

# An essential metal

The Aluminium Federation promotes a vital metal at the core of UK manufacturing and crucial to a sustainable future



“Aluminium has always been a material of progress,” says Nadine Bloxsome, Chief Executive of the Aluminium Federation (ALFED). From its role in the Spitfire to today’s electric vehicles and renewable infrastructure, the metal drives innovation across multiple industries. Endlessly recyclable and lightweight, aluminium is essential to the UK’s net zero ambitions.

Founded in 1962, ALFED represents the breadth of the UK aluminium industry, from producers and processors to recyclers and distributors. A bridge between industry, government and academia, ALFED ensures aluminium is recognised as a strategic resource for the UK’s economic and environmental resilience, and members are leading that transition. At Arconic Kitts Green in Birmingham, the UK’s last remaining aluminium plate mill continues a legacy that began in 1938 when it produced components for the Spitfire. The site supplies high-strength alloys for defence, aerospace and space applications, with much of the feedstock sourced from recycled aluminium. “Kitts Green symbolises the strength and adaptability of British industry,” says Bloxsome.

With a rich history of 80 years that spanned Queen Elizabeth II’s reign, Bridgnorth Aluminium is the UK’s only large-scale aluminium coil rolling mill. Based in Shropshire,

it operates a fully integrated site, from casting and hot/cold rolling to heat treatment, slitting and levelling, directly supporting around 350 rural manufacturing jobs. The business is a major user of primary metal from the hydro-powered smelter at Fort William in Scotland, the UK’s last remaining smelter. Meanwhile, Amari Metals sits at the heart of the supply of aluminium to British manufacturing. Through a nationwide network of local service centres, the company provides fast, reliable access to metals in the forms and volumes needed by thousands of SMEs, fabricators and engineers. “Stockholding and distribution are the backbone of industrial productivity,” says Bloxsome. “Companies like Amari keep manufacturing moving.”

Together, these companies reflect the diversity and capability of ALFED’s membership, in a sector that supports more than 100,000 jobs and contributed over £9.4 billion to the UK economy in 2022. And as the UK prepares for a new era of industrial growth, aluminium will remain central to its progress. “Our responsibility at ALFED is to make sure it continues to be a material of national strength – vital, visible and valued as one of Britain’s truly critical resources.”

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