUSE | MIDDLESBROUGH | TS3 6AG

**YORKSHIRE OFFICE** | 23 TADMAN STREET | WAKEFIELD | WF1 5RF

# STAFF GROWTH

**Investment in staff is an essential building block of Applebridge's ethos, believing that true growth can only be attained through a practice of new and continued development.**

Over the last twelve months, we have been working to cultivate development through investment in new talent, the development of existing talent and strengthening our internal infrastructures.



## Applebridge Academy

Launched in March 2021, the Applebridge Academy is a facility that caters for new employees undertaking training to meet our requirements and standards and existing employees undertaking new skill courses and refresher training. The Applebridge Academy provides a platform and structure for our training and apprenticeship programmes whilst offering opportunities to retrain and recruit from different sectors.

To date, the Academy has 61 graduate trainee apprentices, working in the civils, utilities and engineering sectors. It is proving to be a positive addition to the Applebridge Family, helping to overcome the risks of skill shortage by attracting and retaining tradespeople.

## Staff Upskilling

In late 2021 Applebridge created the Staff Upskilling Programme. Established as a way for staff to improve their existing skills, the programme allows Applebridge staff to take up a formal qualification or upskill their current qualifications. Delivered in collaboration with a local training partner, the programme is seeing a significant uptake, with 52 staff members (over a quarter of our office workforce) undertaking training.

*"The upskilling programme has allowed our staff to gain new skills and competencies and to keep up to date with the changes within all job roles within the organisation. It has allowed some employees to be promoted internally and given insight to others that promotion within the company is achievable. Our staff retention is at a record high as I believe that our staff recognise our investment in them, and this is reinforced by their longevity in service and commitment to us."*

**JUDITH ROONEY**  
 Head of HR

## Departmental Growth

As we expand, the necessity for creating a solid infrastructure to manage operations is of increasing importance. Responding to this need, greater autonomy has been created through the appointment of an additional four directors: Group Finance Director Gemma Peacock, Group Pre-Construction Director Joe Milburn, Utilities Director Tomás McGleenan, and Construction Director Aaron Dawson.

**Through these three fields of investment, we are acquiring new staff, retaining existing staff, and strengthening the management of our ever-increasing workforce, upscaling the Applebridge Family proactively and responsibly.**





# OFFICE EXTENSION

**Visitors to Head Office over the last six months will have seen the extension and refurbishment work undertaken as we continue to adapt and improve to cater to the business' changing needs.**

The works provided three new areas which are crucial to the group's strategic plans. Firstly, the ground and first floors have been extended to create new office space for our Finance Team and Utilities Division.

The existing first-floor area has also been refurbished, making the spaces that were previously Applebridge Civils, Applebridge Building Services and the ZTL offices into an open-plan environment.

The results are brilliant, with over 629 square metres of additional floor space allowing for an additional 39 workstations and meeting rooms. Group Operations Director Andy Ray comments:

"It was sorely needed; in the last two years, our teams have grown exponentially, and we needed our offices to accommodate not only the size but also the philosophy of how we want our businesses to operate. Through an open plan design, we aim to create clarity throughout the group and generate discussions between departments where previously teams operated separately from one another."

**The transformation represents Applebridge's ongoing expansion and success and our dedication to an ethos of working seamlessly under one umbrella, providing a quality service through a collaborative mindset.**



**WE NEEDED OUR OFFICES TO ACCOMMODATE NOT ONLY THE SIZE BUT ALSO THE PHILOSOPHY OF HOW WE WANT OUR BUSINESSES TO OPERATE.**



## DERWENT GREEN

### DUCHY HOMES

#### THEIR CHALLENGE:

To develop 40 plots for clients Duchy Homes on their latest project in the peaceful conservation area of Old Malton. The picturesque village presents logistical challenges of limited site access and a close proximity to existing residents, calling for extreme sensitivity to disruption.

The project also requires that materials remain sympathetic to the setting, enhancing the village with the use of traditional, high-quality materials whilst retaining the overarching agricultural charm of the village.

#### OUR SOLUTION:

Early engagement was key to achieving a high level of coordination across the group. Regular and clear communication with the client has been crucial in achieving each milestone.

The team developed a highly attuned programme designed to mitigate disruption to local residents whilst remaining within the client's timelines.

Multi-utilities were installed as part of the roads and sewers package. This is a first for the client and is proving to be a great success.

Where possible, the existing stone has been re-used throughout the site, and a clear strategy has been implemented to ensure new materials maintain the site's rural styling.

#### SCOPE OF WORK:

The Applebridge Family was appointed to complete multiple packages of works which include the following:

- Section 278 works
- Roads and sewers
- Plot-works
- Retaining structures

- Tarmac surfacing and external finishes
- Multi-utilities installation, connections and metering

#### THE RESULTS:

The site is now nearing completion with 38 of the 40 properties now complete. The project has developed harmoniously with residents, with minimal disruption to the village and local surroundings.

The project has resulted in high-quality village properties, including 2-bed, 3-bed, 4-bed and 5-bed houses and bungalows.

The stunning homes perfectly match the village, and it is no surprise that the houses have all been sold.





# INTERCHANGE 26

## GMI CONSTRUCTION (YORKSHIRE)

### THEIR CHALLENGE:

To develop three commercial/industrial units on land that was previously sewage treatment works and wasteland. Part of the challenge included crushing, screening and certifying aggregates for reuse within the sewage works and the construction of the external yards.

### OUR SOLUTION:

The team provided the client with a movement strategy to utilise the existing materials stockpiled on site and, in turn, ensure the most cost-effective strategy for our client.

Part of the strategy was to crush and screen filter bed stone from the sewage works demolition, carrying out the grading and frost susceptibility tests to enable a CL803 type 1 product to be suitably certified and to be placed on external areas and highways.

The team established and completed the CL:AIRE Protocol MMP in place for the works to be carried out, incorporating our proposals.

### SCOPE OF WORK:

- 22-week project duration across all three plots.
- Move 26,000m<sup>3</sup> of existing stockpiles.
- Cut of 48,000m<sup>3</sup> including ponds and access roads.
- Fill of 62,000m<sup>3</sup>, of which 19,000m<sup>3</sup> from existing stockpiles.
- 6000m<sup>3</sup> of excavation and re-engineer of a structural batter.
- Remove unsuitable and peat materials from a previous sewage work 7500m<sup>3</sup> and place them in non-structural areas.
- Place and achieve a 5% CBR to fill material. Where possible, this was carried out by drying and working the material. Soil modification was required to complement this using our stabilisation rig with a combination of cement and lime to achieve 5% CBR.

- Crush and screen 11,000m<sup>3</sup> of material, including the grading and testing to achieve a non-frost susceptible CL803 type 1 material for use on buildings and external areas.

### THE RESULTS:

Three commercial/industrial units were handed over to the platform, ready for the next build stage. The most cost-effective solution was achieved for the client, no materials were removed from the site, and no import of materials was required.

The benefit was not only financial. The scheme's carbon footprint has also reduced dramatically due to reduced haulage to and from the site and the requirement to quarry imported materials.



## HILLTHORN BUSINESS PARK

### GMI CONSTRUCTION (NORTH EAST)

#### THEIR CHALLENGE:

To carry out the earthworks, attenuation tanks and retaining walls to eight industrial units across varying heights utilising existing site-won materials and reducing haulage, imports and export to and from the site.

Given the complexities involved in the split levels and interaction between the earthworks, attenuation tanks and retaining walls, the client required a cost-effective and well-coordinated designed solution to enable an aggressive programme.

#### OUR SOLUTION:

The team completed and established a CL:AIRE Protocol MMP before works commenced, in line with our movement strategy.

A joint ZTL and Retaining UK Project Manager was appointed to ensure

the project ran smoothly. Existing site-won materials were utilised to create a sub-base replacement layer with a ZTL stabilisation rig to effectively reuse clays from a site at a depth of 350mm, saving the export of surplus materials and the import of quarried stone.

A smooth slate-grey GeoRoc retaining wall product was chosen for all the retaining walls on site, being delivered from the nearby Geocast factory. Each wall required a specific design to suit ground levels and the cut and fill/piling operations.

#### SCOPE OF WORK:

- 17-week programme across eight units
- 1700m<sup>2</sup> of slate-grey GeoRoc retaining walls
- 25,000m<sup>3</sup> topsoil strip with reuse of 5,000m<sup>3</sup>
- 68,000m<sup>3</sup> cut to fill balance to achieve a 3% CBR
- 16,500m<sup>3</sup> of stabilised sub-base replacement layer to achieve 30% CBR
- Full suite of earthworks testing and validation

- 16,500m<sup>3</sup> of stabilised sub-base replacement layer to achieve 30% CBR
- Import and placing of 15,000 tonnes of Type 1 to buildings, service yards and access roads
- Attendances for two piling rigs and attenuation tank installers

#### THE RESULTS:

The combined ZTL and Retaining UK package is now nearing completion.

The scheme has been very successful to date, with the clients looking to award follow-on schemes on the back of the team's performance. The team's solution has reduced haulage to and from the site by 5500 loads.





# CAPELLA

## KEEPMOAT HOMES

### THEIR CHALLENGE:

To deliver a multiple-phase development up to phase 4 for client Keepmoat Homes. The project has a significant challenge of underlying rock across the entirety of the vast site with excavations reaching as far down as 8m in certain areas.

### OUR SOLUTION:

To mitigate the impact of underlying rock an early engagement of bulk earthworks was incorporated, removing the rock, and re-engineering the burden through a process of crushing and screening.

The reconditioned material was then incorporated into various areas across the site reducing the project's overall environmental impact, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions associated with transportation, and reducing the requirement for additional resources.

### SCOPE OF WORK:

Applebridge Civils was appointed to complete multiple packages of works which included the following:

- Earthworks
- Rock/aggregate processing
- Section 278 works
- Roads and sewers
- Multiple pre-cast attenuation tanks
- Plot-works
- Retaining structures
- Tarmac surfacing and external finishes
- Multi-utility installation, connections, and metering

### THE RESULTS:

The project is still in the construction phase with 250 plots completed to date and a further 150 plots instructed. The overall project is expected to take a further 20 years.

Significant benefits have been generated as a result of early engagement and the coordinated approach to the works packages.

### TESTIMONIAL:

"I have worked with Applebridge for a number of years, especially on our development in Scarborough which is now on phase 4, which speaks volumes. The team do a fantastic job, they are well organised in order to achieve programme requirements and consistently deliver to the highest standard.

The above relationship was a significant factor with regards to my input for Applebridge to be chosen to help deliver the next phase on our development at Wawne Road Hull."

**Mike Tinsley**  
Keepmoat Homes,  
Construction Manager



# SISKIN PARK

## COUNTRYSIDE PROPERTIES

### THEIR CHALLENGE:

To deliver a multi-utility package within a fast-paced programme, ensuring design solutions and approvals were in place to meet the client's deadlines.

### OUR SOLUTION:

With a combined Civils and Multi-utilities package, the team were able to coordinate utility works in tandem with the road, sewer and tarmac teams. This created efficiency on site and minimised disruption.

Due to supply chain restrictions, the team incorporated an early low-voltage (LV) connection into the electric design to guarantee plot connections and hand-over dates so the client could achieve sales.

### SCOPE OF WORK:

Applebridge Utilities was appointed to complete the following packages of work:

- Installation of new mains
- Water service installation
- Gas service installation
- High and low-voltage electric installation
- Telecom installation for both BT and Virgin Media

These works were carried out in conjunction with sister company Applebridge Construction as a part of a wider civils package.

### THE RESULTS:

The project was delivered to the client's timescale, achieving the required approvals through a combined Utility and Civils package.

The combined package improved efficiency reduced disruption and maximised the use of plant, labour, and materials.

### TESTIMONIAL:

"Applebridge Utilities have provided a brilliant service delivering a comprehensive multi-utility package. The team are very efficient and keep you up to date with progress. They have gone above and beyond on sites I have worked with them on to deliver the services on time and you can always rely on them delivering on what they promise."

**Louise Evans**  
Countryside Properties,  
Services Coordinator





# THE WALLED GARDENS

## PRIVATE CUSTOMER

### THEIR CHALLENGE:

To create a modern, bespoke, high-specification house for a private customer in County Durham. Their brief was to design and build an energy-efficient house which would become their home. The client's aspirations were to incorporate renewable energy technologies ensuring low running costs.

### OUR SOLUTION:

The team worked closely with the client's architect, Blake Hopkinson Architecture, to build an ICF (Insulated Concrete Formwork) house complete with basement. The ICF walls and SIPs roof provided a highly insulated building fabric ensuring that the first level of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction hierarchy was achieved by reducing the building's energy demand. The team installed a passive solar design to the glazed elevation creating benefit from solar gain, shading and thermal mass. The building

was then fitted out with high-performing renewable and sustainable technologies including an air source heating system and energy-efficient lighting.

### SCOPE OF WORK:

A full turnkey development including:

- Demolition of existing vinery
- Excavation and ICF basement construction
- External ICF walls
- Glazing and solar shading
- Wall cladding, SIPs roof cassettes and zinc roof
- Design and installation of mechanical and electrical equipment
- Internal fit out and specialist joinery
- Tiling and decoration
- Landscaping

### THE RESULTS:

A stunning, modern house, built in the grounds of the client's existing home. It sits within the plot's Walled Gardens and enjoys stunning views over the Durham countryside. The property was completed in January 2022 and was

occupied soon after. It boasts an A+ energy rating and some warm and cosy new residents.

### KEY FACTS:

ICF blocks are made from expanded polystyrene so they are 98% air, giving them excellent insulation properties.

ICF structures offer very good fire resistant properties as they use fire retardant polystyrene and there are no breaks in the concrete structure to allow a fire break.

Traditional houses lose heat through air leakage, poor insulation and thermal bridging amongst other things. ICF houses are highly efficient, offering energy savings of up to 70% against traditional construction.





# HEXHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL

## GALLIFORD TRY

### THEIR CHALLENGE:

To construct four structural retaining walls that accommodated gradients of up to one-in-three, curves of up to six metres in radius and complex tree root systems that required preservation.

The client also required the structure's aesthetics to match the site's traditional and contemporary building façades.

### OUR SOLUTION:

GeoRoc was selected, its unique design enabling it to overcome the site's complex gradient and radius requirements.

For aesthetics, a slate-grey textured finish was chosen – this product matched the colour scheme of the adjacent building and roadway.

In addition, the granular backfill also allowed for free-draining water from the trees at the rear to be managed, preserving their integrity.

### SCOPE OF WORK:

Starting at the lowest point on the wall, GeoRoc panels were set out in steps as the wall progressed up the sloping site.

A land drain at the rear would relieve any hydrostatic pressure build-up and avoid damage to the wall. Once the wall design height was achieved, it was decided by the client that the top of the wall should be raised by up to 600mm.

The design was checked to allow the increase, and the overall appearance of the wall with the ground behind the wall was improved. The flexibility of the system allowed on-site recommendations to be easily implemented.

### THE RESULTS:

The client is delighted with the results with all four walls completed on time and within budget.

Communication as to the choice of alternative walling types, colour and texture and a clear explanation of the method of work, risk assessments, access, traffic management, and build timescales allowed the client to have confidence in Retaining UK as a trusted supplier.





# ELWICK GARDENS

## BARRATT HOMES

### THEIR CHALLENGE:

To provide a variety of walling solutions across the full scope of the client's vast site. Critical challenges to this project included severe site-wide sloping and a necessity to remain sympathetic to the site's overarching aesthetics.

### OUR SOLUTION:

A smooth Yorkstone GeoRoc was chosen for the large walls, and a standard Oakwood GeoWall was selected for the smaller walls.

GeoWall lent itself to areas with reduced width applications such as walls between plots.

GeoWall was issued on a supply-only basis and installed by the client's groundworks team, the benefits of this being that groundworkers could fit as and when required, close to CML stage of

the build, and could build from a standard design.

GeoRoc walls require a specific wall design for each location, and a basic programme of works was agreed with the client to allow for the lead time required.

### SCOPE OF WORK:

Retaining UK was appointed to complete the following packages of work:

- 1200 square metres of Yorkstone GeoRoc over several walls throughout the site, varying from 600mm high to 4000mm high
- 700 linear metres of Oakwood GeoWall throughout the site – retaining walls up to 1000mm of retained height between plots and in rear gardens

### THE RESULTS:

The project is now nearing the end of this construction phase and the client has been pleased with the many walls built on site, which were built to a tight lead-time and within budget.

On large sites, communication with management is essential to ensure that house-building does not proceed too far before the GeoRoc walls are commenced, as they require access for large plant and material deliveries.

Barratt and David Wilson jointly own the site, and the walling was deemed suitable for both, with the client having confidence in Retaining UK as a trusted supplier.



# FREEBROUGH ACADEMY

## NORTHERN EDUCATION TRUST

### THEIR CHALLENGE:

**To construct a new bus drop-off and car park area, within a tight time frame, whilst overcoming both poor weather conditions and stringent approval stages, and with works to be completed within the school term.**

### OUR SOLUTION:

Working in conjunction with sister company Applebridge Building Services, both teams were required to be highly adaptive, and proactively overcome emerging challenges.

Initially, the project was planned to take place during the six-week summer break, when teams would have had sole access to the site. Due to an over-extended approval process, timescales had to be drastically changed.

To overcome the changing project timeline, works were split into two phases.

Phase one involved remodelling the bus pick-up/drop-off area. This was completed by ABS over the nine days of the October half-term break, with extended working hours and utilisation of the two weekends within the period.

Phase two, construction of the site's new car park, could then use the project's remaining five weeks of the programme's allowance.

### SCOPE OF WORK:

Tarcon and Applebridge Building Services were appointed to complete the following work package of works:

- Construct a new bus drop-off area
- Road surfacing
- Road construction
- White lining

### THE RESULTS:

Despite heavy rainfall, the project was delivered to specification and to time. Phase one works were completed in just ten days over the autumn break, allowing for smooth transition into phase two.

The split-phase approach ensured that the highest-risk works were completed while no staff or students were at the school, and ensured minimum disruption to the school's term-time functions.

### TESTIMONIAL:

**"Tarcon and Applebridge Building Services have done an exceptional job, adapting quickly to meet both the demands of the project and the Academy."**

**Russell Baxter**  
Northern Education Trust  
Director of Estates & Risk



## Applebridge Construction Utilities division is awarded Tier 1 status for the region's high-speed fibre network project.

Applebridge Construction Utilities division has been contracted by Virgin Media O2 to be a dedicated delivery partner in the North East of England. The project aims to deliver FTTP and PIA to over 20,000 properties over the course of twelve months.

Project Lightning is part of Virgin Media's ongoing plan to invest more than a billion pounds into communication infrastructure every year. The project scopes the length of the UK and Ireland, connecting and improving the digital fabric of homes and businesses alike.

In securing the North East contract, Applebridge will work on two projects: fibre to the premises (FTTP), and the physical infrastructure access (PIA) works. The FTTP build is a standard civil installation, whilst the PIA works will utilise existing duct networks.

Applebridge has been able to put themselves in a position to win this contract through successfully working as a Tier 2 contractor on the recent Newcastle upon Tyne, Brunton Park project, delivering high-speed fibre to thousands of homes. During this project, Applebridge demonstrated core capabilities to meet the demands of the project, working closely with the local authority, engaging with the local community and working through the Covid pandemic to ensure local residents had access to a much improved high-speed fibre network (which was greatly needed to support people during the lockdown).

Colin Brown, Director of Build Scotland, Northern Ireland and the North East at Virgin Media O2, comments:



"We're delighted to partner with Applebridge to continue our expansion of the UK's fastest available broadband network in the North East."

As part of the awarded contract, the first 12 months will deliver FTTP to 12,000 homes in Peterlee and 8,000 homes in Spennymoor. Applebridge Construction Utilities Director Tomás McGleenan comments:

**"These are exciting times for our Utilities division. Working closely with Virgin Media O2, this contract will deliver a long and successful partnership. The project will result in thousands of people accessing high-speed, high-quality broadband in their homes, supporting the ongoing trend toward working from home and education in the household."**



Tier 1 status represents a great achievement for both Applebridge and the Applebridge Family, as it sees continued growth as part of its expansion plans.

# WELCOME TO GEOCAST

**GeoCast is the sole provider of GeoWall and GeoRoc for Retaining UK. They joined the Applebridge Family in 2020.**

We would like to introduce our GeoCast production management and operatives team (pictured right), who work hard behind the scenes to ensure all our GeoRoc and GeoWall retaining wall products are designed, manufactured and distributed to the highest possible standard at our GeoCast production facility in Hartlepool.



## OUR 2020/21 GEOCAST REVIEW

**Since joining the Applebridge Family in 2020, GeoCast has moved 50 miles south from Ashington to Hartlepool and expanded its premises from 6,000ft to 25,000ft to bring many new jobs and opportunities to the local area.**

Alongside this, we have invested heavily in the latest technology and software and provided training opportunities for our workforce. Look at GeoCast's fantastic year in review (see right).



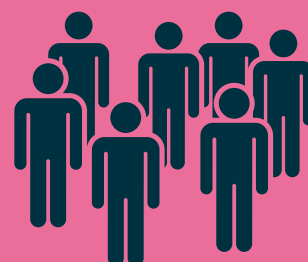
**NEW 25,000 SQ FT  
FACTORY**



**OVER £1 MILLION  
INVESTMENT**

**GEOCAST**

**NEW BRANDING  
AND LOGO**



**15 NEW JOBS  
CREATED**





In September 2021, we welcomed a brand-new batch weighing system to the GeoCast factory. With the aggregate hopper and conveyer, we can electronically set the required weight for each aggregate, cement or pigment type and improve the overall consistency and quality of the mix. To help reduce the manual labour, we also invested in an oiling machine which evenly releases oil onto the mould to create a smooth, consistent finish.







# APPLEBRIDGE ACADEMY

# ENGINEERING THE FOUNDATIONS OF TOMORROW, **TODAY**

The Applebridge Academy was launched in summer 2021, with the goal of recruiting, educating and supporting new and existing career development opportunities within the construction sector.

## What is the aim of the Applebridge Academy and who is it for?

The Applebridge Academy aims to bridge the industry's skills gap by offering alternative career paths in construction. Our construction-based education facility works in partnership with training, recruitment, and well-being support networks to provide our candidates with a well-rounded support experience. The Applebridge Academy is open to the following candidates:

- Young people wanting to gain direct access to a career in construction.
- Existing employees wanting to retrain in a different area of construction.
- Candidates from outside the industry wanting to retrain within construction.

## Who have we already partnered with?

The Applebridge Academy appointed a variety of candidates in the areas of groundworks, bricklaying and site management, after partnering with community support hub MFC Foundation. We have also launched a nine-day bespoke sector-based programme which involved providing both a practical insight into construction and the essential skills required for interview.



*"I would definitely recommend the Applebridge Academy apprenticeship programme to others. They have been very supportive to me throughout my time here."*

**LEVEL 2**  
**Bricklaying Apprentice**  
**EllieMae Temby**

*"Hartlepool College have an excellent relationship with the Applebridge Family and furthermore the Applebridge Academy. We value our partnership with an employer who really supports their learners and works with us to give them the best opportunity within their careers. The Applebridge Academy is continually looking to grow a sustainable staffing structure and by growing their own it's an excellent way to embed the cultures of the Applebridge Family from an early career perspective."*

**JOHN CARTWRIGHT**  
**Head of Construction and the Built Environment, Hartlepool College**



If you are someone or know someone who wants to start a career in construction, please get in touch on: [info@applebridge.com](mailto:info@applebridge.com)



# MEETING MAYORS

**At Applebridge, we are always looking to work alongside key stakeholders in the region to help benefit both our customers and community development. As such, we were thrilled to meet both the Mayor of Middlesbrough, Andy Preston, and the Mayor of the Tees Valley, Ben Houchen, earlier this year.**

Ben Houchen was elected mayor of the Tees Valley in May 2017. The Tees Valley area covers the five boroughs of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees.

Andy Preston was elected Mayor of Middlesbrough in May 2019 and is politically independent. As Mayor of Middlesbrough, he is responsible for its budget of circa £360m, and all of Middlesbrough's economic, social and political progress.

Meeting with Ben and Andy was a fantastic opportunity to share exciting plans for our businesses and how our vision will contribute to the developments happening in both the Middlesbrough and Tees Valley regions.

"It was a great opportunity for Applebridge to speak to these key individuals and to not only get a greater understanding of their plans for the growth of these regions and how Applebridge can be involved, but it was also a great opportunity to share our progress, and that of our clients." **Donny Hughes, Applebridge Family CEO**

**We look forward to building on our relationship with both Andy Preston and Ben Houchen.**



*"It was a great opportunity for Applebridge to speak to these key individuals and to... get a greater understanding of their plans for the growth of these regions and how Applebridge can be involved."*

**DONNY HUGHES**  
Applebridge Family CEO



APPOINTMENT OF  
4 NEW DIRECTORS TO  
MANAGEMENT BOARD

APPLEBRIDGE FAMILY

INVESTED  
£3.7 MILLION IN PLANT  
AND MACHINERY, INCLUDING  
OUR FIRST WIRTGEN  
STABILIZER UNIT

ZTL

AD PLANT HIRE INVESTMENT  
IN PLANT

AD PLANT HIRE

WON CONSTRUCTION  
EXCELLENCE SME OF THE  
YEAR OCTOBER 2021

APPLEBRIDGE CIVILS

VIRGIN MEDIA O2 CONTRACT  
AWARDED SEPTEMBER 21

APPLEBRIDGE UTILITIES

COMPLETED OUR FIRST  
MULTIPLE UNIT ICF HOUSING  
SCHEME

APPLEBRIDGE BUILDING  
SERVICES

OPENED GEOCAST FACTORY

GEOCAST

RETAINING UK ISO  
ACCREDITATIONS: 9001,  
14001 AND 1801

RETAINING UK

LAUNCH OF THE  
APPLEBRIDGE ACADEMY

APPLEBRIDGE FAMILY

# OUR FAMILY YEAR IN REVIEW 2021

COMPLETION OF OFFICE  
EXTENSION GENERATING 39  
ADDITIONAL WORKSTATIONS

APPLEBRIDGE FAMILY

CIVIL ENGINEERING  
CONTRACTOR ASSOCIATION  
TRAINEE OF THE YEAR  
RYAN FORT

APPLEBRIDGE CIVILS

1ST FEMALE SITE-BASED  
APPRENTICES

APPLEBRIDGE FAMILY

REMEDiation OF OUR  
IMPERIAL PARK WITH  
THE AIM OF CREATING  
A WASTE TRANSFER

APPLEBRIDGE FAMILY

TOP 50 SME  
APPRENTICESHIP EMPLOYER

APPLEBRIDGE FAMILY

RENEWED  
NIRS/WIRS/GIRS  
ACCREDITATION

APPLEBRIDGE UTILITIES

GROUP TURNOVER EXCEEDS  
£70 MILLION

APPLEBRIDGE FAMILY

OVER £1 MILLION TURNOVER  
COMPLETED WITH NET IN  
2021

APPLEBRIDGE BUILDING  
SERVICES

DELIVERED  
FIRST PROJECTS FOR  
GF TOMLINSON

ZTL

AD PLANT HIRE PURCHASE  
SECOND  
LOW LOADER

AD PLANT HIRE

GEOCAST LAUNCHES NEW  
PRODUCT RANGE GEOWALL

GEOCAST



# OUR 2022 VISION

In 2022, the Applebridge Family aims to build upon its vision of engineering the foundations of tomorrow, today. We have outlined how we aim to achieve this vision below.

## THE APPLEBRIDGE ACADEMY

The Applebridge Academy has seen great success since its launch in the summer of 2021. To date, the Academy has 62 graduate trainees and 50 staff members going through the academy's upskilling programme.

As the Applebridge Family continues to grow, investment in recruitment and training remains of paramount importance.

The goal for 2022 is to continue to develop the Academy by investing in the training facilities and courses provided and continue to work towards bridging the industry's skills gap by offering alternative career paths.

## SUSTAINABILITY AND DECARBONISATION

With the Government setting a goal of NET zero for decarbonising homes, commercial, industrial and public sector buildings by 2050, reducing carbon emissions and ecological impact is at the forefront of the group's mind.

In 2022 we will be developing our decarbonisation plan, reviewing areas within the business where carbon emissions can be reduced and developing actions to reach agreed targets in a sustainable timescale.

The decarbonisation strategy will be group-wide, looking at every branch of the Applebridge Family and addressing each section's ecological impact and how they can be improved.

## GROUND IMPROVEMENT

Sustainability is at the forefront of the group's minds. Our vision for 2022 is to proactively reuse resources by incorporating ground improvement strategies in client projects wherever possible.

One of the family values we pride ourselves on is being resourceful. With the recent investment of our Wirtgen WR240i soil stabiliser, we can now offer sub-base replacement as an option. On more and more projects, we are successfully turning natural soils into structural fill material. This process reduces the need to import aggregates and removes the need to dispose soils to landfill.

Offering our clients value engineering solutions like this allows them to be more competitive and environmentally friendly.

## GEO-TECHNICAL SERVICES

In 2022 Applebridge will be expanding the Geo-technical services offered to clients. Key skills will be brought in-house to expand the services in environmental, remediation earthworks, ground improvement and engineering solutions.

Currently the group offer ground improvement solutions, earthwork strategies, validation reports, cut and fill modelling and drone surveys. In 2022 we will look to further expand these services and bring skills in-house, delivering better value for our customers. Performance and compliance specifications will also be undertaken internally where, previously, third-party consultants and specialists would have been required.

## APPLEBRIDGE UTILITIES

August 2022 sees the official launch of Applebridge Utilities as a stand-alone company.

Previously an arm of Applebridge Construction, the Utility division has seen great success over the last three years, with a long-term framework now agreed and a significant increase in multi-utility packages being awarded, the division will now branch out as its own company.

This is a tried and proven pathway with Applebridge Building Services and ZTL having followed similar journeys to now become successful, stand-alone businesses within their own right.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement continues to be of high importance to the group's vision, looking to support the local communities in which we operate.

In 2022 we are continuing with our charity of the year programme, this year supporting local charity The Ellen Timney Foundation, which works with social workers and professionals to provide support for underprivileged children in the North East of England.

To help raise funds and awareness, the group have planned a variety of activities from outdoor activities and cake bakes to the famous Applebridge Golf Day. Our colleagues will be undertaking a range of activities to support this worthwhile cause.

# OUR 2021 CHARITY YEAR IN REVIEW



**From Golf Days to annual balls, 2021 was another busy year of fundraising for the Applebridge Family.**



**Due to Covid we extended our support for Remembering Rebecca, our 2020 charity of the year through to 2021.**

After Covid forced them to cancel their 2020 10th anniversary Remembering Rebecca ball they were finally able to honour this milestone in 2021. We were able to assist with the costs of this along with helping with decorations and providing the all-important sweet bags.

Throughout the year we also held numerous competitions for the families supported by the charity. This meant one family was able to have a much needed break to Center Parcs and various 'superstar' siblings had some memory-making days out to places like Chester Zoo and Flamingo Land.



**In July we had our MD's favourite day of year... our annual golf day.**

We had an amazing turnout with all our guests being incredibly generous and putting their hands in their pockets to support our charity of the year. We raised a total of £2120, not bad for a day in the sun.



**Christmas is a time of giving and in 2021 our staff clubbed together to donate six boxes of food to Middlesbrough foodbank and a box of goodies to the Dogs Trust.**

As well as this the Family supported TFM's Cash For Kids' mission Christmas, donating over 50 toys to their toy appeal.



# AWARDS

**We are thrilled to announce that Applebridge Construction was awarded SME of the Year by Constructing Excellence North East (CENE), in October 2021.**

**CENE, a North East not-for-profit organisation driving the change agenda in construction celebrated its 17th year of the awards with a red-carpeted awards ceremony in the Newcastle Gateshead Hilton Hotel.**

Having previously been highly commended in 2020, we were over the moon to not only be nominated a second time but to take home the Gold in 2021.

Awarded for our 'expansion within the workforce and commitment to the upskilling of (our) staff through professional development and support of local communities through charity work,' we couldn't be happier!



**Ryan Fort, one of Applebridge Academy's very own, wins the Most Promising Trainee Civil Engineer Award 2021 at the CECA NE Awards.**

In 2021, Ryan was put forward by the Applebridge Family for the Trainee Civil Engineer Award 2021 at the CECA NE (Civil Engineering Contractors Association, North East) for his achievements, commitment and dedication to the company over the year.

We are really proud to say that Ryan went on and won the award, which is an outstanding achievement.

Ryan has been part of the Applebridge Academy Graduate Programme for nearly three years. He has made great progress since starting with the company and we can't wait to see what the future holds for him.

**Well done Ryan from everyone at the Applebridge Family.**



**We are delighted to announce that Applebridge Construction Ltd has been ranked fourth in the country, in the new list of Top 50 SME Apprenticeship Employers.**

The rankings recognise employers for their commitment to employing apprentices, their creation of new apprenticeships, the diversity of their new apprentices, and the number of apprentices who completed their apprenticeships and progress further with the employer.

The Applebridge Family invests heavily in apprenticeships across the group and we would like to thank our very own Applebridge Academy for supporting the development of new and existing staff, and also our college and training providers, and university partners who we work alongside on achieving such great recognition. Applebridge is truly engineering the foundations of tomorrow, today.



# APPLEBRIDGE FAMILY QUALITY STATEMENT

Over the course of 2021 we implemented new changes, both reactive and proactive, to set a structure that both effects change and provides tangibility. Driven by our Board of Directors and embraced by our management team, they form the foundation of our processes, ensuring we remain on track to achieve our goals of being market leaders in the civil engineering sector.

Quality is important to our business. We value our customers, and we strive to provide them with services and products which meet and surpass their expectations. We are committed to continuous improvement and have undertaken a thorough review of our Quality Assurance procedures, which provide a platform to monitor quality and benchmark our performance.

## SPECIALISMS

We have reviewed our teams and sub-contractors to establish specialists who regularly undertake the same works to develop better skills, efficiencies and understandings of their works. Our management structure has recently established smaller teams, allowing senior managers to benefit from a closer involvement in their projects.

## RECRUITMENT

Our recruitment strategy aims to provide greater focus on obtaining references for potential employees and undertaking a more thorough vetting process. We have introduced an early-stage appraisal process in the form of a new-starter feedback form which requires managers and supervisors to approve the continuation of employment for any new starters.

## APPLEBRIDGE ACADEMY

The Applebridge Academy aims to bridge the industry's skills gap by delivering training to both new and existing employees. Our aim is to provide a facility that will cater for new employees undertaking training to meet our requirements and standards and existing employees undertaking new skill courses and refresher training. The Academy provides a platform and structure for our training and apprenticeship programmes whilst offering opportunities to retrain and recruit from different sectors.

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

We have overhauled our previous system and introduced a safety net of new checks that ensure all our works are physically and verbally checked for compliance against design and standards before being offered to our clients. Our investment in the creation of our own bespoke app and web portal moves our QA inspections from paper to a tablet-based system, providing greater visibility between the site and the wider team.

## AUDITING

We have introduced a system of compliance auditing to allow senior managers and directors to give feedback on the management of our systems and processes. This ensures checks and balances are carried out frequently, and any arising issues are dealt with quickly and efficiently. It also provides the ability to monitor and analyse trends in response to training demands, supply input or sequencing and design development.

## HANDBOOK

Our company aim is to provide consistency and compliance across all our projects and to ensure all our processes are fully understood and implemented. Alongside our QA handbook, which provides worked examples of our documentation, we currently have a site management manual. It features our company methodology, detailing how to undertake and present each element, alongside associated imagery, videos and text.



# SPOTLIGHT ON: SEAN GALVIN DRAINAGE SUPERVISOR

**“Applebridge gave me an opportunity.”**



## What does your current role entail?

Installing deep drainage in and around the North East and Yorkshire, educating trainees about deep drainage and trying to teach them about what will be expected of them in the future and hopefully getting them to a stage where they can start their own gang.

## What do you like most about working at Applebridge?

It's not just a job for me working at the company; it's more than that. My dad worked Applebridge for a long time and used to bring me to work at weekends when I was growing up. I also did my work experience here.

Unfortunately, I lost my dad when I was 15. It was then when Donny reached out to me to let me know there would always be a job for me in Applebridge, and true to his word, there has been, but no doubt he would've got rid of me if I was useless!

Applebridge gave me an opportunity when I was at a young age and in a pretty bad place. Applebridge put me through all my training and taught me an awful lot to get me where I am today. To be honest, life is great for my family and me and for that, I will forever be grateful!

## What do you like to do outside of work?

I like to spend time with family and friends and go out for nice meals and drinks. I also like to spend time in the country with my dogs.

## What are your top three favourite projects?

- Old Malton
- Fenham
- Scarborough

## What are your biggest work achievements?

Well, starting as a general labourer and then being where I am today is a huge achievement in my eyes – hard work pays off!

## What advice would you give to our current trainees?

Be like a sponge. Take it all from your superior because, more likely than not, you have been put with the best the company has to offer. Go above and beyond to hit your targets; trust me, it pays off in the end.

## What job would you be doing if you weren't working in construction?

To be honest, I have never really thought about any other industries. It was always going to be construction for me; it runs in the family.

## What is your favourite pizza topping?

Doner meat, green peppers, sweetcorn and onions.

## How long have you worked at Applebridge, and what was your first role?

I have been working here at Applebridge for around 14 years and my first role was as a labourer. I used to be referred to as the Dog.

## What was your most challenging project, and why?

The Kier Living site at Whitby was my most challenging project because it had the worst ground conditions you could ever see, and the drainage was at depths of six metres.

## Tell us something we don't know about you

There is not a lot that people don't know about me. To be honest, I am an open book, but I do like cooking and gardening.

# JOIN THE APPLEBRIDGE FAMILY

Due to a controlled expansion the Applebridge Family is inviting applications for the following vacancies:

## TRAINEES

**NORTH EAST/YORKSHIRE**

- Groundworks
- Plant Technicians
- Joiners
- Bricklayers
- Engineers
- Management Trainees/Graduates
- Quantity Surveyor
- Estimators

## GEO-TECHNICAL APPRENTICE

**NORTH EAST/YORKSHIRE**

- The competence to work to high standards
- A strong understanding of business processes and industry IT systems
- The ability to make decisions in a timely and appropriate manner
- Analytical and forward thinking
- Ability to build effective working relationships

## PLANT FITTER APPRENTICE

**NORTH EAST/YORKSHIRE**

- Experienced plant fitter covering both large and small plant
- Be able to maintain small plant i.e. power floats, Stihl saws, etc
- Team player
- Attention to detail
- Clean current driving licence

## SITE SUPERVISORS

**LEEDS/HULL**

- Proven experience working as a site supervisor
- CPR and first aid certifications
- Sound knowledge of building codes and construction safety regulations
- Excellent organisational and communication skills

## TELECOMS/ MULTI-UTILITIES

**NORTH EAST/YORKSHIRE**

- Site Manager (Telecoms)
- Senior Site Manager (Telecoms)
- Compliance Manager
- Project Manager (Multi-utilities)
- Runner (Multi-utilities)
- Civils Team Leader (Telecoms)
- Cabling and Splicing Team Leader (Telecoms)

## MU TEAM LEADERS/ OPERATIVES

**NORTH EAST/YORKSHIRE**

- EUSR qualifications
- Main and service laying, civils and duct laying experience
- A positive and enthusiastic approach to work
- Plant operating experience (desirable)

We regularly update our individual social media accounts and websites with the latest vacancies. Alternatively, please send a CV across to our Group HR Manager Judith Rooney: [Judith.Rooney@applebridge.com](mailto:Judith.Rooney@applebridge.com)



## GET IN TOUCH

We hope you have enjoyed reading the second edition of the Applebridge Family external newsletter.

If you have any queries about anything discussed in the newsletter or would like more information on our services, please do not hesitate to get in touch by calling our Head Office on 01642 233 400.

Please see pages 4 and 5 for individual company contact details.

## CONNECT WITH US

Keep up to date with all our latest Applebridge Family news by interacting with our individual company social media accounts:

 @ZTLContracting

 @ADPlanthireuk

 @ApplebridgeCL

 @ApplebridgeUtilities

 @ApplebridgeBSL

 @RetainingUK