

## CASE STUDY: Balfour Beatty

07 March 2014



## NEWS RELEASE

### **Balfour Beatty's contribution to apprenticeships recognised during National Apprenticeship Week**

68 new apprenticeships, a visit to Number 10 and an 'Apprentice of the Year' have all contributed to Balfour Beatty's most successful National Apprenticeship Week (3-7 March) ever.

Yesterday, Balfour Beatty electrotechnical apprentice, Luke Walker, aged 22, attended a reception at 10 Downing Street to celebrate the announcement of the latest round of Trailblazer Apprenticeships which Balfour Beatty is helping to develop to improve the apprenticeship experience for learner and industry alike.

Meanwhile, Balfour Beatty has pledged dozens of apprenticeship places as part of its continuing commitment to apprenticeships demonstrated by its recent pledge to 'The 5% Club', an industry initiative whose partners have pledged to ensure that within five years 5% of their workforce are graduates, apprentices or sponsored students.

Balfour Beatty and its apprentices have also received numerous accolades. Balfour Beatty was named as the second placed employer for apprenticeships at the JTL Training Awards with electrical apprentice Thomas Hyland, aged 21, also picking up an award in the best apprentice category. While Rudy Nieddu, aged 28, currently undertaking his apprenticeship on the Crossrail C510 Whitechapel and Liverpool Street Station Tunnels contract, won the prestigious 'Overall Crossrail Apprentice of the Year' prize.

Balfour Beatty currently employs approximately 300 apprentices across the UK and is participating in National Apprenticeship Week to celebrate the positive impact that apprenticeships have on individuals, businesses and the economy and to attract new apprentices to join.

Luke Walker, who attended the Downing Street reception, is a third year electrical apprentice with Balfour Beatty. He has worked on the Blackfriars Station refurbishment and is currently on the Pudding Lane Docklands Light Railway development. He completes his apprenticeship in July with his electrician's qualifications. Luke said: "It was terrific to go to Number 10 and meet the

ministers and other apprentices. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as an apprentice which, whilst hard work, has been very rewarding.”

Nicholas Pollard, Balfour Beatty Construction Services UK Chief Executive Officer, said: “The future of our industry depends on finding and investing in the next generation of engineers, project managers and skilled trades and we will continue to strive to have the highest quality workforce. This is exactly what apprenticeships help create, to serve our customers’ infrastructure needs in the future.”

As part of National Apprenticeship Week, Balfour Beatty has been providing updates and blogs from its experiences which can be found through its Twitter and Linked-in channels at [@bbcsuk](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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#### **PHOTOGRAPHS:**

- Photo of Luke Walker and Tony Ellender (Balfour Beatty Emerging Talent Manager) with other apprentices outside Number 10 (back).
- Balfour Beatty Apprentices and Nick Pollard, CEO of Balfour Beatty Construction Services UK, at Ecobuild 2014.

**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

- Balfour Beatty's pledge is part of the seventh annual National Apprenticeship Week, co-ordinated by the National Apprenticeship Service, which took place from 3-7 March 2014. More information can be found here: [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk).
- Balfour Beatty is highly committed to ensuring that we provide high quality apprenticeships that are able to deliver the needs of our business and meet our customers' expectations. Our apprenticeship and graduate positions currently make up approximately 3.5% of our total workforce and we recruit approximately 300 apprentices and 400 graduates in the UK every year. In UK construction, we are taking on twice as many apprentices and graduates as last year (85 graduates and 50 apprenticeships). Balfour Beatty has a structured graduate scheme for technical and business disciplines and is working with Government and industry on schemes such as Trailblazer, where it is the electro-technical lead, improving apprenticeships for learners and employees. As part of Balfour Beatty's Employer Ownership of Skills contract, backed by Government, it is also developing new degree-level apprenticeships in Civil Engineering, Construction Management, Building Services Engineering and Quantity Surveying. We are members of 'The 5% Club', an industry-led initiative focused on creating momentum behind the recruitment of apprentices and graduates into the workforce, and we are committed to ensuring that at least 5% of our workforce is engaged in a formalised apprenticeship or sponsored or full time education within five years. Currently there are 21 partners including Balfour Beatty. More information can be found here: <http://www.balfourbeattyuk.com/about-us/work-for-us/national-apprenticeship-week/>
- Balfour Beatty's UK and Ireland construction business ([www.balfourbeattyuk.com](http://www.balfourbeattyuk.com)) is a leading integrator of complex, sophisticated and innovative projects that improve the UK's and Ireland's national infrastructure and an experienced provider of local and regional projects that help build lasting communities.  
We offer a broad range of capabilities in construction, civil engineering and mechanical & electrical engineering services.  
With offices throughout the UK and Ireland, we deliver a locally-focused service with the support of our national network of expertise and resources.  
Balfour Beatty's UK and Ireland construction business employs 10,000 people.
- Balfour Beatty ([www.balfourbeatty.com](http://www.balfourbeatty.com)) is an international infrastructure group that delivers world class services essential to the development, creation and care of infrastructure assets; from finance and development, through design and project management to construction and maintenance.  
Our businesses draw on more than 100 years of experience to deliver the highest levels of quality, safety and technical expertise to our clients principally in the UK and the USA, with developing businesses in Australia, Canada, the Middle East, South Africa and South East Asia.  
With proven expertise in delivering infrastructure critical to support communities and society today and in the future, our key market sectors focus on infrastructure - transportation (roads, rail and aviation), power and energy, water and complex buildings (both commercial and social).  
Balfour Beatty employs 40,000 people around the world.