

Barnshaws slides in to provide curved metal for Coventry's new waterpark

Coventry's new water park, The Wave, is contained in a curved oval shaped structure with blue shingles, a reference to flowing water, on the outside. The £36.7 million park designed by architects FaulknerBrowns offers residents access to spa and fitness facilities, with its curved aesthetic owed in part to the metal bending expertise of Barnshaws Section Benders, who precision curved rectangular hollow section (RHS) and parallel flanged channels (PFC) to support the curved steel structure.

Barnshaws was approached by contractor Billington Structures to deliver approximately 120 curved RHS and PFC sections in various sizes within a timeframe of four weeks. Billington Structures selected Barnshaws due to its expertise in mandrel steel bending, which allows RHS to be curved to tight radii without causing kinks in the section, harming its structural performance. The PFC sections were rolled to attain the same curved aesthetic. Operating a wide selection of state-of-the-art mandrel bending machines, Barnshaws offered the expertise and machine capacity to deliver the sections on time.

The Wave is now fully open to the public with six slides. Highlights include the foreboding Torrent, the most intimidating water slide at the site, and the Rapids, which utilises powerful jets of water to send bathers uphill into a 'water-coaster'. Lights and speakers will round off what promises to be a heady experience for fans of water sports. The project was led by Coventry City Council.

Andy Tura, Structural Sales Engineer at Barnshaws, said: *"Incorporating organic curves into structures in built up areas can greatly improve the aesthetic of the neighbourhood, especially if it's a building for public use such as The Wave. Modern architectural designs must stand out and enhance the value of the area, and precision curved metal is the optimum construction element to attain this aesthetic. Our track record in metal bending means that we can meet this market requirement."*

Photo Captions:

Photo 1: Coventry's new water park, The Wave, is contained in a curved oval shaped structure with blue shingles, a reference to flowing water, on the outside.

Photo Courtesy of Coventry City Council.

Photo 2: Barnshaws was approached by contractor Billington Structures to deliver approximately 120 curved RHS and PFC sections in various sizes within a timeframe of four weeks.

Photo Courtesy of Billington Structures.

Photo 3: Billington Structures selected Barnshaws due to its expertise in mandrel steel bending, which allows RHS to be curved to tight radii without causing kinks in the section, harming its structural performance.

Photo Courtesy of Coventry City Council.

Photo 4 and 5: The £36.7 million park designed by architects FaulknerBrowns offers residents access to spa and fitness facilities, with its curved aesthetic owed in part to the metal bending expertise of Barnshaws Section Benders.

Photo Courtesy of Coventry City Council.

Photo 6: Highlights include the foreboding Torrent, the most intimidating water slide at the site, and the Rapids, which utilises powerful jets of water to send bathers uphill into a 'water-coaster'.

Photo Courtesy of Coventry City Council.

About Barnshaws

Established in 1969, Barnshaws has grown to become the world's premier specialist profile bending company; supplying market sectors such as construction, power generation, mining, transport and general manufacturing with shaped beams, tubes, plate and other profile section materials. More recent developments have seen the company's engineering expertise expand from mostly steel to non-ferrous materials including copper and aluminium as well as specialist materials such as Hardox.

Barnshaws has ISO 9001:2015 approval and was Europe's first bending company to achieve CE Marking of curved sections to Execution class 4, the highest standard available.

With facilities in the West Midlands, Manchester, Hamilton and Poland, Barnshaws can provide precision metal bending and profile cutting services, locally, nationally and internationally.

Equipped with the largest capacity bending machines in the world, Barnshaws can deliver curved sections up to 35 meters in length with the capacity to bend tubes and pipes up to 1,524mm outside diameter. In addition, the largest range of press brakes in the UK can accommodate materials up to 12 metres in length and form sections from materials up to 80mm in thickness, this together with a vast range of rolling machines enables Barnshaws to offer rolled cylinders from 350 to 4200mm diameter with wall thicknesses upto 100 mm, all of which can be supplied in the welded condition singly or in multiple belt lengths.

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