

INSIDE: INAUGURAL ALFED MEMBERS' DAY 2026

ALUMINIUM, HERITAGE AND THE NEXT CENTURY OF BRITISH INDUSTRY

Sector Groups & Committees:

The Operational
Core of ALFED

'A Recognition of Potential'

Yongzhi Luo, 2025
ALFED Rising Star
Apprentice Award
Winner

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ALUMINIUM FEDERATION

THE VOICE OF THE UK ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY

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Issue 24 - April 2026

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ABOUT US



Chief Executive Officer
 Nadine Bloxsome
 e: nbloxsome@alfed.org.uk



Industry & Skills Development Manager
 Rachel Wiffen
 e: rwiffen@alfed.org.uk



Membership Account Executive
 Sophie Allen
 e: sallene@alfed.org.uk



Marketing & Communications Executive
 Emily Foster
 e: efoster@alfed.org.uk



Technical Manager
 Jan Lukaszewski
 e: jlukaszewski@alfed.org.uk



Office/Admin Manager
 Sharon McBride
 e: smcbride@alfed.org.uk



Events Manager
 Jacquey Parker
 e: alfedevents@alfed.org.uk





CONTACT US

Bragborough Hall Business Centre
 Welton Road, Braunston, Daventry, NN11 7JG
 Tel: 0333 240 9735
 Web: www.alfed.org.uk

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Q1 MEMBER VISITS



Sophie Allen, ALFED's Membership Account Executive, and Rachel Wiffen, Industry & Skills Development Manager, visited Amari Precision Tubes – a UK manufacturer of ferrous and non-ferrous tubes and solid profiles for some of the most demanding industries in the world. The visit continued our engagement with members across the UK aluminium sector.

To learn more about Amari Precision Tubes, please visit: <https://www.amariprecisiontubes.com/>



Kicking off the member visits for 2026, Sophie Allen and Emily Foster visited Innoval Technology in Rotherham, meeting with Mike Clinch and Jordan Holland. The team enjoyed a tour of Innoval's impressive new facility, which opened in October 2024 on the Advanced Manufacturing Park. The site is part of the new Danieli UK HQ building and provides a state-of-the-art base for Innoval's growing team.

Innoval delivers technology, innovation and sustainability solutions to many of the world's leading producers and users of aluminium and other critical materials. From this location, the Innoval team provides industry-leading technical resources to support materials design and development, sustainability, knowledge transfer and advanced manufacturing process activities. Their expert consultants span a wide range of technical disciplines, bringing decades of real-world experience together under one roof, placing Innoval in a unique position to deliver sustainable aluminium solutions to its clients.

To learn more about Innoval, please visit: <https://www.innovaltec.com/>



In January 2026, ALFED's Sophie Allen and Emily Foster visited ALTEK Europe in Chesterfield, meeting with Rob Morello and Brent Mahoney. ALTEK is a technology-based company with specialist expertise in the design, manufacture and installation of aluminium dross and scrap processing systems and related cast house solutions, helping the global aluminium industry improve productivity, maximise recoveries and reduce waste. Their engineers use advanced design and manufacturing techniques to deliver industry-leading equipment and complete solutions for dross management, recycling and zero waste processing.

What truly stood out during our visit was ALTEK's exceedingly high standards in everything they do, and their clear commitment to sourcing and basing their processes and services strictly within the UK, demonstrating both quality and sustainability in action.

To learn more about ALTEK, please visit: <https://www.altek-al.com/>



Sophie and Rachel visited ABL Aluminium Components in Birmingham. ABL offer machining, anodising, powder coating and assembly all on site, and it was fascinating to see the breadth of products being manufactured, including their specialist aluminium heatsinks. The visit sparked great conversations around manufacturing capability, skills development, and investment in new equipment, highlighting the critical role these play in maintaining competitiveness and supporting future growth across the aluminium sector.

To learn more about ABL Aluminium Components, please visit: <https://www.ablcomponents.co.uk/>



ALFED's Rachel Wiffen visited Scanmetals UK Ltd, whose work recovering valuable non-ferrous metals and aggregates from incinerator bottom ash is a great example of circular economy principles in action. Operating across the UK and Europe, Scanmetals' advanced dry processing and sensor-sorting technology helps ensure materials are recovered and reused rather than sent to landfill - an increasingly important part of the aluminium sustainability story.

To learn more about Scanmetals, please visit:
<https://scanmetals.com/>



Nadine Bloxsome, ALFED CEO, visited Multipanel UK's Dover facility and met with Commercial Director, Daniel Edwards and the team. The visit offered an excellent opportunity to gain insight into Multipanel UK's Aluminium Composite Panel (ACP) business and the significant investment they have recently made in their UK operations.

During the visit, they discussed production capabilities, growth plans, and the wider challenges and opportunities for UK Manufacturing. Nadine also had the pleasure of formally welcoming Multipanel UK into ALFED membership, marking the start of a closer collaboration within the aluminium sector. Multipanel UK's commitment to innovation and growth in the UK manufacturing landscape makes them a valuable addition to the ALFED community.

To learn more about Multipanel UK, please visit:
<https://www.multipaneluk.co.uk/>



ALFED CEO, Nadine Bloxsome visited new member Tradmet, where Craig Walsh was incredibly generous with his time and hospitality. The visit offered a valuable opportunity to gain a clearer picture of how Tradmet is increasingly moving into the aluminium trading space alongside their wider metals activity.

Discussions explored how they see the aluminium market evolving, where they're positioning themselves commercially, and the challenges they're navigating as they grow their aluminium focus. There was also a really constructive conversation around how ALFED can support them as their aluminium activity expands - particularly in staying close to sector developments, policy direction, and wider market dynamics.

To learn more about Tradmet, please visit:
<https://tradmet.co.uk/>

During their visit to EMR, Sophie Allen and Rachel Wiffen met with Kate Slater to discuss early years careers and apprenticeships across the sector. It was inspiring to hear about EMR's strong commitment to improving representation and championing greater inclusion of the younger generation within the industry. The conversation also highlighted the importance of creating meaningful platforms to recognise emerging talent and celebrate contribution. The ALFED Rising Star Apprentice Award was discussed as a valuable opportunity to shine a spotlight on outstanding achievements, champion best practice, and formally recognise the vital role apprentices play in strengthening the future of the industry.

To learn more about EMR, please visit:
<https://uk.emrlocal.com/>



Novelis

Sophie Allen and Rachel Wiffen visited Novelis Latchford, where they were given an insightful tour of the site's operations. It was impressive to see both the can recycling and automotive production lines in action, alongside the significant progress being made on the site's expansion project. The visit also highlighted Novelis' strong commitment to sustainability, including updates on its recent hydrogen trial and ambitious targets to further increase recycled content across its product range. The discussions reinforced the vital role that innovation and investment are playing in driving the aluminium sector towards a lower-carbon future.

To learn more about Novelis, please visit:
<https://www.novelisrecycling.co.uk/>



www.alfed.org.uk

BUILDING BLOCKS OF BRITAIN: FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS TO SIMON MACVICKER & PROFESSOR ANDREW PERCHARD

1. What originally prompted you to write *The Building Blocks of Britain*, and why do you feel this intervention was necessary now?

While the growing volatility of the geopolitical situation and the dash for critical and strategic raw materials added to our sense of urgency in writing the report, both of us have watched with concern for some time, the erosion of the UK's industrial base and the impact of that on the economy, society and communities.

We believe that the neglect of domestic metals production and security of supply planning and oversight leaves the UK woefully exposed to geopolitical upheaval and market turbulence.

And we also wanted to highlight that there is growing demand for metals. Metals enable solutions to so many of our societal challenges, including climate change. So we also want both industry and government to realise that new capacity is needed in the UK, and we try to set the conditions required to secure ongoing and future investments, and point out historical examples of how the UK industry and government successfully created new capacity at a time of national need in the past.

And we need to change some opinions which favour de-industrialisation in the UK and an increase reliance on imports

Just one illustration of that was provided in the run-up to, and aftermath of, Russia's invasion of Ukraine. In October 2021, Lord Greg Barker, then Executive Chairman of En+ Group and previously UK Minister of State in the Department for Energy and Climate Change in David Cameron's government, suggested at Rusal's event during LME week that the UK rely on imports from Rusal's low-carbon content smelters in Siberia. Over that winter, Russian troops massed on Ukraine's borders as a prelude to the February 2022 invasion. Lord Barker resigned from his position at En+ on 25th March 2022.

The continued indifference to national concerns continues in some quarters. Some economists have continued to advocate for the UK allowing its industrial base to wither on the vine.

Tim Leunig, Rishi Sunak and Sajiv Javid's former economic advisor, writing in *The Observer* recently, counselled that, 'we should not worry too much about losing manufacturing to countries offering low-cost energy'.

Such views downplay geopolitical factors and ignore the critical and strategic importance of metals to defence, decarbonisation, infrastructure, and to balance of trade receipts and regional economies.

As Professor David Bailey responded in his response to Leunig's suggestions: 'writing off manufacturing is a mistake Britain can't afford'. Bailey correctly asks, 'whether Britain has the ambition to fix the systems it controls, and to stop mistaking policy failure for economic fate'.

Our intention in writing *The Building Blocks of Britain* was to underline how critical UK metals production is to national economic competitiveness, defence, decarbonisation, infrastructure, and to regional economies (metals jobs are extremely productive compared to other sectors of the economy), and to identify what needs to be done to support domestic metals production and to support UK resilience in metals supplies and plan for eventualities.

We also hope to change the discussion about the future. Too much UK and European policy has previously hampered the metals industry, prompting outcry. That neglect has led to UK and EU metals production being hollowed out. But given that metals are enablers of the energy transition, the UK will need this production in the future in order to enable the progress towards Net Zero. As the rapidly spreading conflict in the Middle East, the ongoing war in Ukraine, and the destabilising of global institutions and friction over tariffs highlight the UK is also facing a significantly changed and unstable geopolitical landscape with less secure international supply-chains.

So, we seek also to highlight the need to firstly allow what is left of the current industry to become internationally competitive and secondly set out the conditions required to attract new capacity investment for re-shoring. To understand the possibilities of confronting dramatically changed geopolitical circumstances, we wanted to highlight historical precedents; the UK has faced metals supply crises before, and these precedents can offer inspiration for industry and government now to address current and future challenges.

Our hope is that a growing awareness within government of the pressing importance of domestic metals production and secure raw materials supply chains can be mobilised into sustained and tangible long-term actions.

2. What do you see as the most immediate risks facing the UK metals sector if no further action is taken?

We unfortunately confront a very difficult position. A legacy of neglect has seen much metals production offshored to countries with more conducive and competitive energy pricing and clearly orientated and supportive industrial strategies. As we acknowledge, whilst more recent policies, such as the British Industry Supercharger measures of 2024 and recent uplift of October last year, and Vision 2035, demonstrate some change in thinking, we require a significant long term policy commitment to the metals sector. Without this the UK will be left exposed. The lost opportunity for the UK would likely get worse, demand for metals is increasing, and we also predict that supply chains based on imports will become significantly more difficult and less reliable. This would therefore impact the UK's downstream economy, not just the metals sector.

3. Energy costs feature strongly throughout the report – what practical steps should government prioritise in the next 12-18 months?

The first thing is to clearly recognise the extent to which UK industrial energy prices are the result of Government policy choices. The underlying fundamental costs of electricity in the UK are not catastrophically higher than international rivals, but it has been Government policy which has resulted in significantly higher energy prices for industrial customers and undermined competitiveness. It therefore requires a significant change in Government policy and long-term commitment to metals production, which will allow future competitiveness and new investment.

So, we call for a wholesale re-think of the UK's energy policies, which seems radical given the UK's special legislative context with the Climate Change Bill etc, but other countries are doing precisely this.

British industry has been hamstrung by markedly higher energy prices than its competitors for too long. As we make clear, whilst the uplift to the Networking Charging Compensation Scheme, building on the British Industry Supercharger measures are welcome, what is needed is a long-term cross-party commitment to ensuring competitive energy prices and security of supply. This is critical to the UK's security, infrastructure and national economic competitiveness. There are some pragmatic steps to take.

The Government should act quicker to implement cost reductions:

- Bring forward the implementation of the proposed competitive measures immediately rather than having to wait until April 2027. Competitiveness before tax, not vice versa.
- Make the measures valid for considerably more than 4 years, to enable industry investors to have a longer term investment horizon.
- Eliminate the electrical intensity test as a qualifier for these competitiveness measures, and make the schemes available to the entire metals sectors.
- Stop funding competitiveness measures for one segment of industry by passing those same costs to other sectors of industry. All UK industry needs to be internationally competitive if the UK is to have a thriving advanced economy.



We contrast this in the report with the Government's now £100m commitment to artificial intelligence (AI) and the construction of data centres. Since the publication of the report, Ofgem have finally recently confirmed, the 140 data centres planned across the UK will consume 50GW (against current total UK peak demand of 45GW). As we make clear the International Energy Association's projections for data centres energy consumption raise significant concerns for the impact on other consumers. As we've highlighted the demand from data centres in Ireland twice almost led to complete outages in the grid and resulting moratorium on their construction, and in the US, the competition for energy from data centres has led to both Alcoa and Century selling aluminium sites for data centres. So, we require transparent discussions about AI's real energy requirements, pressures on the grid and connectivity for other sectors. These need to be addressed with careful planning and coordination by the National Energy System Operator, Ofgem, and the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero and the DTI. In the next 12 - 18 months, we would like to see government - and indeed cross-party support for - extending the uplift to long term commitments on affordable energy prices for the industry and a secure energy mix. We would also urge government to adopt our suggestions for an oversight body and scenario planning, including over energy.



4. How exposed is the UK to geopolitical disruption in metals supply chains compared with its European and global peers?

The UK government's own data on this speak for themselves. As we highlight in the report, the government's own Critical Materials Intelligence Centre (CMIC) increased the number of critical materials it considers subject to disruption from 26 in 2022 to 82 in 2024 in its criticality assessment. Those materials which gave CMIC cause for concern included aluminium, chromium, germanium, iron, nickel, and zinc, amongst others. The UK is not alone amongst its European neighbours in playing catch-up, though we are some way behind EU initiatives on this front. This is critical for balance of trade, decarbonisation, defence and infrastructure.

5. The report draws heavily on historical precedent – what lessons from past industrial coordination feel most relevant today?

We look to historical examples in this report because history can rhyme with our contemporary experiences whilst having marked distinctions. In this case, in geopolitical and trade terms, we are facing challenges which bear some resemblance to the interwar years of 1919 – 1939, in terms of punitive trade relations and a looming defence threat. So the most salient example we draw upon in this report is that of mechanisms adopted in the last year of the First World War, following the British Empire and her allies major raw materials crisis in 1915, to secure minerals supplies and boost domestic and commonwealth production. This was effective in its strategic aims, in that when war was declared in September 1939, Britain was far better equipped in metals supply and the planning mechanisms and knowledge required than it had been in 1914. Those measures, which also included networks for investing in industrial R&D, relied for their success on the long-term commitment of a partnership of industry, government, as well as universities and institutes, in Britain and the Dominions. Whilst there are clear distinctions between the current context and interwar years, the lessons of that collaborative undertaking with oversight bodies and a significant degree of planning (underpinned by expertise drawn from across the public and private sectors) are valuable.

There are also failures to be listened to if we are not to repeat the mistakes of the past, such as Wilson government's smelter project in 1967 linked to Advanced Gas-cooled Reactors, the next generation of nuclear reactors. Whilst the policy was well-intentioned, seeking to address the UK's negative balance of trade receipts, enhancing domestic metals supply, and cross-subsidising the building of new power generation, government's choosing of a winner in the AGR technology, which they had already been warned by some scientific advisors and the parliamentary science and technology committee as having significant issues, led directly to the closure of the Invergordon aluminium smelter after only a decade in operation because the Hunterston B nuclear power station failed to come on stream in time and then experienced technical difficulties. The glittering promise of new technological winners can blind us to the realistic adoption and to the value of core deliverers.

So, there are important lessons here in the need for oversight, planning and bringing together of expertise from across industry, government and universities and other bodies.

6. What role should industry-led bodies, such as ALFED and the UK Aluminium Alliance, play in shaping future policy?

ALFED and the UK Aluminium Alliance have a vital role to play both in developing, overseeing and promoting a sustainable metals policy for Britain. In The Building Blocks of Britain, we identify the need for coordination and cooperation and planning, as well as educating government and consumers on the importance of metals and the centrality of those to the economy and society. ALFED and the UK Aluminium Alliance have been doing some of this already.



7. How do you assess the impact of CBAM on UK metals competitiveness, particularly for aluminium?

We are not hopeful that CBAM will deliver its objective which is to mitigate the policy costs of carbon in the UK and EU, thus protecting the UK and EU production base and supply chains. There is an increasing body of research on the inadequacies and unnecessary complexity of CBAM. We predict that CBAM will actually catalyse further lack of competitiveness and lead to further carbon leakage, for the following reasons:

- The logic of equalising carbon costs for imports is only valid where the end consumer is choosing their final finished product, and they are incentivised through price to choose a lower carbon content product, creating a pull system for sustainable supply chains. A serving of soft beverage made in the UK, packaged in a can made in the UK, of recycled aluminium, would compete with an alternative serving in glass or PET bottles, each with different recycling rates and carbon contents, and the consumer could choose based on the different carbon costs.
- In practice, all of the above is too difficult to implement, and so both the EU and UK have decided to implement CBAM at the beginning of the supply chain not the end, and in addition key competitor materials to aluminium, for example glass and PET are not included.
- At the same time the implementation is administratively burdensome and places extremely unhelpful demands on buyers of CBAM goods, our aluminium customer base and their customers, quite apart from the carbon costs.
- And the rules will be extremely easy to circumvent. International rivals will selectively prioritise their recycled and low carbon units for the UK and EU markets whilst continuing business as usual for other markets. This will drive up the costs to UK and EU consumers, for no net improvement on a global scale.
- We predict that the end result will be that CBAM will create disincentives to purchase in-scope materials such as aluminium, in favour of either buying an alternative material such as glass or PET, or by circumventing the whole UK and EU production supply chain by buying the final product directly from rest of world imports. For example, it will encourage the downstream end of the supply chain (retailers) to import an out of scope car from China, or a final packaged drink, rather than incur the administrative burden and carbon costs of UK and EU production. We predict it will catalyse further UK and EU de-industrialisation.
- In addition, CBAMs do not respect the strong recyclability credentials of metals, nor that they are enablers of the energy transition. CBAM's effectively punish first time use of in-scope materials, irrespective that they can be recycled infinitely, as we all know 70% of the aluminium that was ever smelted is still in use today. Effectively, we need more aluminium to achieve an energy transition, therefore we need more first production aluminium, but CBAM ensures that this is very unattractive and very costly, or that it is made elsewhere and imported as an out of scope finished good.

The solution is simple but politically difficult: eliminate the uncompetitive taxation of industrial energy and carbon usage, and then there will be no need for CBAM.

8. What would "success" look like for the UK metals sector by 2035 if the right policy framework is put in place?

First of all, the demand for aluminium in 2035 will be far higher than it is now, probably around 30% more than 2025 levels, and arguably more if the UK really does increase defence spending as announced by the Government. So, the question is how much of that wealth creation opportunity will take place in the UK?

Indicators of success would be:

- Current production capacity in the UK would still be viable and profitable.
- Additional new production capacity increases will have been made in the UK.
- As a result, the cluster effects will be beginning to become apparent and the downstream customer base will be benefitting from closer relationships with our industry, innovation will be thriving at all levels in the supply chain, creating further benefits and opportunities for UK society.
- The favourable conditions for investment will have also unleashed an appetite to invest in recycling capacity and technology in the UK, and as a result more scrap will be recycled in the UK for further production in the UK, and there will be reduced exports of scrap to other countries. As a result, UK resource efficiency and carbon footprint will be improved.
- This expanded UK industry will be providing extremely productive jobs, creating a GVA per employee far above the UK national average, helping to create thriving communities in the localities where aluminium production assets are located.
- The UK economy will have regained some strategic autonomy, for the benefit and security of all UK citizens.

9. Are there specific recommendations in the report you believe industry should collectively champion more strongly?

We have had many difficult years. We need to change the discussion from "please stop killing us or how to stay alive?", to "the UK is going to need more aluminium, how do we ensure we have enough, sustainably and reliably sourced in the UK?" Of course, in order to achieve the latter, we need to achieve the former.

The historical precedents demonstrate that despite some cataclysmic events and challenges industry and Government found solutions which enabled investment and supply. After so many years of experiencing our industry wither in the UK, it is important to remember that there were different times previously, and there are going to be different times ahead. We need to be ready to back our industry, fight for competitiveness, fight for the investments needed, and the wealth creation and jobs that would ensue.

10. What is the single message you would most like ALFED members to take away from this paper?

We confront significantly changed times; one of significantly increased geopolitical risk and instability. Our approach – whether government or industry – needs to change. Metals are vital to UK defence, infrastructure and national economic competitiveness; they are the Building Blocks of Britain. Above all aluminium. To maintain our security, we need to be producing it, using it, and recycling it in the UK.

The aluminium industry has demonstrated its strength historically through alliances, through a shared voice. ALFED has been that collective voice. As the recent initiatives such as the forming of the UK Aluminium Alliance and ALFED's recent Element of Choice campaign have demonstrated, that message needs to reach ministers, civil servants, regulators, parliamentarians, and consumers, highlighting that aluminium is vital to Britain's economy, to its national security, and to maintaining vital national infrastructure. Every ALFED member has their part to play in getting that message out there.

ALUMINIUM, HERITAGE AND THE NEXT CENTURY OF BRITISH INDUSTRY

WRITTEN BY NADINE BLOXSOME,
CEO OF ALFED

As the United Kingdom prepares to mark 100 Years of Monarchy, it is also reflecting on a century of national progress shaped not only by political institutions, but by the industries that enabled Britain to build, defend, power and modernise itself.

In 2026, this historic milestone will be commemorated through an official publication, 100 Years of Monarchy and Democracy: The Crown, Parliament and the Commonwealth, produced in partnership with the History of Parliament Trust and launched in Westminster on 9 June 2026. The book will stand as a permanent record of Britain's constitutional, political and industrial evolution over the past century.

The Aluminium Federation (ALFED) is proud to confirm that an article representing the UK aluminium industry will be published within this commemorative volume, made possible through the support of member companies including **Arconic Kitts Green, Amari Metals Ltd and Bridgnorth Aluminium**. This will ensure that the story of aluminium, and the businesses that have shaped its legacy in the UK, is formally recognised as part of Britain's industrial history.

This moment is more than symbolic. It is a rare opportunity for the aluminium sector to take its place in the historical record, not as a footnote, but as a material and an industry that has quietly underpinned Britain's resilience, innovation and global standing for generations.

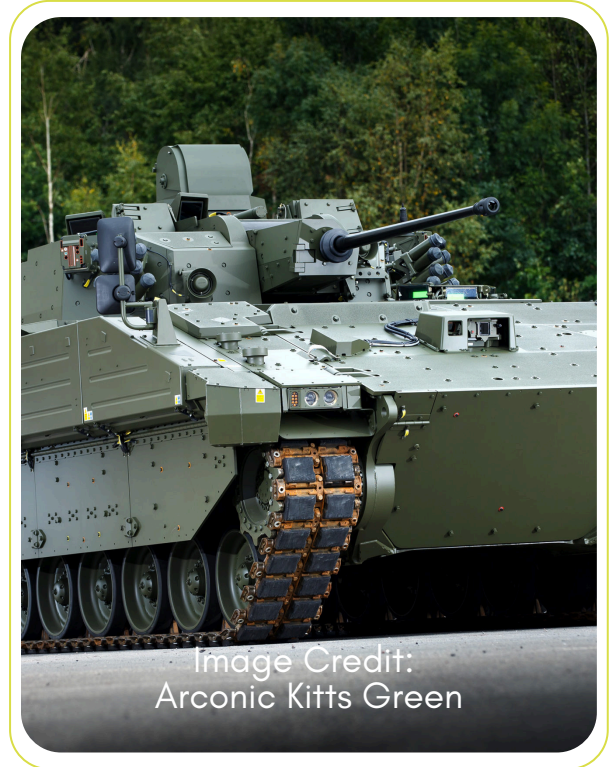


Image Credit:
Arconic Kitts Green

Aluminium's Place in Britain's National Story

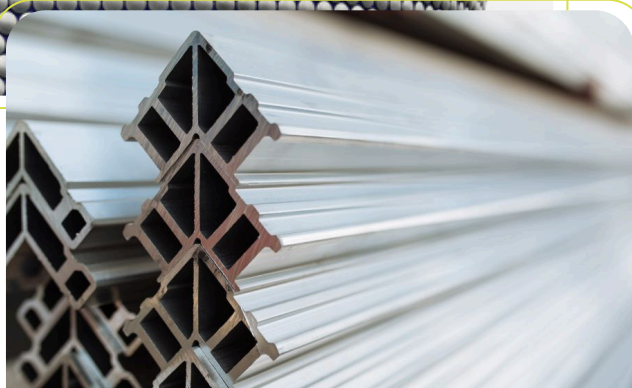
From the aircraft that defended Britain during the Second World War to today's low-carbon transport, renewable energy systems and advanced manufacturing, aluminium has consistently been a material of progress. Lightweight, endlessly recyclable and technically versatile, it has enabled entire industries to evolve while supporting national security, productivity and growth.

Founded in 1962, ALFED emerged during a period of post-war reconstruction and industrial transformation. Its purpose was clear: to bring together producers, processors, recyclers, extruders and distributors under a single voice, ensuring aluminium's strategic importance was understood and protected.

That role has only grown in significance. Today, aluminium is formally recognised by the UK Government as a critical material, essential to infrastructure, defence, energy systems and industrial competitiveness.

Yet its story, and the story of the companies that produce, process and supply it, is not always visible beyond the sector itself.

Participation in the 100 Years of Monarchy publication allows the aluminium industry to correct that imbalance, embedding its contribution within the wider narrative of British history.



Company Heritage: Continuity Through Change

Across the UK, aluminium businesses have demonstrated remarkable continuity through periods of profound change.

At **Arconic Kitts Green in Birmingham**, aluminium plate production has continued since 1938, when the site was purpose-built to support the Spitfire programme. Today, it remains the UK's last aluminium plate mill, supplying high-performance materials for defence, aerospace and space applications. The site stands as a testament to how strategic manufacturing capability, once established, can evolve and endure across generations.

In Shropshire, **Bridgnorth Aluminium** represents more than 80 years of continuous aluminium production. As the UK's only aluminium coil rolling mill, the site integrates casting, rolling and finishing in one location, supporting hundreds of skilled jobs and supplying critical sectors including automotive, packaging and building systems. Its longevity reflects sustained investment, adaptability and deep technical expertise.

Meanwhile, companies such as **Amari Metals Ltd** play a vital role in ensuring aluminium reaches thousands of manufacturers nationwide. Through stockholding and distribution, they provide the link between primary and secondary producers and the wider manufacturing economy, enabling flexibility, responsiveness and innovation across the supply chain.

Together, these businesses illustrate that the story of aluminium in the UK is not defined by a single process or product, but by an interconnected ecosystem of skills, sites and people.



Image Credit:
Arconic Kitts Green

Recording the Past, Strengthening the Future

The inclusion of aluminium within the 100 Years of Monarchy and Democracy publication ensures that the sector's contribution is formally recorded as part of Britain's national story. But heritage is not about nostalgia alone. It provides context for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

As the UK looks to strengthen domestic manufacturing, secure critical material supply chains and improve industrial resilience, aluminium will continue to play a central role. Its recyclability, versatility and embedded value make it uniquely positioned to support the next phase of British industry.

Through initiatives such as the UK Aluminium Alliance and Back British Metals, ALFED continues to work with members, policymakers and stakeholders to ensure that aluminium's future in Britain is as strong as its past, grounded in domestic capability, skilled employment and long-term investment.

As this centenary moment reminds us, industries that endure do so because they adapt, innovate and retain their relevance. For over a century, aluminium has done exactly that.

The task now is to ensure that its next hundred years are built with the same foresight, commitment and pride that defined the last.

Image Credit: Bridgnorth Aluminium



Image Credit: Bridgnorth Aluminium

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

HYDRO ALUMINIUM UK LTD

Hydro is a leading aluminium and renewable energy company that builds businesses and partnerships for a more sustainable future. We have 32,000 employees in more than 140 locations and 40 countries.

Since 1905, Hydro has turned natural resources into valuable products for people and businesses, creating a safe and secure workplace for our employees.

Today, we own and operate various businesses and have investments with a base in sustainable industries. Hydro is through its businesses present in a broad range of market segments for aluminium, energy, metal recycling, renewables and batteries, offering a unique wealth of knowledge and competence.

<https://www.hydro.com>



DATECH SCIENTIFIC LTD



Datech Scientific Ltd are a trusted Laboratory Partner since 1989 for premium sample preparation equipment and laboratory automation solutions. Their mission is to leverage their deep industry knowledge and experience to deliver precisely the right laboratory services, goods and solutions for their customers. Whether you require servicing of your existing laboratory equipment or provision of spare parts, consumable supplies, benchtop & standalone sample preparation equipment or fully integrated and automated laboratory systems, Datech Scientific Ltd is here to provide the perfect fit for your specific analytical needs.

<https://www.datech-scientific.co.uk>

TRADMET LTD

Tradmet Limited is a physical trading and brokerage business specialising in non-ferrous metal since 1997. Operating in the primary, recyclables and secondary sectors, the company trades in multiples of container loads and break-bulk quantities.

Craig Walsh at Tradmet commented on joining the ALFED membership: "At Tradmet, we believe that joining ALFED will enhance our business by helping us stay informed on new legislation and up to date with developments in the metal recycling industry, while also strengthening our buying and selling capabilities".

<https://tradmet.co.uk/> 

MULTIPANEL UK LTD



Established in 2004, Multipanel UK brought aluminium composite panel (ACP) manufacturing home to Britain in 2014. Our factory on the South Coast of England uses the most advanced manufacturing and logistics technology in the industry. With an initial capacity to produce 6,500,000 m² per year of the highest quality rigid composite sheet materials, continued investment including a second production line has increased our annual capacity to 10,000,000m².

Using the power of our UK Production line, we pride ourselves on the precision, rigidity and flatness of every panel we stock. Using the finest raw materials carefully sourced from Europe, we match (and often exceed) the quality on offer from any manufacturer. Our British engineering approach allows us to consistently achieve the best price vs quality ratio in the market.

<https://www.multipaneluk.co.uk>

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Our wide product range covers a whole host of safety products designed with customer safety in mind, and we are a trusted life critical safety products supplier to a wide range of industries including Construction, Power Stations, Oil and Gas, alongside a whole host of other industries. Whether you are part of a large multinational corporation or an independent electrician, we take a no-nonsense approach to business and aim to make ordering as easy as possible.

<https://www.reecesafety.co.uk>

DORE METAL SERVICES LTD



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<https://www.doremals.co.uk>



WOMEN WITH METAL 2026 CONFERENCE



17th September 2026

Eastside Rooms

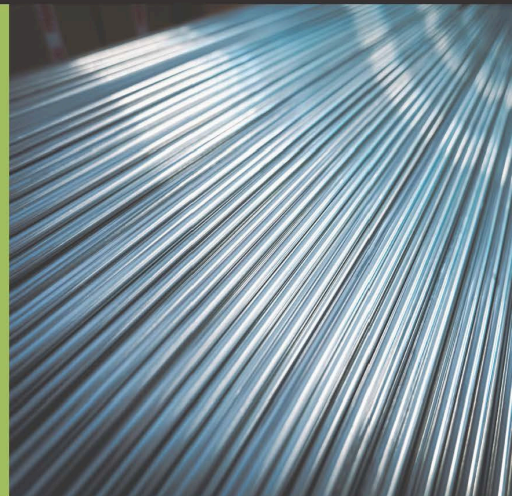


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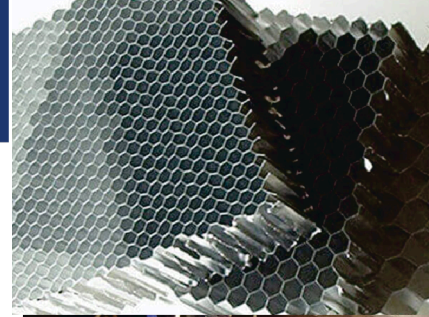




The Service Metals Group

Industry Leading
Aluminium Stockholders

The trusted leader in standard and bespoke aluminium products, delivering speed, reliability, and reach across Great Britain through our own nationwide transport fleet.



5th
ANNIVERSARY
1976 - 2026

2026 will be a milestone year as The Service Metals Group celebrates 50 successful years supporting the road transport industry.

National
Branches

Scotland

Gateshead

Leeds (Head Office)

Leeds (Truck Roofs)

Oldham

Midlands

Midlands

(Paint & Fabrication)

East Anglia

Newbury

Key Services

Bespoke aluminium extrusions
GRP Panels
Road transport extrusions
Engineering
UPM Flooring
Fabrication
Captive Systems
Body Kits
Automated paint line (15mtr)
Truck Roofs
Roller Shutters
Laser Cutting
Guillotining
Polycoating
Honeycomb Products
Sheet
Plate
5 Bar Treadplate
Triplegrip
Bamboo Flooring
Type Approved Side Guard System
Aluminium Roof Coil

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE METALS: A LEGACY OF INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE



1976 will long be remembered for its record-breaking summer, with temperatures soaring above 35°C. But it was also a landmark year for three visionary gentlemen from Morley, a small town just outside Leeds. John Winn, Graham Wilson, and Jim Chrimes founded Gablesea Ltd, trading as Service Metals, laying the foundation for what would become one of Europe's leading independent aluminium stockholders.

Fast forward 50 years, and the Service Metals Group now proudly operates 9 strategically located depots across the UK, employing over 300 members of staff, many of whom have been with the company over three decades. While we've sadly lost Graham and Jim in recent years, Group Chairman John Winn remains actively involved, bringing his wisdom, experience, and unmistakable personality to the business when required.

Widely acknowledged as market leaders in the Road Transport industry, Service Metals are renowned for our commitment to quality, innovation, and customer service. Our branches hold vast quantities of both standard and bespoke aluminium extrusions, Type approved Side guard kits, Aluminium rolled products, Aluminium Roofing Coil, GRP panels, Wisa Plywood Flooring, Walking Floor Trailer components together with a wide range of ancillary items supplied directly into the commercial vehicle body sector.



Within The Service Metals Group, is our sister company Gablesea Glassfibre (Truck Roofs). As the name suggests, Truck Roofs manufacture bespoke Flat & Bowed Roofs to order, with various options of material construction, Aluminium skin, Fibreglass skin, coloured, translucent all to customer individual specifications.

In line with our ethos of continuous improvement, many of our branches now feature thriving engineering departments offering full bespoke CAD extrusion design, in-house 3D printing, and production batch capabilities. Our facilities also include laser cutting, folding, welding, and general sheet metal fabrication, all available within the group.

As we enter our next chapter, leadership passes to Andrew Winn, John's son, who recently became Group Managing Director. Andrew is spearheading major investments that will once again elevate Service Metals to new heights. This includes the commissioning of a state-of-the-art powder coating plant, Qualicoat approved pre treatment, capable of processing 15-metre long lengths of extrusion – a first in the UK – plus the development of a fully bespoke "Kit Bodies" manufacturing facility, giving our customers the option to purchase complete Dropside, Tipper, Curtainsider, Box Van or Flat Bed kits in a "One stop shop" Format, incorporating our Aluminium Roller Shutter division, who manufacture both Vehicle and commercial shutters, setting new industry benchmarks.



"Reaching our 50th year in business is a testament to the dedication of our team, the loyalty of our customers, and the strength of our supplier partnerships," said Andrew Winn, Group MD.

"We're incredibly proud of our journey and excited about the future as we continue to invest in our people, our products, and new technologies to meet the ever-evolving needs of the Road transport/Aluminium stockholding industries."

BOAL
EXTRUSION

We shape
ALUMINIUM

you shape the future!

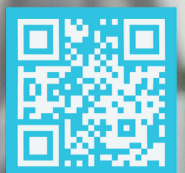
Your aluminium, responsibly sourced locally, made in Britain and supported by trusted regional partners-keeping your production moving without disruption.

From precision extrusion to advanced finishing, we deliver consistent quality and dependable lead times, so you can deliver on your commitments.

Let's shape what's next, together.

FAST.RELIABLE.TRUSTED.

Since 1990



ALUMINIUM IN THE UK: BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH COLLABORATION

Aluminium has long been valued for what it allows engineers to do: build lighter, stronger and more efficient structures, with a material that is durable and endlessly recyclable. From construction and transport to infrastructure and energy, it remains central to modern manufacturing.

Yet the context around aluminium in the UK is transforming. Pressure on costs, evolving sustainability requirements and uncertainty around domestic capacity are shaping new expectations – not only of materials, but of supply chains and partnerships.

For many manufacturers, the question is no longer simply how to specify the right profile. It is how to secure continuity, quality and responsible production in a market that is shifting.

Reliability is becoming the differentiator

Technical performance will always matter. Tolerances, strength, finish quality and machinability are fundamental. But in practice, what increasingly differentiates suppliers is reliability: consistent output, predictable lead times and the ability to support engineering teams when requirements change.

At BOAL Extrusion UK, we recognise this shift because we see it in daily conversations. For more than 35 years, we have supported aluminium profile design and manufactured bespoke aluminium profiles in Britain, supporting customers across construction, transport, renewables and industrial applications.

What customers value most is often not a single feature, but the confidence that comes from a process that is stable and transparent. That means early technical involvement, clear documentation, secure handling of intellectual property, controlled die management and open communication from design through to delivery.

“Customers are no longer looking for a transactional supplier. They are seeking a partner who understands their pressures – from lead times and compliance to carbon reporting and cost competitiveness”, says Alan Lucas – Commercial Director, BOAL Extrusion UK

These are not headline-grabbing topics. But they are the details that protect schedules, reduce risk and keep projects moving.

Sustainability, put into practice

Sustainability is frequently discussed in broad terms, but the practical reality is straightforward: carbon reduction in aluminium is largely driven by smarter sourcing and better use of material.

Recycled aluminium requires significantly less energy than primary production. Retaining scrap within the UK and investing in additional recycling capability would strengthen domestic resilience. Increased availability of secondary aluminium would support the reduction of embedded carbon in extrusion. This is not only an environmental question, but a strategic one.

At BOAL, we have focused on making lower-carbon options more accessible through initiatives such as our BLUE programme, sourcing billets with higher recycled content and/or a lower carbon footprint. But product choice is only part of the story. Meaningful progress also comes from collaboration: optimising profile design, reducing machining waste and planning circular return streams where possible.

Sustainability is most effective when it is treated as an engineering discipline, not marketing language.



“Reducing environmental impact is not achieved in isolation. It is achieved when designers, extruders, fabricators and end-users align around smarter use of material”, explains Emma Swann – Managing Director at BOAL Extrusion UK.

Capability depends on people

Long-term resilience in the aluminium sector depends not only on equipment and capacity, but on skills, shared standards and a willingness to learn from one another. This is where organisations such as ALFED continue to play a valuable role.

BOAL is proud to support the ALFED Awards this year as Sapphire Sponsor – By recognising excellence, celebrating innovation and supporting new talent entering the industry, the ALFED Awards help reinforce the capability that the sector will rely on in the years ahead.

Emma Swann: “Our commitment also extends to enabling a lower-carbon Annual Dinner in 2026, reflecting not a one-off initiative but the way we operate, lead and engage within the aluminium community.”

Supporting the industry means supporting the conditions in which it can thrive: responsible practice, technical credibility and investment in people.

A sector built on shared responsibility

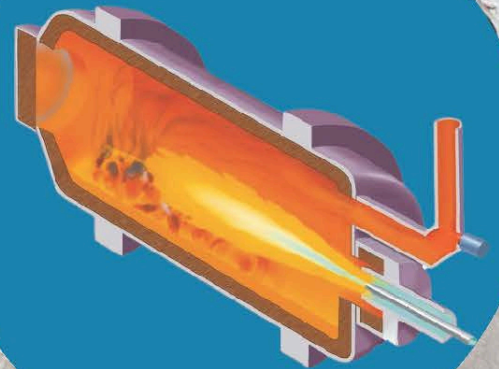
The future of aluminium in the UK will not be shaped by a single organisation or a single breakthrough. It will be shaped by the choices made across the value chain – from design and sourcing to manufacturing and end use.

The opportunity is clear. Aluminium can help meet the demands of modern industry, not only through performance, but through circularity and long-term efficiency. The challenge is ensuring the sector remains resilient enough to deliver that value consistently.




Progress will come from practical steps, taken together: better design, stronger partnerships, smarter material flows and a continued focus on developing talent.



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Learn More

INNOVAL TECHNOLOGY: SPECIALIST SUPPORT FOR ALFED AND ITS MEMBERS

Innoval Technology is a leading aluminium consultancy committed to helping organisations across the sector improve performance, innovate sustainably, and strengthen competitiveness. The company, now part of Danieli Group, operates from a new state-of-the-art facility on the Advanced Manufacturing Park in South Yorkshire that builds on decades of real-world experience across the global aluminium industry and a proud heritage dating back to the world-renowned Alcan Banbury Labs. Innoval brings an unmatched depth of technical expertise and are the people to speak to about anything related to aluminium.

Driving Process & Product Excellence

Innoval works closely with manufacturers, processors, and end-users to optimise production, solve technical challenges, and enhance product quality. Their consultants bring world-class knowledge in rolling, extrusion, and finishing operations—helping organisations reduce waste, increase throughput, and accelerate product development. Whether supporting new equipment commissioning or refining existing processes, Innoval delivers measurable improvements across the full value chain.

Their experience spans automotive, aerospace, building, packaging, and industrial applications, ensuring solutions are informed by best practice across global markets.

Advanced Materials & Testing Expertise

Innoval provides impartial materials characterisation and laboratory testing, helping companies diagnose issues, validate performance, and refine alloy solutions. Their specialists offer support in metallurgy, surface chemistry, simulation, and failure analysis—making them a valuable partner for ALFED members seeking to improve reliability, efficiency, and technical assurance.

Innovation, R&D, and Technology Development

With a strong track record in developing industry-significant aluminium technologies, Innoval supports organisations in exploring new alloys, optimising forming processes, and advancing lightweighting initiatives. They offer collaborative research, feasibility studies, and technical road-mapping that help reduce risk and accelerate time-to-market for new products and processes.

Supporting Sustainability, LCA & Environmental Reporting

Environmental responsibility is a growing priority for the aluminium sector, and Innoval is helping ALFED members stay ahead. Their expertise in life cycle assessment (LCA), environmental product declarations (EPD), and sustainability best practice enables organisations to understand carbon impacts, meet regulatory requirements, and demonstrate environmental leadership. Innoval recently delivered a specialised LCA and EPD workshop at ALFED's headquarters, supporting members with practical guidance, data quality insights, and interpretation frameworks.

Strategic Advisory & Best Practice Guidance

Beyond technical solutions, Innoval provides valuable strategic support—helping companies make informed investment decisions, evaluate process upgrades, and implement industry best practices. Their impartial advice draws on decades of real-world experience, ensuring organisations pursue the right technologies and operating strategies for long-term success.

Training & Knowledge Development

Knowledge transfer is at the heart of Innoval's mission. They provide tailored training and development programmes covering aluminium metallurgy, surface engineering, product applications and process excellence including their internationally acclaimed aluminium rolling technology course (ARTC). Innoval has also delivered bespoke courses for many leading manufacturers and users of aluminium around the world and continues to support skills development across the sector. Preferential rates on Innoval's public training courses are available to ALFED members.

A Trusted Partner for ALFED

Innoval Technology offers ALFED members a comprehensive blend of technical depth, strategic insight, and practical experience. Whether enhancing processes, strengthening sustainability performance, or developing future talent, Innoval delivers the support needed to help UK aluminium companies innovate, compete, and grow.

INNOVAL

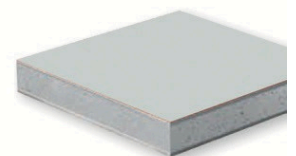


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ALFED MEMBERS' DAY

Date: 30th April 2026

Venue: Bragborough Hall Business Centre, NN11 7JG

ALFED Members' Day is a new annual event launching in 2026, created to bring the UK aluminium community together in a more informal, accessible and collaborative setting. Hosted at ALFED HQ in Northamptonshire, the day has been designed in direct response to member feedback and focuses on meaningful conversation, practical insight and relationship-building rather than formal presentations or sales-led content. Members are welcome to attend for the full day or drop in around other commitments, making it easy to engage in a way that suits individual schedules.

Headline Sponsor



Exhibitor Sponsors



Scan the QR code to register:



HOUSE OF LORDS LUNCH

Date: 2nd June 2026

Venue: House of Lords, Westminster, London, UK

Theme: Delivering Domestic Demand, Trade Resilience & Industrial Capability
Event Sponsor: Lord Horam

The House of Lords Lunch forms part of ALFED's ongoing work through the UK Aluminium Alliance, which is focused on strengthening UK aluminium demand, improving scrap retention and utilisation, and building greater resilience across domestic and international trade relationships to support a secure, circular supply chain.

We are pleased to confirm that the Minister for Industry, Chris McDonald MP, Minister for Industry, will join us to open the event and meet directly with the aluminium sector. His attendance provides a timely opportunity for members to engage with Government at a senior level and to feed directly into discussions around industrial strategy, trade resilience and domestic capability.

Scan the QR code to register:



BUSINESS BRIEFING & ANNUAL DINNER

Date: 24th September 2026

Venue: Crowne Plaza, Stratford-Upon-Avon

Mark your calendars for an unforgettable evening of elegance, camaraderie, and celebration at the beautiful Crowne Plaza Hotel in Stratford-Upon-Avon. The Annual ALFED Business Briefing is the must-attend event for industry professionals looking to gain valuable insights, connect with peers, and stay ahead in the rapidly evolving aluminium sector.

The exclusive black-tie evening event is more than just a dinner; it's one of the premier networking and social occasions in the aluminium industry calendar. Join fellow leaders, innovators, and visionaries from across the sector for an evening of fine dining, inspiring conversation, and celebration of the achievements that continue to shape the aluminium industry.

Scan the QR code to register:



UK METALS EXPO 2026

Date: 4th - 5th November 2026

Venue: Hall 4- NEC, Birmingham

Run in conjunction with the Advanced Engineering Show.

UK Metals Expo 2026 is the UK's leading trade event for the metals industry, bringing together producers, fabricators, engineers, manufacturers, buyers, and suppliers under one roof. Discover the latest technologies, attend expert-led seminars, and network with key industry professionals.

ALFED Members: Enjoy a 20% discount on your exhibition stand - remember to mention your membership when booking.

Scan the QR code to get a free visitor pass:



WORLD ALUMINIUM SUMMIT



Date: 12th - 14th May 2026

Join the conversations that matter at this strategic annual meeting for the global aluminium value chain. The 31st CRU World Aluminium Summit returns to London from 12-14 May 2026, co-hosted by the International Aluminium Institute (IAI) and the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI).

ALFED is proud to be an association partner of this landmark aluminium industry event, supporting the conversations that will shape the future of aluminium worldwide.

ALFED members are eligible for a 10% discount off the registration fee. To secure your place, please use the following link and use the code ALFED10 at the checkout

Book Now: www.alfed.org.uk/event/cru-world-aluminium-summit/

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Michael Horan, CEO of Sherwood Stainless Steel & Aluminium

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'A RECOGNITION OF POTENTIAL' – YONGZHI LUO, 2025 ALFED RISING STAR APPRENTICE AWARD WINNER

Named the 2025 ALFED Rising Star Apprentice Award winner, Yongzhi Luo of Primetals Technologies represents a growing generation of young talent emerging in the UK aluminium sector. Shaped by practical experience, commercial awareness, and end-to-end accountability, his journey from the manufacturing shop floor to front-end sales engineering highlights the distinctive value of degree-level apprenticeships in modern engineering careers.

In this spotlight Q&A, Yongzhi reflects on what the award means to him, how his apprenticeship has shaped his professional outlook, the work he is most proud of, and why curiosity, communication, and accountability matter as much as technical skill.

Congratulations on winning the 2025 ALFED Rising Star Apprentice Award. What does this recognition mean to you personally, and how has your apprenticeship journey shaped your career so far?

I'm incredibly grateful to be recognised by ALFED, the UK's leading body for our industry. Being celebrated at the annual awards dinner is a special career milestone and a memory I'll carry for a long time. While I'm proud of what the "Rising Star Apprentice Award" represents, it's a recognition of potential". My journey in the aluminium industry is still just beginning, and there's a lot more to learn and contribute.

My apprenticeship journey from HNC to BEng through Bournemouth & Poole College, Bournemouth University, and my employer Primetals Technologies was intentionally designed to give me broad exposure across the business. That rotation-style framework took me from hands-on manufacturing to the front end of projects with customers. It gave me a complete view of how ideas become deliverable solutions, and what each discipline / department values at every stage.

In my current role as an Assistant Sales Engineer, that understanding and perspective really matters. Strong pre-project technical understanding and selling an executable solution influence the complexity of engineering during delivery. Those design choices made during engineering ripple into manufacturing, quality, and supply chain, creating risks of delay or non-conformance that ultimately affect the customer experience and project profitability. Margin helps, but how a project flows through the organisation from conception to delivery matters most. The margin is only realised if the project is executed according to plan.

That's the difference an apprenticeship can offer versus a traditional full-time degree: practical, end-to-end understanding and accountability that shape better decisions.

Can you tell us a bit about your role as an Assistant Sales Engineer at Primetals Technologies and what a typical day looks like for you?

As an Assistant Sales Engineer at Primetals Technologies, I'm the first point of contact for enquiries. Whether that's new equipment, modernisations, or requests for information about our products / technologies. I work with customers to clarify requirements, bottlenecks, and constraints, then recommend and configure the right solution. From our Christchurch location, two of the most in-demand products are the Air Bearing Shapemeter and the ISV Spraybar, which measure and control the flatness of rolled aluminium strip.

From there, I run feasibility and risk assessments: technical (standard vs. bespoke design), commercial (export/trade restrictions, credit risk), the likely win drivers (price, technology, references, relationships), and any mitigation or contingency we'll need.

If it's a safe bid, we move into detailed scope definition, agreeing the technical scope of supply and design details. That's where the 'engineering' in sales engineering really comes in: proposal drawings, installation concepts, calculations, and a fully executable solution.



The quotation package I prepare sets out a clear scope of supply, a feasible technical solution, and transparent commercial terms and conditions. Once an enquiry becomes a project, I lead a precise internal handover, translating the sold scope and T&C into actionable deliverables across engineering, project management, procurement, production, and finance. So, what we promised is exactly what we build and deliver.

What initially attracted you to an apprenticeship in engineering, and what sets apprenticeships apart from traditional routes?

My interest in engineering grew gradually through my stepfather's career, who began as a mechanical design engineer and worked at BAE Systems designing tooling, jigs and fixtures for aerospace components. His career combined with a general curiosity about how things work and how large projects are designed and built, put engineering on my path from a young age.

At sixth form, I felt a lot of pressure to follow the UCAS route by default. Apprenticeships were barely signposted, and in some cases even discouraged. I visited universities and submitted my first and second-choice applications, but the idea of studying for four more years with limited industry experience didn't feel right for me.

Once I discovered degree-level apprenticeships, the choice was clear. I could earn while I learn, gain real project experience, and build professional skills alongside formal qualifications. That combination has made all the difference for me.

What sets an apprenticeship apart is the end-to-end understanding you build. How a concept becomes an executable solution and then a delivered product. You're learning from mentors and experts, applying theory on real projects, and developing the soft skills that matter in industry.

Are there any projects or achievements during your apprenticeship that you're particularly proud of?

One project I'm particularly proud of is my BEng project: "Adapting an eddy-current flatness measurement device for high-temperature aluminium rolling mill applications". In short, I explored how we could evolve our existing C-Shape flatness sensor for use where strip temperatures are significantly elevated.

The challenge was in two parts: understanding how heat affects the product's internal electronics and signal stability, and how temperature and thermal gradients influence the mechanical construction and long-term reliability. I led computational fluid dynamics (CFD) and thermal modelling, and carried out a theoretical feasibility study on materials, thermal management, and enclosure design options.

The work didn't end at graduation, it's now progressed into an R&D project in FY25, which is a great validation that the concept has commercial merit. I'm proud because it bridges academic knowledge with real customer needs.

Finally, what advice would you give to students or early-career professionals considering an apprenticeship or a career in engineering?

For someone who is considering an apprenticeship or a career in engineering, I would start by shadowing an industry professional, tour a factory, or experience and observe a project meeting. Seeing how ideas become executable solutions and then delivered products.

Then focus on being curious, develop communication skills, and understand accountability. Curiosity keeps you learning, communication turns good ideas into aligned actions, and accountability means you own outcomes, not just tasks.

Choose people as much as apprenticeship programmes. Mentors and teams that invest in your growth make a huge difference.

Conclusion

Yongzhi Luo's journey illustrates the impact that well-structured apprenticeships can have, not only in developing technical capability, but in shaping engineers who understand accountability, risk, and the realities of delivering complex industrial projects. As the aluminium industry navigates decarbonisation, digitalisation, and circularity, his perspective highlights how curiosity, practical experience, and end-to-end understanding can turn potential into lasting professional impact.



PRIMETALS
TECHNOLOGIES

£600,000 LINE ACCELERATES BRIDGNORTH ALUMINIUM'S EXPANSION INTO NEW MARKETS

New opportunities in underfloor heating and cooling applications for the automotive sector and data centres has kickstarted the latest capital equipment investment from Bridgnorth Aluminium (BAL).

The company, which is one of the town's largest employers, is installing a refurbished £600,000 Schmutz line at its expansive Stourbridge Road facility, giving it an in-house capability for finishing thinner gauge materials.

Installed and upgraded by experienced engineers, the equipment will provide slitting and winding for thin gauge aluminium reels destined for customers in Wales, the EU and the US.

Commissioning should be complete by March and comes just a few months after the business returned to 24/7 operations in key process areas and builds on new molten metal filtration equipment that reduces impurities in the casting process.

The recent capital equipment investments position Bridgnorth Aluminium as a world leader in flat rolled aluminium coils for lithography, packaging, cooling and heating applications, electrification and data applications.

Adrian Musgrave, Commercial Director at BAL, commented: *"It has been a really positive start to 2026, with export orders up, new domestic clients secured and some major advancements in capabilities well on the way to being completed."*

"This is all being achieved against a backdrop of global uncertainty and is real testimony to the long-term strategy the management team has put in place and the way our 330-strong workforce responded to a difficult time for our business in 2023."

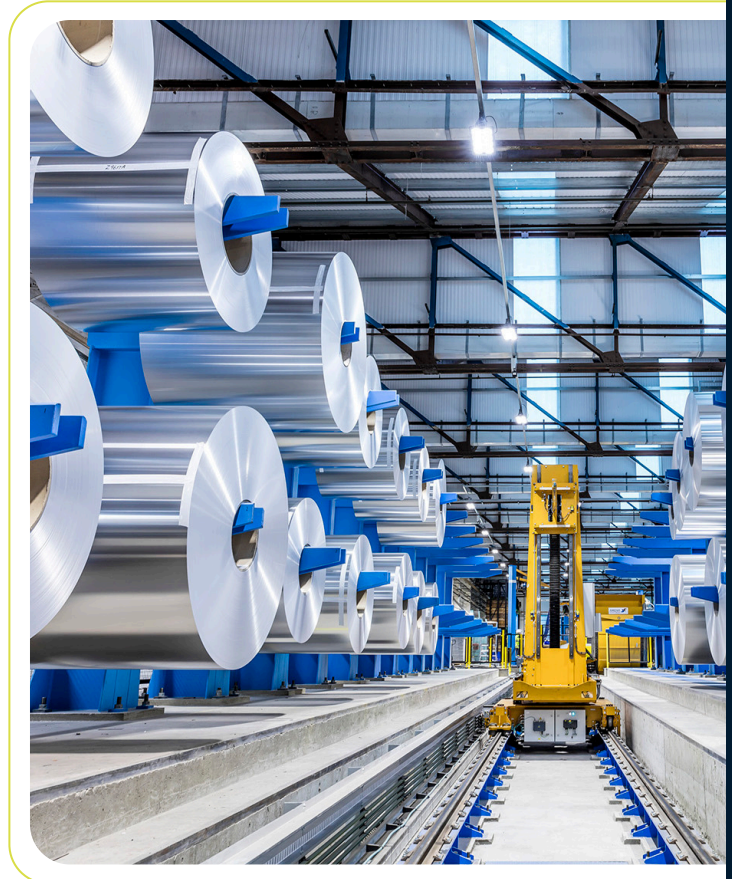
He continued: *"Every penny we spend futureproofs our factory in Shropshire and reinforces our commitment to remaining the UK's last remaining producer of flat rolled aluminium coils."*

"The Schmutz line has also sparked a mini recruitment drive, with a 10% increase in our finishing team that work flexibility across several of our lines."

People are vital to the future expansion of Bridgnorth Aluminium, with the company launching a focus group initiative to boost employee engagement and retention.

Made up of different ages, roles and responsibilities, the group meet regularly to feedback on issues, improvement suggestions, sustainability and how the firm supports local organisations.

This has already proved crucial in BAL signing up to the Shropshire Investors in Community scheme run by Shropshire Community Foundation, which will give it access to charities and grassroots organisations across the county.



Adrian went on to add: *"We are immensely proud of our heritage, having been a part of the local landscape since the 1950s."*

"Generations of local people have been part of our past story, and we want to explore ways where the next generation can write their own chapter in our success, ensuring the local economy benefits at the same time."

Bridgnorth Aluminium continues to lobby government and key stakeholders on the importance of aluminium as one of the UK's critical minerals and an essential ingredient in the nationwide move to Net Zero.

For further information, please visit www.bridgnorthaluminium.co.uk or follow the company across its social media channels.

SECTOR GROUPS & COMMITTEES: THE OPERATIONAL CORE OF ALFED

When members ask what truly sits at the heart of ALFED, the answer is simple: our Sector Groups and Committees. They are where the real work happens.

Behind every policy submission, every Board position, and every engagement with Government, there is structured industry coordination taking place across these groups. They are not informal networking forums or occasional discussion platforms. They are governance-linked, industry-led bodies that form the operational engine room of the Federation, and one of the most valuable elements of ALFED membership.

For many members, day-to-day business understandably comes first. But it is through these groups that individual company challenges are translated into credible, national representation. They provide the structure that turns operational insight into policy influence.

From Conversation to Credible Representation

One of the most important, and often underestimated, functions of ALFED's Sector Groups is their role in building the evidential foundation of the UK aluminium industry.

Through structured engagement, members contribute anonymised insight into production volumes, capacity trends, cost pressures, regulatory impact and trade exposure. Aggregated responsibly and in strict compliance with competition law, this intelligence enables ALFED to present an industry-wide view to policymakers.

Without robust sector-level data, it is impossible to:

- Quantify the scale of UK aluminium processing
- Demonstrate the impact of trade and carbon measures
- Illustrate energy and compliance pressures
- Highlight investment and competitiveness risks

When ALFED engages with Government, it does so with authority, because it is backed by evidence from across the value chain.

Sector Groups make that credibility possible.

Evidence Builds Influence

Sector Groups underpin ALFED's ability to:

- Shape national trade policy
- Influence carbon and CBAM design
- Represent energy cost pressures
- Defend UK competitiveness

Representation is strongest when it is backed by data.

How Sector Groups Operate

ALFED currently focuses on four core processing segments:

- Finishing
- Distribution
- Recycling
- Extrusion

These sectors represent key nodes of UK aluminium capability and areas of high regulatory and trade exposure.

Each Sector Group is led by an elected Sector Head from a member company. That individual sits on the ALFED Board as a Non-Executive Director, formally representing the interests of their segment within Federation governance.

Groups meet quarterly through a combination of:

- In-person sessions hosted at member facilities
- Online strategic meetings
- Technical and regulatory briefings

Outputs are structured and documented. Where required, recommendations are escalated to the Trade Committee or Board. This ensures operational realities directly inform national positioning.

For members operating within these segments, participation provides:

- Direct input into ALFED policy formation
- Early visibility of regulatory and trade developments
- Peer-level discussion with organisations facing similar challenges
- Representation at Board level

Beyond Sector Boundaries

Trade & Regulatory Committees

Not every member aligns neatly to a single processing segment. Some operate across multiple stages of the value chain; others are service providers or internationally exposed businesses.

ALFED's layered engagement model ensures there is a pathway for them as well.

The Trade Committee

Meeting at least bi-monthly, the Trade Committee provides a high-level forum focused on:

- Trade policy
- Tariffs and trade defence
- Market access
- Regulatory legislation

It monitors UK, EU and global developments, coordinates consultation responses and drafts recommendations for Board consideration. Where policy shifts require urgent coordination, additional meetings are convened to ensure timely and evidence-based representation. Participation is open to direct ALFED members and is free of charge.

The CBAM Sub-Committee

Operating under the Trade Committee, the CBAM Sub-Committee provides focused technical engagement on Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism policy and emissions compliance frameworks.

ALFED chairs and coordinates this group, feeding structured industry evidence directly into HM Treasury, HMRC and the Department for Business and Trade. For members navigating carbon reporting and compliance exposure, this provides a highly technical and Government-connected platform.

Why This Structure Matters

Sector Groups and Committees are not optional extras. They are foundational to ALFED's ability to act as the Voice of the UK Aluminium Industry.

They ensure:

- Policy is grounded in operational reality
- Industry data is credible and representative
- Board discussions reflect sector-specific challenges
- Government engagement is evidence-based

When members participate, ALFED is stronger, and so is the industry's influence.

An Invitation to Engage

If you are already involved in a Sector Group or Committee, then your contribution strengthens the Federation more than you may realise. If you are not currently participating, this is an opportunity to explore where you might fit. Whether your priorities lie in sector collaboration, trade competitiveness, carbon compliance or broader policy engagement, there is a structured route for you to contribute.

To discuss joining a Sector Group or Committee, please contact the ALFED team at alfed@alfed.org.uk.

MILESTONE CIRCULARITY: NOVELIS LATCHFORD COMMISSIONS NEW BAG HOUSES ON PATH TO 100% CAN RECYCLING

Novelis's plant in Latchford has reached an important milestone in its multi-year expansion programme with the successful commissioning of new bag houses - an essential upgrade that strengthens the site's environmental performance and prepares it for a significant increase in aluminium recycling capacity. The development marks another major step toward doubling the facility's ability to recycle used beverage cans (UBCs) and supporting the UK's forthcoming Deposit Return Scheme (DRS).

The \$90 million investment is transforming Latchford into a state-of-the-art recycling hub equipped for the next generation of recycled aluminium production. Once the expansion is completed next year, the enhanced site will have sufficient capacity to recycle 100% of the aluminium beverage cans collected through the future UK DRS. This will ensure that material collected in the UK is recycled domestically, contributing directly to a closed-loop, circular aluminium economy and reducing the reliance on imports.

The commissioning of the new bag houses is a key part of a wider series of upgrades designed to modernise the site's operational infrastructure. The improvements include a new dress house and advanced technologies for shredding, sorting, de-coating, and melting a broader range of aluminium scrap streams. These technologies will increase processing efficiency, improve material recovery rates, and enable Novelis to supply customers with aluminium containing even higher levels of recycled content.

Across Novelis Europe, the combined effect of these technological upgrades and higher-volume recycling operations is projected to reduce carbon emissions by more than 350,000 tonnes of CO₂e per year. These reductions align with Novelis' broader sustainability strategy and support progress toward the company's 3x30 vision, which focuses on decreasing carbon intensity and increasing recycled content.

"Commissioning the new bag houses is not just a technological milestone; it's a transformative step that strengthens the UK's recycling infrastructure and accelerates our path toward circularity," said Allan Sweeny, Plant Manager at Latchford.

This investment also supports wider industry objectives to retain valuable aluminium scrap within the UK and reduce dependence on imported material. Increasing domestic recycling capabilities and demand for scrap, aims to decrease the need to export aluminium scrap and support a more consistent supply for aluminium producers.

With the commissioning of the new bag houses and Novelis deploying the UK's first industrial scale hydrogen fuel switching trial in aluminium last year, Latchford is working to provide a blueprint for how the UK can lead in aluminium circularity, low-carbon innovation and technological readiness.



Novelis

ALUMINIUM ALLIES VISIT THE LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

UNDERSTANDING GLOBAL ALUMINIUM PRICE DISCOVERY AND MARKET DYNAMICS

ALFED's Aluminium Allies programme kickstarted 2026 with an exclusive visit to the London Metal Exchange (LME), giving members rare behind-the-scenes access to the global centre of industrial metals trading.

Accompanied by Nadine Bloxsome, Rachel Wiffen and Sophie Allen, the group stepped directly into the world of price discovery, risk management and global aluminium flows, gaining an important opportunity to better understand the market mechanisms that underpin day-to-day commercial decisions across our industry.

The Role of the LME in Global Metals Markets

The visit opened with a presentation from Lucy Spear and Mason King, who outlined the LME's role in servicing both the physical and financial metals markets for nearly 150 years.

Members were reminded of the sheer scale of the Exchange's activity. In 2025, the LME traded 181 million lots, equating to \$18 trillion in notional value and around 4 billion tonnes of metal. Average daily trading volumes of approximately 718,000 lots demonstrate the liquidity and global reach of the platform.

For aluminium specifically, long-term trading trends show sustained and growing contract activity, reinforcing just how central the LME remains to our sector.

What the Aluminium Price Represents

A key takeaway for many attendees was clarification around what the LME aluminium price actually reflects. The benchmark represents LME-registered brands that meet strict quality and responsible sourcing standards, stored in approved warehouses, sold duty unpaid, with the buyer responsible for delivery out.

Understanding this structure is vital when discussing premiums, regional availability, physical supply and hedging strategies. The session provided valuable context for how financial markets intersect with physical aluminium flows.



Live Trading in the Ring

Members were then guided down to observe live trading in the iconic Ring - the only remaining open outcry trading floor in Europe.

Seeing price discovery take place in real time brought the morning's presentation to life. The group learned more about the roles within the Ring and how trading now operates across floor, telephone and electronic platforms.

And, of course, no visit would be complete without a photo opportunity on the famous red sofas!

Why This Matters for ALFED Members

For the Aluminium Allies group, the visit was about more than curiosity. It strengthened understanding of how aluminium prices are formed, how volatility can be managed, and how global policy and trade shifts influence domestic competitiveness.

As aluminium continues to gain recognition as a critical material within UK industrial and critical minerals strategy discussions, understanding global market structures becomes increasingly important for our members. The day concluded with networking over lunch, and a competitive few rounds of darts, reinforcing the Aluminium Allies aim of combining learning, access and industry connection in an engaging format.

A sincere thank you to Lucy Spear and Mason King for their hospitality and insights. Further LME visits will take place throughout the year.

To register your interest in joining a future Aluminium Allies organised event, please contact the ALFED team at alfed@alfed.org.uk.



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ALFED Annual Business Briefing & Dinner
Thursday 24th September 2026 | Crowne Plaza, Stratford-Upon-Avon.

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ALUMINIUM SHAPES LTD: 40 YEARS IN THE MAKING



Forty years is a milestone worth pausing for. In 1985, when Aluminium Shapes Ltd first opened its doors, the world looked very different. The first mobile phones were the size of bricks, the internet was still a laboratory curiosity, and “Back to the Future” was filling cinemas with visions of hoverboards and flying cars. Manufacturing was hands-on, analogue, and often unforgiving. Yet even then, one thing was clear: companies that combined quality with curiosity would shape the decades ahead.

Four decades later, that belief still defines us.

From day one, Aluminium Shapes has been built around a simple promise: deliver high-quality aluminium extrusions with the flexibility, service, and technical knowledge customers can rely on. That promise has carried us through changing markets, innovative technologies, and the evolving expectations of customers who demand more than just extrusion—they want partnership, precision, and performance. Today, as we celebrate our 40th anniversary, we are proud to say that commitment has not wavered. If anything, it is stronger than ever.

From the Old Days to the New Era

Back in 1985, extrusion presses were loud, mechanical beasts, and quality control meant a trained eye and a steady hand. Drawings arrived by fax, and lead times were measured in weeks. Yet even then, our team pushed boundaries—experimenting with profiles, solving customer problems, and proving that a UK-based extruder could compete on quality, service, and ingenuity.

Fast-forward to 2025, and the world has transformed. 3D modelling, CNC machining, automated handling, and real-time quality monitoring are now part of everyday life. Customers expect shorter lead times, tighter tolerances, and more value-added processes under one roof. Sustainability has shifted from a nice-to-have to a non-negotiable. And through all of it, Aluminium Shapes has adapted, invested, and evolved.

Introducing Ali4: Our Next Step Forward

This year marks not only our 40th anniversary but also the launch of Ali4, our newest material innovation. Designed for strength, consistency, and sustainability, Ali4 represents the next chapter in our product evolution. It is engineered for modern manufacturing – lightweight, dependable, and ideal for customers who want performance without compromise.

Ali4 is not just a low carbon alternative; it is a statement. A signal that even after four decades, we are not slowing down. We are pushing forward, developing smarter materials, and giving customers more reasons to choose a UK extruder that understands their challenges and shares their ambitions.

Still Customer-Focused. Still Quality-Driven. Still Here for the Long Haul.

However, what truly sets Aluminium Shapes apart is not just our presses, our machining capability, or our material innovations. It is our people. The engineers who obsess over tolerances.

The operators who treat every billet like it matters. The sales and technical teams who listen first and quote second. The customers who trust us with their products, their deadlines, and their reputations.

Forty years on, we are proud to still be doing what we do best: supplying excellent-quality aluminium extrusions with a customer-first mindset.

Here is to the next chapter, and to everyone who has been part of the journey so far.

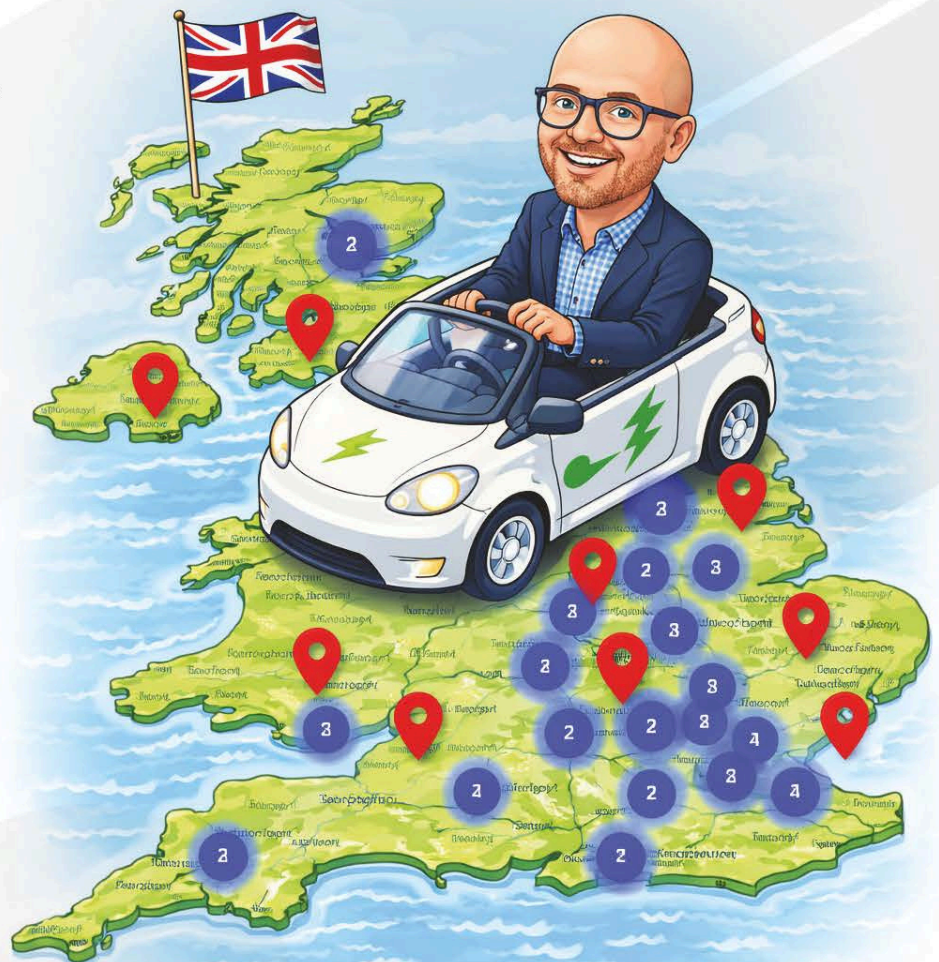


THE **£1 MILLION** ENERGY CHALLENGE **8TH - 19TH JUNE**

Avails Energy, in partnership with ALFED are proud to launch a summer roadshow aiming to save members over £1,000,000.

Inspired by ALFED's new Online Member Map and the constant need to reduce energy bills, Avails will be visiting as many members as possible in 2 weeks.

We will spend 45 minutes at your site to quickly understand how you are using energy on site and what you are being charged, before issuing you with a free and confidential 'health check' report identifying areas of cost and consumption reduction and refund.



Book your 45 minute slot by emailing Emily on efoster@alfed.org.uk (subject - Energy Roadshow)

PEEL PORTS GROUP: CONNECTING THE HEART OF BRITAIN FOR ALUMINIUM GROWTH

BY PHIL HALL, MERSEY PORT DIRECTOR,
PEEL PORTS GROUP

At Peel Ports Group we are proud to be at the centre of the UK's industrial supply chain, helping aluminium importers reach major centres of demand more efficiently and sustainably.

In fact, we are strengthening our position through our recently-launched Heart of Britain campaign, which is focused on bringing metals and other essential materials nearer to the country's industrial heartlands. Our aim is simple: to support growth, resilience and greener logistics by rethinking how cargo moves through the UK.

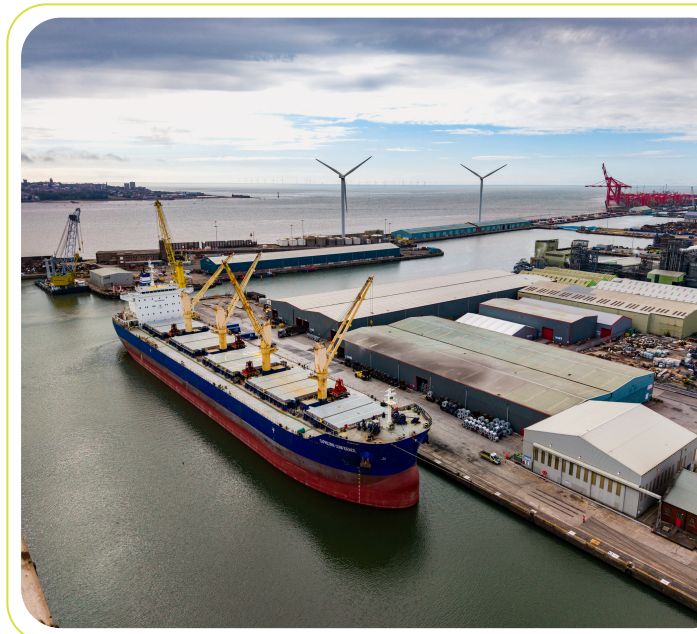
The Port of Liverpool is the focal point for this, but we are also a network of facilities, including Heysham in Lancashire, the Manchester Ship Canal, Medway in Kent, Clydeport near Glasgow and Great Yarmouth in East Anglia. Collectively, these enable us to connect manufacturing and other centres with shipping routes on all points of the compass. We therefore enable cargo to move via coastal and short-sea shipping routes, reducing reliance on long-distance road haulage and creating a more direct, sustainable and efficient flow of materials.

This approach is already delivering tangible benefits for metals importers, especially where our terminals are purpose-built to handle high volumes of steel, aluminium and other metals, supported by specialist handling equipment, extensive warehousing and integrated logistics services.

The past 12 months have been particularly exciting, with a recent announcement of plans to invest £100 million into the steels and metals sector in a move to enhance capacity and boost the efficiency of logistics.

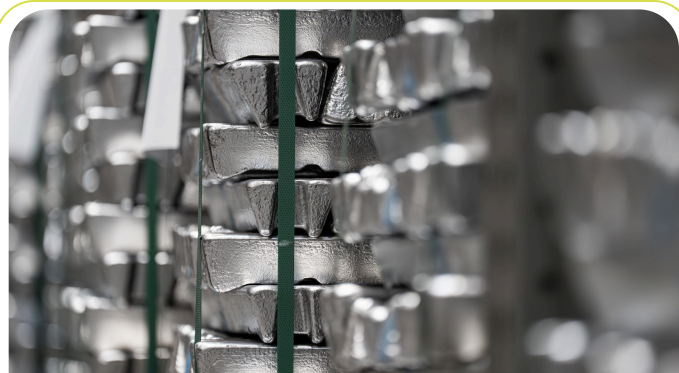
We're progressing with a £32m initial investment to add a further 140,000 sq ft of storage at our Port of Liverpool steel and metals terminals. Overall, across Liverpool and London Medway, warehousing will be increased by 50 percent from the current 1 million sq ft to create an additional 500,000 sq ft of capacity. This fresh investment follows a record year for steel imports at the Liverpool facility in 2024 and will help further grow the volumes of steel we transport across the UK.

This investment is enhancing infrastructure, improving operational efficiency and ensuring we have the capacity and capability to support long-term industrial growth. It also reflects our confidence in the strength of the UK metals market and the critical role ports play in enabling it.



That's why we're proud of becoming the first and only UK port operator to join ALFED. For us, it is a major milestone in our commitment to the aluminium sector and underlines our dedication to working with the industry. It has provided us with a valuable platform to collaborate directly with importers, manufacturers and wider stakeholders, allowing us to share insights, understand evolving challenges and develop practical solutions that improve supply chain productivity and environmental performance.

By combining our ALFED membership with the scale and reach of our port network, we are uniquely positioned to support aluminium importers in optimising their supply chains. As the UK aluminium sector continues to evolve, Peel Ports Group stands ready to play a central role in connecting producers, importers and industrial centres. Through strategic investment, industry collaboration and our Heart of Britain campaign, we are helping to build a supply chain that is resilient, sustainable and fit for the future.




PEEL PORTS

GROUP



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DIRECTORY

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**Member directory listings are correct as of the time of printing.*

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ALFED

ALUMINIUM FEDERATION

THE VOICE OF THE UK ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY

The Aluminium Federation (ALFED) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to representing and supporting the UK aluminium industry by promoting growth, sustainability, and fair competition while advocating for its interests with policymakers.



WHY JOIN ALFED?

Joining the Aluminium Federation (ALFED) provides exclusive access to a range of benefits designed to support and empower businesses across the UK aluminium industry. As a member, you'll gain invaluable industry insights, targeted training opportunities, regulatory support, and platforms for networking and advocacy.

Scan to request more information about ALFED membership



BENEFITS EXPLAINED

- ✓ Influence policy & regulation
- ✓ Exclusive trade & market intelligence
- ✓ Industry & government connections
- ✓ Sector groups & technical leadership
- ✓ Skills, training & workforce support
- ✓ Member events & preferential access



ALFED
ALUMINIUM FEDERATION

INAUGURAL MEMBERS' DAY 2026



30th April 2026



Bragborough Hall Business Centre

The ALFED Members' Day is a new annual event launching in 2026, created to bring the UK aluminium community together in a more informal, accessible and collaborative setting. Hosted at ALFED HQ in Northamptonshire, the day has been designed in direct response to member feedback and focuses on meaningful conversation, practical insight and relationship-building rather than formal presentations or sales-led content.

Members are welcome to attend for the full day or drop in around other commitments, making it easy to engage in a way that suits individual schedules.

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ALFED

ALUMINIUM FEDERATION

House of Lords Lunch

Delivering Domestic Demand, Trade Resilience & Industrial Capability



2nd June 2026



12.15pm - 5pm

The House of Lords Lunch forms part of ALFED's ongoing work through the **UK Aluminium Alliance**, which is focused on strengthening UK aluminium demand, improving scrap retention and utilisation, and building greater resilience across domestic and international trade relationships to support a secure, circular supply chain.

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