

Apprentice Notes

M-EC's apprentices have been enjoying a busy first half of the year, working on a variety of projects shadowing the infrastructure and geomatics teams, as well as pursuing their academic qualifications.

In Spring, the trio supported National Apprenticeship Week by participating in Stephenson College's Apprentice Day. Second year apprentice, Jake Poulton was joined by first year apprentices, Taylor Worringham and Joseph Landers to exhibit in the college's 'street' and talk to

students about their experiences undertaking traditional civil engineering apprenticeships.

Taylor and Joseph also competed in a series of challenges designed to showcase the techniques and skills young apprentices can learn. The pair emerged triumphant in both roof building and electrical wiring, earning certificates for their efforts.

Away from college, each apprentice has been making solid progress. Taylor has been working on constraints plans and highways drawings for schemes in Lichfield and Uttoxeter; Joseph is now responsible for his own projects, recently completing additional surveying work for

(L-R) Joseph Landers and Taylor Worringham at Stephenson College's Apprentice Day.



Double winners! Taylor and Joseph celebrate winning two challenges during National Apprenticeship Week.

“ It was fun to have a go at the challenges and quickly attempt to master two completely new skills, but we certainly proved ourselves by managing to win both! I think Apprentice Day is a great idea and I'm really proud to have been involved. ”

Joseph Landers, trainee Geomatics technician

a site in Ibstock, whilst Jake has finished not only his first solo project using PDS, MicroDrainage and CAD software, but also both his Construction and the Built Environment Diploma Level 3 and NVQ Level 3 in Construction Contracting Operations. Jake is now undertaking an 'Advanced' apprenticeship to gain his HNC in Civil Engineering, which he expects to complete in 2016. Congratulations to all and keep up the good work!



A Quality Quartet

M-EC's 2014 apprentice intake (l-r): James Lewis, Cameron Green, Matthew Greenwood and Danny Hinds.

Four new recruits have joined M-EC's flourishing apprentice programme, more than doubling the scheme's size and proving there is a strong pool of bright, talented and motivated young people in the East Midlands. The 2014 intake comprises Cameron Green, Matthew Greenwood, Danny Hinds and James Lewis, who will all study for a Construction and the Built Environment Diploma Level 3 at neighbouring Stephenson College.

Cameron, Matthew and Danny will undertake a traditional civil engineering apprenticeship, initially shadowing the infrastructure, geotechnical and transport teams to gain an understanding of the breadth of M-EC's expertise. James will join the Geomatics division, learning basic principles for land, measured building and engineering surveys, as well as the equipment and technology used.

MD, Eddie Mewies commented: **“We welcome four exceptional and eager candidates to our apprenticeship scheme and look forward to developing their skills and careers at M-EC.”**

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are solely those of the individuals quoted and not necessarily those of the company.

ASPIRE

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M-EC
Consulting Development Engineers



Supporting our troops:
Phillip participates in Uniform to Work Day



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MD'S MESSAGE

"2014 has been positive for M-EC, reflecting the upturn in UK construction and wider economy. Most recently, we have expanded our Ibstock office accommodation by 50% to provide more opportunities for growth across all divisions.

"In addition, we are making significant investments in both software and equipment. The former will facilitate greater BIM compliance, whilst the latter sees us add a topographical total station, noise monitoring equipment, four wheel drive site vehicle and drilling rig to bolster our in-house capabilities.

"This growth is further underpinned by a number of new appointments and services. In this issue, we highlight our strengthened air quality and construction design divisions, as well as welcome four new apprentices to our civil engineering and geomatics teams.

"Add these achievements to our hat-trick of award successes, and you see why it's been an exciting year. We do recognise, however, that as workloads increase, some organisations struggle with delivery, so whilst we pride ourselves on good communication and realistic schedules, if there's anything we can do to improve, please let us know – or pop into our new offices for a coffee - we'd love to hear from you."

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MILITARY TRAINING FOR TEAM M-EC!



(Front l-r) Staff Sergeant Phillip Mabbitt, Private Lee Sheils, Eddie Mewies, M-EC, Corporal Sarah Hewitt and Private Ellie Swatland with members of the M-EC team behind.

M-EC's senior structural technician, Phillip Mabbitt participated in the national military initiative, Uniform to Work Day by giving a basic vehicle safety demonstration.

Designed to raise awareness, Uniform to Work Day invited Army Reservists to wear their military uniform into their civilian workplaces. Explaining why he chose to organise a vehicle safety demonstration, Philip said: "Whilst my colleagues know of my military role, this event enabled me to explain more about my training. M-EC has a growing fleet of vehicles which are driven on a daily basis, so it's important the team knows how to keep them roadworthy and safe."

To assist the demonstration, which included tips on visual checks, tyre pressure, oil levels and insurance responsibilities, Phillip brought two, six-tonne MAN support vehicles from 203 Transport Squadron RLC.

HEAVEN IS A HALF-PIPE! Ashby Skate Park Opens



A BMX rider testing the new skate park in Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

Cllr. Gill Hoult, mayor of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, officially opened the town's new skate park amid a display of professional skateboarding and BMX tricks.

Replacing an outdated, wooden structure, the new skate park is modern and easy to maintain. Prior to construction, M-EC produced a Flood Risk Assessment for the site. "The skate park, situated within Flood Zone 3, had a higher probability of flooding," explained Tim Rose, associate director. "We produced a detailed Flood Risk Assessment, including a flood compensation scheme for a section of Gilwiskaw Brook. Our assessment confirmed viability of the scheme and subsequently, planning permission was granted."



SOLAR POWER

Client: Castillium Ltd

M-EC's photogrammetry division has undertaken a series of surveys to Castillium with its UK solar park portfolio.

Using photogrammetric mapping and aerial photography, the Geomatics team surveyed sites ranging from 25 to 75 hectares to confirm viability for utility scale solar parks. A major concern for Castillium was the height of existing trees, so photogrammetric surveys, which are accurate to +/- 0.12 metres, were used to calculate shadow and potential loss of light on any panels which sit in the vicinity. In addition, ground level detail has been useful to maximise design and achieve planning permission.

Andrew Blumfield, director at Castillium said: "The speed and accuracy of M-EC's photogrammetric surveys which have substantially accelerated these time-driven projects and allowed a substantial cost saving compared to a conventional survey."

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INFRASTRUCTURE ADOPTIONS SPECIALIST

"An average site requires three separate adoption agreements; one for new roads, one for improvements to existing infrastructure e.g. junctions or traffic islands and one for drainage works," explains James Vickers, adoptions approval engineer. "For each element, the team produces a design and submits to either the highway authority or water company. Negotiating amendments and approvals can be time-consuming, so I act as central co-ordinator, providing one point of contact throughout. Using a tracker system, I update and monitor progress so I can ensure approvals are obtained in the shortest possible timeframe."

Based in the construction design services team, James reports to associate director, Jordan Flint. "We have between 30 and 40 live projects at any one time. It's therefore essential we keep on top of all projects, ensuring responses to technical comments are made as quickly as possible and clients are fully updated on a regular basis." Said Jordan.

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James Vickers is M-EC's dedicated adoptions approval engineer and co-ordinates all projects.



SOMETHING IN THE AIR?

Rosie James profiles positive measures for action against poor air quality...

"Poor air quality can lead to detrimental impacts on human health, particularly those with acute respiratory diseases. In 2010, 29,000 premature deaths were estimated to be linked to air quality so it's become a key item on the national agenda. The majority of action for improvement is driven by European legislation, and the UK, local authorities and developers all have responsibilities."

"Common causes of poor air quality include combustion from heating systems, power generation and road traffic, with the latter resulting in the EC launching legal action against the UK for failing to reduce nitrogen dioxide levels. At local level, councils must manage air quality and implement air quality action plans, which typically include 'hard' and 'soft' measures such as traffic management schemes, travel plans or behavioural change respectively. A material consideration in planning, air quality assessments can prove vital for confirming site suitability and developing measures for amelioration."

"To create lasting change, improvements need to be made at every stage, resulting in healthy and sustainable air quality."

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IN BRIEF:



The final countdown

M-EC has been shortlisted three times in local and national awards! M-EC was runner-up in the Leicester Mercury Business Awards and a finalist in both the Construction News and Housebuilder Awards for achievements as a growing business in 2014.

Guest Appearance

Associate structural engineer, Horst Schrickel has been invited as a guest lecturer at the University of Birmingham. Teaching civil and structural engineering undergraduates, Horst has delivered an introductory lecture on Construction (Design & Management) Regulations using real life examples.



Team Effort for Town

Continuing its support of Ashby Foodbank, M-EC ran the collection point in the town's Tesco in July, as well as printing the shopping lists, so customers would know which items to donate. Over 1007kg of tinned and dried food was collected.

