



**Client:**  
New Ways  
Construction

**Project:**  
The Ashford  
Project

**Location:**  
Kent,  
United Kingdom

**Products:**  
FRAMA™ 3200  
FRAMA™ 5600  
FRAMA™ 7600

Innovative construction practices were to the fore when **New Ways Construction** transformed the site of a former Network Rail engineering and railway workshop in Kent, England, into a quality new-build housing development.

As the company's name suggests, this company is focused on innovative ways of doing business. The construction industry, clients and the environment all benefit. Innovative techniques applied by New Ways to construction include the use of light steel framing, for example, through to helical piling. Integral to the forward-thinking light steel framing equation, New Ways put its three Howick machines to good use during this recent project.

## The Ashford Project

This project involved remediation of the 2.5 acre site, design and construction of 93 one and two-bedroom apartments. The residential dwellings are within seven individual blocks up to 3.5 storeys high. All the required associated roading, plus parking areas, were part of the project.

Onsite work began at Newtown Road, Ashford, in January 2020. The project's contract value was £10.3m for the client, Pascoe Property Developers Ltd.

## Howick technology

Not one, or two, but three Howick machines were used - each tasked with issuing a different profile setting and steel gauge.

FRAMA™ 3200, 5600 and 7600 were running at one time to maximise production. The variety was essential as profiles 75, 89, 100 and 200 were used.

"The New Ways team recognised that the use of light gauge steel framing (LGSF) was a productive method for this project (and others), thanks mainly to the manufacturing speeds it enabled and to weatherproof advantages," says New Ways spokesperson Kate Surridge.

## No weather-dependent delays

Bad weather during the construction period added challenges, but these have been mitigated by the use of LGSF. Snow and a water-logged site created some delays, but the project would have been slowed down considerably had traditional timber, as opposed to steel, been used. There would have been the need to wait for materials to dry out entirely before then ensuring water tightness. In contrast, because LGS is manufactured in-house, the work continued.

"Due to building in LGSF we could adjust our build programmes to start the structures for every block during the bad weather spells, so we didn't miss out on wasted days of labour on site," Kate says.

LGSF fits well with the company's desire to operate in a modern, sustainable way, as it offers time benefits, cost effectiveness, high performance and environmental wins. In comparison, traditional methods of building can be slow, inefficient, weather-dependent, and environmentally harmful.





## Software synchronicity

New Ways' preferred design software, Vertex, integrates seamlessly with Howick machines which was of great importance. The company's design team worked efficiently to produce design files which were delivered block by block to keep the production line constantly flowing. The block-by-block approach worked well as this project involved 93 apartments over seven blocks, so issuing designs in such a way avoided any confusion for the production team who were working on multiple projects at once.

New Ways brings together some of the world's best technologies to allow them to produce homes that are cost efficient to build, affordable to live in and have a low carbon footprint with more than 80 per cent of the building recyclable at the end of its life. Howick is proud to be part of that "best technologies" picture.



## The FRAMA machines

- **The FRAMA™ 3200** features Howick's unique end-bearing stud detail for the production of load bearing frames.
- **The FRAMA™ 5600** is an all-in frame, truss and panel workhorse.
- **The FRAMA™ 7600** is a fully functioned, convertible profile frame and truss machine with options for up to five profile widths for a range of construction applications.



# HOWICK

## ABOUT HOWICK LTD

At Howick Ltd we manufacture precision roll-forming machines and technology for light steel framing.

We have been innovating in this space for more than 40 years, creating systems and machines employed by construction business in 75 countries the world over.

We are proud of the formidable reputation we have achieved for performance, reliability, service and for our innovative approach.

Unique in our sector, Howick steel roll-forming systems are 100% manufactured at our East Auckland plant, with top-quality New Zealand-made componentry either made at our factory or sourced locally.

**For more about our technology and its benefits, [get in touch](#) with us today.**

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