

# Pat Munro – built to last

Pat Munro, one of the largest privately owned contractors operating in the Highlands and a recognised force in construction, civil engineering, quarry products, waste services and home building, is celebrating 70 years in business this year – sharing its anniversary with VE Day.

Going back to the start it is no surprise, with the birth of the business having its roots very firmly planted in the war effort.

Pat Munro senior bought Caplich Farm in Alness back in early 1938 and ran it as a chicken, turkey and duck farm.

But in 1939 the UK Government commandeered the Munro family farm, for the purposes of extracting the sand and gravel there and using it to construct and maintain the military defences in the area.

Although no money was payable for the materials, Mr Munro senior was given the position of quarry manager and started his career in the quarrying industry.

Throughout the duration of World War Two, Caplich Quarry was operated on behalf of the UK

Government by Glasgow-based company Kier & Cawdor.

Aggregates were supplied to local military airfields, ports and defences using small three-tonne lorries with manually wound tippers which were loaded by hand.

At the end of the war the Government no longer had a need for the quarry at Caplich and it was handed back to Mr Munro senior, along with two three-tonne military tippers, gifted by the Government by way of compensation for the aggregates taken during the war.

He continued to provide quarry materials to meet the needs of the local community and it was from these humble beginnings that Pat Munro, the business as we know it today, was born.

The quarry business has come a long way since 1945 with sites in Alness and Dornoch, and a new site due to be operational this summer at Dalmagarry, near Tomatin.

As well as supplying traditional quarry materials such as sand and gravel aggregates, concrete and asphalts, the company now also offers specialised

items such as recycled aggregates and Pat Munro's own unique cold-lay tarmacadam HandyMac.

Long gone are the days of the small three-tonne lorries with manually wound tippers, the highly manual small precast concrete and block making facility, and rope and pulley operated machines.

They have been replaced by state-of-the-art equipment including a new mobile batching plant in Dornoch and a modern fleet of tipper lorries and concrete mixers.

This investment in technology, alongside its highly trained workforce has allowed Pat Munro to remain competitive, flexible and agile over the years, tailoring products to meet precise customer requirements and delivering the highest levels of customer service.

Seventy years on and still going strong, Pat Munro is well placed to accommodate further measured growth and take advantage of new opportunities that present themselves in the future, as well as keeping a firm eye on servicing its existing loyal and long standing customer base.

Pat Munro senior would be proud.

The UK Government commandeered the Munro family farm to extract sand & gravel. Patrick Munro is given the position of Quarry Manager, and starts his career in the quarrying industry.



Patrick Munro & his family live on and run a family small-holding at Caplich Alness, mainly rearing poultry.



"Pat Munro" the business as we know it today is born. Towards the end of the 1940's, it sets up a small precast concrete and block making facility.

During this period quarrying operations are steadily upgraded enabling greater capacity. Aggregates are now being delivered by ex-Army Tippers, with automated tipping mechanisms, and loaded by newer and larger loading shovels and excavators.



Civil Engineering expands and is awarded the water main installation contracts through the Perth & Kinross area.

Pat Munro begin to carry out road surfacing operations for the first time. It quickly expands into undertaking work on the Highland Council road network.

The boom decade, when the effect of the newly created North Sea Oil industry really takes effect on the Inner Moray Firth area. Plenty of work and lots of migration into the area.



With every boom comes a bust and the 80's are no exception for the Inner Moray Firth area. The Aluminium smelter at Invergordon closes and the fabrication yard at Nigg begins to experience difficulties.



Demand for new housing soars and homes can literally not be built fast enough.

Increased uncertainty on job security means that Pat Munro Homes sees a downturn in its Homes division.

PRE-1940	1940 - 1945	1945 - 1950	1950 - 1960	1960 - 1970	1970 - 1980	1980 - 1990
	The War Years	Pat Munro - the beginning	Pat Munro - the early years	Pat Munro - continued diversification	Pat Munro - The Oil & Aluminium effect	Pat Munro - The beginning of the downturn



At the end of the war, the UK Government hand back Caplich Quarry to Patrick Munro who starts trading with military tippers trucks which are gifted by the government as a form of compensation for the aggregates taken during the war.

It takes delivery of its first mechanical excavator, a used 10RB, and its first mechanical loading shovel, a used Chaseside. Both machines are rope and pulley operated.



A new concrete plant allowed Pat Munro to sell ready mixed concrete for the first time.

Pat Munro Homes is born.

Diversification into civil engineering takes place and Pat Munro Civil Engineering play a large part in the laying of water mains across the Highland region.

House building is prevalent during the decade.



Caplich Quarry sees the installation of its first high production ready mix concrete production plant.

The business invests in its first tarmacadam manufacturing plant making its own surfacing material for the first time.

Road surfacing is now firmly established as one of Pat Munro's core competencies.



By way of contrast, Pat Munro Civil Engineering manages to maintain a good workload during this period thanks to a flexible and highly skilled workforce.

Significant investment is made to replace the first tarmacadam plant with a new Parker Asphalt Production Plant.

Pat Munro diversifies into the bulk haulage market.





Pat Munro's mobile batching plant and silo at Dornoch Quarry.



Pat Munro's tracked mobile screening machine at Dornoch Quarry.

The 90's, a period of yet more bad news for the local area, with the ultimate closure of both the Nigg and Ardsier fabrication yards.

For Pat Munro, prudence is the key to survival and future growth.

It sustains its workforce and workload thanks mainly due to its non-reliance on any single client and sector.

The small shoots of economic recovery quickly grow with a new surge in demand for housing.

Homes enjoy an enviable period of growth experiencing a high volumes of sales.

This halcyon period is short-lived. Almost overnight the global housing market collapses. Fortunately Pat Munro Homes is able to adapt to weather the economic storm.

Only half way through the decade it's another challenging start for businesses in The Highlands with the fallout from the global financial crisis and low oil prices.

At Pat Munro the focus is firmly on the future.

Quarries is expanding with quarry operations due to open at Dalmagarry, near Tomatin in the summer of 2015.



1990 - 2000	2000 - 2010	2010 - 2015
Pat Munro - Adapt and Survive	Pat Munro - Continued Growth	Pat Munro - the next chapter

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**2015**

Homes building continues, albeit on a much reduced scale.

Civil Engineering maintains a good level of contracts including, warehouses for local distilleries, water and sewer work for the North of Scotland Water Authority.

The Dornoch Bridge Quarry opens.

This decade sees the birth of Pat Munro Waste Services.

Quarries continues steady growth with investment in a new concrete batching plant at Alness.

Civil Engineering continues to flourish with projects for Scottish Water.

Waste Services grows rapidly on the back of the surge in waste and recycling policy and commitment from Governments worldwide to reduce their carbon footprint.

Construction is involved in significant projects including, the expansion of the Kingsmills Hotel and work at the second phase of the River Ness Flood Alleviation Scheme.

Homes are branching out geographically across the Highlands.

Waste Services reinforces its ongoing drive to achieve "zero to landfill" with investment in a state of the art waste and recycling facility at Alness.



Pat Munro was established 70 years ago.

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# Pat Munro today

Pat Munro has been active in construction and civil engineering in the north of Scotland for more than 60 years, and employs a team of more than 50 skilled construction workers.

The construction teams work across a variety of projects and related disciplines from civil engineering and house building to laying water mains, and road surfacing to commercial building.

By continuing to evolve as a business to meet the changes and challenges in both the public and private sectors and with a strong focus on innovation, quality and customer service, Pat Munro has secured positions on several public and private sector frameworks.

The group works directly with some of the biggest and best-known brands across the Highlands including Diageo, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Highland Council and Global Energy Nigg (part of Global Energy Group) and has built a loyal client base.

It is also proud to have worked for Scottish Water, and its predecessors (North of Scotland Water Authority and Highland Regional Council's Water and Sewerage Department) on a variety of technical projects over the past three decades at both local and national level.

As one of only a handful of businesses in the Highlands to be fully accredited under the Water Industry Registration Scheme, Pat Munro Construction is able to demonstrate actively to clients such as Scottish Water that the work it

carries out as a contractor will be of the highest standard both in technical and quality terms, as well as adhering fully to all safety, health and hygiene standards.

In addition, Pat Munro is a well-respected name within the industry and is just as happy to act as a key supplier and partner to larger design and engineering consultancies and building and civil engineering contractors.

It has demonstrated this by acting as a sub-contractor, delivering essential road and footway surfacing work for phase one and phase two of the River Ness Flood Alleviation Scheme in Inverness.

These two projects commissioned by Highland Council and awarded to Morgan Sindall and McLaughlin & Harvey respectively focus on raising the height of existing defences between Friars Bridge and the mouth of the River Ness in the Highland capital and will ultimately result in the protection of 800 homes and 200 business premises from flooding.

Mark Bramley, construction director at Pat Munro, said: "It's all about partnership and trust.

"Our customers know that when they partner with us we will always go that extra mile to deliver the best in service and quality on time, every time.

"Due to this, we continue to enjoy high levels of repeat business while at the same time developing new client relationships."

For more information on Pat Munro Construction please visit [www.patmunro.co.uk](http://www.patmunro.co.uk) or call 01 349 882377.



Development at Kingsmill Hotel.

## Case study: Kingsmills Hotel

Following on from successful involvement in previous redevelopment and expansion projects at the Kingsmills Hotel in Inverness, Pat Munro Construction was awarded the contract at the hotel to install 13 prefabricated, high specification modular unit lodges, complete with associated sub-structure support bases, drainage and service connections as well as hard and soft landscaping

The luxury en suite bedroom pods designed and built by CLDB (also known as CARBONlite), based in Invergordon, were completely fabricated off site under factory conditions, with painting and decorating, shower room fittings, wall and floor tiling and floor coverings all completed, ready for craning into position over a three-day period.

Craig Ewan, general manager at the Kingsmills Hotel, said: "This is the fourth major project that the owner, Tony Story, has invested in since purchasing the hotel in 2007.

"We are delighted with the new Garden Rooms. They are finished to a very high quality and our guests love them already.

"The rooms are so special with views out over the stunning landscaped gardens and are only a short stroll to the hotel for a choice of restaurants or a visit to the Whisky Bar.

"Through this and other projects at the hotel we have developed a strong relationship with Pat Munro Construction and have been particularly impressed with the high quality of its work and its ability to manage all elements of the job seamlessly to deliver an end product that exactly matched our brief."



Pat Munro has been involved in the River Ness Flood Alleviation Scheme.

## Case study:

## Global Energy Nigg (part of the Global Energy Group)

Pat Munro Construction is working at Nigg Energy Park on a 11,000 square metre wide reinforced concrete hardstanding which is due for completion next month, behind the newly reconstructed south quay.

The project worth approximately £1.2 million will also see delivery of a new surface water drainage system together with full retention petrol interceptors, connected to the existing 600 millimetre diameter outfalls.

Throughout the work, Pat Munro

Construction has been able to call on its vast array of in-house resources, which gives it a major competitive advantage.

Sand and gravel aggregates from its quarries go to make up nearly 4,000 cubic metres of its own ready mixed concrete, delivered by its haulage department.

All on-site work is also being carried out by its own construction teams, using state-of-the-art plant and machinery in which it has invested significantly over the last few years.



Development at Nigg Energy Park.

# Pat Munro Homes

Pat Munro has been building homes in the Highlands for more than 50 years and to this day its commitment to providing exceptional quality, in sought-after locations and to suit all budgets remains a priority.

With ambitious growth plans over the coming months and years, it plans to build a number of developments across the Highlands catering for a whole range of customers from first-time buyers, those wishing to move up the property ladder and those looking to downsize.

From design and planning, right through to adding the finishing touches, Pat Munro Homes keeps the needs of all its customers at the forefront of its work, ensuring it creates homes to suit all lifestyles.

Offering solar PV panels as standard, every new Pat Munro home is energy efficient – helping to lower utility bills and running costs.

Pat Munro Homes also does its very best to make the whole customer experience enjoyable and informative every step of the way, not just through the buying process but also after customers have moved in.

All Pat Munro homes are covered by a 10-year NHBC warranty. Pat Munro Homes' latest development, at Deans Park in Dornoch, is near Royal Dornoch golf course and is easily accessible from the A9.

Properties range from two-bedroom semi-detached bungalows to four/five-bedroom villas, with a traditional "village square" as the focal point of the scheme.

The latest properties released in this sought-after location are nearly all reserved, with only a few remaining – but the good news is that reservations are now already being taken for the next phase of Deans Park.

In Alness the Pat Munro Homes Newfield development is set in a wonderful rural location, benefiting from all the amenities Alness has to offer.

It features a range of two-, three- and four-bedroom bungalows and villas, with all homes offering spacious accommodation on generously proportioned plots.

For more information on Pat Munro Homes please visit [www.patmunrohomes.co.uk](http://www.patmunrohomes.co.uk) or call on 01349 882377.



Advertorial



# Pat Munro Waste Services

Pat Munro Waste Services is committed to helping its customers achieve zero waste to landfill and contributing to a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions for residual waste.

It does this by offering an extensive range of recycling and resource recovery services, ranging from simple doorstep collections of waste through to the use of state-of-the-art technology to separate and process materials at its waste material recycling facility (MRF) opened at its Caplich Quarry site in Alness.

In most cases working with Pat Munro to manage your waste effectively will lead to major cost savings for your organisation, along with the comfort of knowing you are making a significant contribution to protecting the environment for future generations.

Pat Munro's capabilities also extend to the disposal of contaminated, special and hazardous wastes.

Veronica Symonds, waste manager at Pat Munro, said: "In our new MRF facility, we feel that we are able to revolutionise the waste sector in the Highlands.

"The plant has a future-proofed design, enabling it to process greatly increased volumes.

"While this new facility will give us a real commercial advantage in the local market, we are also committed to working closely with the other waste services providers in the Highlands, with a view to providing the best and most cost-effective waste solutions for the area as a whole."

This year Pat Munro Waste Services is proud to be the contractor of choice for the big clear-up at next month's Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival near Kiltarlilly, and has already signed up to a firm commitment for helping it try to achieve as close to zero waste to landfill as possible.

It aims to get the message out as far and as wide as it can, leading up to and at the festival.

Last year the festival generated 100 tons of waste – this year Pat Munro Waste Services will play its part in ensuring that, as far as is possible, next to nothing goes to landfill.

For more information on Pat Munro Waste Services please visit [www.patmunro.co.uk](http://www.patmunro.co.uk) or call 01349 882377.



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