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Specialist Welding

part of Malin Group

CASE STUDY MS0364

REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF STAINLESS STEEL TANKS

Cardowan

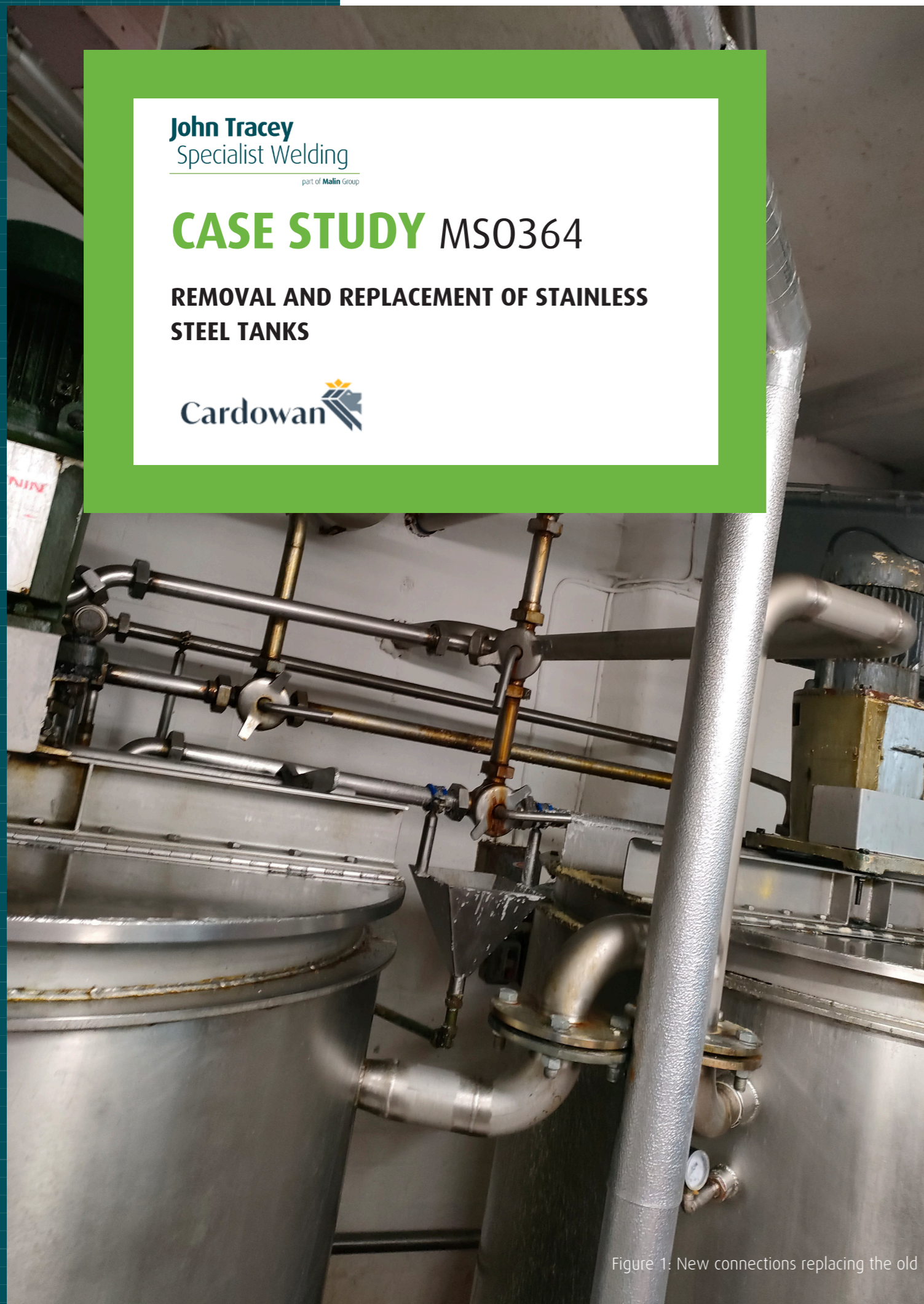


Figure 1: New connections replacing the old

PROJECT

John Tracey Specialist Welding were contracted by Cardowan Creameries to manage the removal and replacement of 3 stainless steel tanks at their premises at Parkhead, Glasgow. The replacement scope involved not only the fabrication of new larger tanks, but also required all pipework including gauges, which together significantly improved the operating efficiency of the system.

CHALLENGES

Given the client's specialist area, the scope did present some challenges, notably the existence of food product making, which made the welding potentially messy and difficult. In addition, whilst the project was initially planned to be carried out on a full shutdown over a tight timescale, requirements on the day necessitated a reduced work area and ongoing access to some steam pipes and valves, which our team had to manage with the client. Lastly, the proximity of steam pipes to the tank works, created a very hot environment, which added to the challenges faced.



Figure 2: New tanks in position with new lids and new pipework connected to old



Figure 3: New pipes exiting tanks connected to product flow

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SOLUTIONS

To be able to successfully complete the project, our team of pipefitters and welders had to be agile and innovative in their approach. Working in 2 teams, our operatives thoroughly cleaned every old pipe until it was free from the remnant produce, which then enabled them to inspect whether it was fit for purpose; this ensured only those elements which needed to be replaced were quickly identified, saving time and resources for the client. This two team approach also supported constant communications with the client, so that the ongoing access to vital pipes was effectively managed, ensuring operations continued without disruption.

SUMMARY

Whilst potentially a disruptive, dirty and complex job, the team worked systematically and co-operatively to deliver this scope to exacting standards. Their solution focused strategy enabled the client to effectively sustain operations, without disruption, and the close teamwork approach served to not only strengthen relationships across the team, but also with our valued client Cardowan Creameries.



Figure 4: New tanks and associated lids pre connections and pipework



Figure 5: New connections and joints to allow steam and food product to travel without obstruction