

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Lafarge Tarmac recruitment drive for Norfolk apprentices as part of nationwide commitment to skills**

Lafarge Tarmac - the company which is set to deliver highways services on behalf of Norfolk County Council from April this year - has announced that it will create up to ten apprenticeships in 2014 in the county as part of a nationwide commitment to skills.

Paul Fleetham, Managing Director for Lafarge Tarmac's Contracting business, said:

"I want Lafarge Tarmac to inspire youngsters into construction and help to create a lasting skills legacy for Norfolk. We will be working with Norfolk County Council to ensure our apprenticeship programme provides great job opportunities for the region. I believe that our commitment to skills, innovation and R&D means we're well placed to offer expert support and guidance to nurture skills and kick-start successful careers in construction."

The aim is to create a long term scheme that will provide skills and training to talented young people across the county. The firm's pledge, which coincides with *National Apprenticeship Week 2014*, will see the new recruits join the company in September.

The business's national apprenticeship programme will involve an annual intake of up to 60 apprentices across the UK, to offer training and workplace learning to encourage more youngsters to consider a career in construction. The company will use its drive to recruit apprentices to develop a more diverse and highly-skilled workforce, that will leave a lasting skills legacy for the region.

Apprenticeships will last for up to four years, with all recruits undertaking a year of vocational training at various local colleges and Fast Lane training centres as well as receiving expert technical on-site training in their chosen discipline.

Colleen Walker, Cabinet Member for Economic Development at Norfolk County Council, said: "Norfolk County Council is strongly supporting the expansion of apprenticeships and the development of a skilled workforce, and it was important to us that anyone bidding for the Norfolk highways contract should share that aspiration. Having won the contract, I am very pleased that Lafarge Tarmac has already proved its commitment by offering places in its apprenticeship programme.

"I am sure there will be plenty of Norfolk's bright and ambitious young people who will jump at this opportunity to set out on a career with one of the country's leading construction companies."

Norfolk County Council and Lafarge Tarmac are working together to deliver an, efficient highways service that provides value for money for taxpayers and high-quality roads for roads users. The contract, worth up to £480m over 12 years, is for maintenance and construction work on Norfolk's 6,000 miles of county roads and will save the county's taxpayers up to £4.4 million a year.

**ENDS**

## Notes to Editors

### About Lafarge Tarmac

Lafarge Tarmac is the UK's leading sustainable building materials group. Our innovative products, solutions and services not only deliver the infrastructure needed to grow the UK economy today but also enable a more sustainable built environment for the country's long term future.

Founded in 2013 as a joint venture between industry leaders Lafarge UK and Tarmac, the company benefits from over 150 years of experience and combined assets. Through its nationwide network of sites, it provides customers with aggregates & asphalt, cement & lime, readymix concrete, road contracting and recycling services, and employs approximately 5,500 people. This combination of people, technology and assets enables Lafarge Tarmac to offer customers unrivalled choice and flexibility, ensuring optimal sustainable performance of their projects and maximising value.

Lafarge Tarmac has contributed to some of the UK's biggest construction projects, including Wembley Stadium, Heathrow Terminal 5, The Shard and London 2012. It also provides environmental stewardship for thousands of acres of the UK's countryside. Safety is at the core its operations, beginning with a commitment to provide a safe environment for employees and extending to contractors and communities around its sites.

Lafarge Tarmac operates independently, but is owned by Lafarge SA and Anglo American, who are equal shareholders. Lafarge Tarmac business has grown organically as well as through acquisitions, including household names such as Tarmac, Blue Circle and Redland. The leadership team includes Cyrille Ragoucy as CEO, and Guy Young as CFO.

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