

News Release

Birse Rail launches its first apprenticeship programme

Birse Rail recently launched a recruitment programme targeted at introducing a number of apprentices to the business. The programme has been a huge success attracting over 200 applications.

Following initial telephone interviews, 32 candidates were subsequently selected to attend assessment centres, which were held in Manchester and Birmingham.

At the assessment centres the candidates were asked to undergo ability tests, group exercises and individual interviews, resulting in eight of the top candidates being offered a place on the Birse Rail apprenticeship programme.

The programme offers on-the-job training, as well as the opportunity to gain a recognised qualification in civil engineering.

The eight apprentices started with an induction week at Birse Rail's head office in Birmingham prior to taking up their first placements at the College of West Anglia in Norfolk.

Following the successful completion of this initial training course they will go on to work at a variety of sites throughout the UK. The work will be varied, interesting and challenging, and will give them plenty of opportunity to put into practice the skills learnt and to demonstrate the knowledge acquired.

Birse Rail's Managing Director, Chris Montgomery commented "By recruiting and training a number of apprentices each year, Birse Rail is safeguarding its future by ensuring it has the necessary resources to meet the demands of the rail industry. Over the next three years the apprentices will learn a great deal – both at college and on the job – ensuring they go on to enjoy a successful career in rail engineering with Birse Rail."

Pictured: (L to R) The eight apprentices with Paul Copeland, Managing Director of Balfour Beatty Major Civil Engineering's Rail Division, out on site during induction week and arriving at Head Office in Birmingham



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