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A Kent company with a reputation for detail and good quality workmanship is now expanding the services it offers to provide a complete construction package.

Torran Construction Ltd, based at St Nicholas-at-Wade near Canterbury in Kent, was started in 2004 by John Rodgers. Over the past seven years it has provided a ground-works contracting service for schools, industrial sites and agricultural projects across the South East.

Torran Construction is normally involved in projects from the planning stage. The intention is to use this expertise and move forward as a main contractor offering a complete building package to clients who require it.

“We have asked agricultural clients over the past few years if they would be interested if we were to offer a complete construction service,” said John. “In every case they have been enthusiastic and said that they would. Modern day farmers are busy people and many welcome the opportunity to leave the construction of their building project in the hands of one trusted contractor.”

In 2004 Torran started working on a cold store project near Canterbury.

“We started with two men and 12 weeks work,” explained John. “Torran Construction now has a team of 20 men working on sites in the South East and occasionally venturing further afield to carry out projects in Hereford, Derby and Essex.

As well as the directly-employed workforce, Torran has its own construction plant that has recently been added to with the purchase of a new £54,000 13t JCB excavator.

Farmers leave building in hands of trusted contractor



“Maintaining a good plant fleet is important to us. Well maintained plant leads to less down time and more efficient working,” said John. “Our customers expect reliability and it’s not good to have men standing around if a machine breaks down, so we make sure

we always have the right equipment for the job.”

Torran has a good reputation in the commercial sector and has worked on a number of schools, a Demelza House hospice, a Dogs Trust kennel, a military barracks and a Big Yellow storage facility to name

but a few.

Alongside these projects, Torran has carried out the agricultural contracts that John refers to as “the friendlier side of construction.” His intention is now to concentrate on this side of the business and try to provide a good ‘one stop shop’ service for clients new and old.

Torran Construction has carried out a number of projects since January 2010 as main contractor. The company has constructed a 450m² industrial unit for Pine & Things in Aylesham Kent, which included the construction of the steel portal frame building including internal offices and toilet facilities as well as a sewage pumping station and external parking.

In addition, Torran renovated an old dairy building in Upstreet, Kent, and transformed it into a block of three

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John Rodgers



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industrial units. “We obtained planning permission and dealt with building control on this project and arranged all the service connections, which included bringing a water supply 220 metres from the main road,” said John.

A project that involved a great deal of accuracy was the construction of a reinforced concrete base for a wind turbine at Dunkirk, near Faversham. The ‘template’, which featured 30, 36mm holding bolts, had to be cast in with a great deal of accuracy since, in John’s words, “a few millimetres out at the bottom would lead to big problems 24 metres up in the air.” Torran hopes to be involved in more schemes like this one and is also speaking to solar power companies to try to increase the range of projects on which they can advise.

Always trying to work with the local community, Torran took on the building of a two-classroom extension to the village school at St Nicholas-at-Wade.

“We heard from our own children that the school was going to build an extension,” said John. “The school was to be paying for it out of its own funds and we

knew we could save them money.

“We had some drawings done by local architect Nick Farnell, and the school sent the tender package out to three contractors, including ourselves. We won the job by a significant margin and completed the project in June this year. We used our construction expertise and skilled operatives to deliver a quality project at a significant saving on the price offered by our competitors. This is the service we hope to bring to our farming clients.”

Torran Construction works with a number of frame contractors, cold storage suppliers and grain drying installers. The company has plumbers, electricians, planning consultants, engineers and architects at their disposal and by being able to ‘package’ the contract using the right combination of suppliers John is confident his team can offer the best commercial value to the client.

The main contractor service now on offer includes everything from planning and building regulations through to framework, cladding and fitting out of the final facility, whether it’s a cold store, grain store or something completely different.



Pine and things



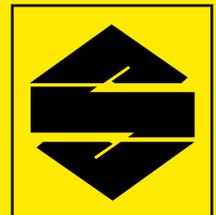
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