

News

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First crop of roofing apprentices start on site following launch of new training initiative

Eight new roofing apprentices have started training on sites across Cambridgeshire following the launch of a new training programme pioneered by Morgan Sindall.

The construction business launched the initiative, which is part of a drive to address a major skills shortage in the region's roofing industry, 12 months ago. The scheme was launched in partnership with Voland Roofing, Cambridge Regional College, the Construction and Industry Training Board (CITB), the National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC), training provider TrAC and fellow construction company Kier.

The two-year programme has so far created eight apprenticeships, which specialise in Built-up Felt Roofing and Single Ply. Recruitment for the January 2018 intake is already underway, with places still available on the popular course.

Bob Ensich, area director of Morgan Sindall's Cambridge office and TrAC board member, said: "Shortages in traditional technical skills across the construction industry have become a growing concern in recent years. The effects of this skills gap are being felt throughout the supply chain, which is why it's important that we work together to ensure that we continue to attract a skilled and qualified workforce into the profession.

"This programme is an excellent opportunity for job-seekers who are looking to start a career in construction. The roofing industry is booming and with more employers on the lookout for new talent, now is a great time to be entering the trade. Training as an apprentice could be the start of a long and very rewarding career in this industry."

Morgan Sindall has a strong track record in developing the next generation of talent and is regularly engaging with local employers to ensure that there is a sustained level of demand for new apprentices from businesses in the region.

Helen Clements, community investment advisor at Morgan Sindall, said: "We are delighted to have supported the delivery of this initiative to address one of the key skills shortages within the construction industry.

"The apprenticeship programme is a great example of industry leaders working closely with the supply chain and training organisations to create a new, innovative solution to a critical skills gap. This partnership will help to ensure that we are nurturing and developing a skilled and qualified workforce for the future."

Ren Pesci, contracts director of Voland Roofing, said: "To finally have a local facility to assist us develop, train and upskill young people is an invaluable tool that will assist us to satisfy the need of our business and demands of the industry."

Paul Skitt, head of employer engagement at Cambridge Regional College, said: "Cambridge Regional College plays a key role in training the workforce of the future and we are delighted that our new partnership with Morgan Sindall and the roofing industry supply chain is helping fill a vital skills gap. We have launched a specialist roofing training facility at our Cambridge campus to answer the need for trained roofers and are looking forward to continuing to attract new

apprentices in this field.

“Apprenticeships are an essential aid to growth in industries across the board, and the construction sector recognises the importance of investing in training and skills. It’s a great time to join the industry and train for a new job.”

Cambridge Regional College is launching its next apprenticeship intake during a construction breakfast on 2nd November. Following this, the college will host an open day on 9th November, which will include ice breaker activities and networking opportunities with prospective employers.

Morgan Sindall is currently on-site at significant schemes across Cambridgeshire, including a £37.5 million education and leisure centre complex in Littleport, Cambridgeshire. The project for Cambridgeshire County Council and The Active Learning Trust, which provides leadership and support for schools through academy sponsorship, includes the construction of an early years building, a three-storey secondary school, a special school, and a community leisure facility.

The business is also delivering a new £25 million Science Centre for Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge. The world-class centre will enable more science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) students to benefit from state-of-the-art facilities.

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