

Case study title: Thameslink – Career Journey of an Apprentice
Month/year: July 2015

Business unit: Construction Services - Rail
Project: Thameslink Programme
In partnership with: Network Rail (Client)
Key contact: Debbie Bewley (Sustainability & Assurance Manager) – Debbie.bewley2@carillionplc.com

Thameslink Sustainability Strategy Objectives

- ✓ Workplace and people (Objective 1)
- ✓ Social legacy of employment, skills and training (Objective 5)
- ✓ Proactively engaging with Communities (Objective 7)

Background

Ashley Edwards began working on Thameslink as an apprentice in August 2012 whilst studying for a Diploma Level 1 and 2 - General Construction Operative at the Kings Cross Construction School. This was the result of the Canal Tunnels project team recognising an opportunity to support the school which was adjacent to their site and help to deliver a legacy of employment, skills and training. Ashley along with 2 other apprentices completed an NVQ Level 2 on the Canal Tunnels Project in November 2013. During a visit to the Canal Tunnels site by Stephen Hammond MP Ashley along with his fellow apprentices was presented with civils white hats as they 'graduated' from the scheme apprenticeship.

Ashley has remained with the Carillion Thameslink Team since and is now training as a Junior Quantity Surveyor with the Carillion commercial team. Ashley commented on his experience to date, *"As part of my NVQ, I worked with different trades - Electricians, Civils and P-Way. When I came to Cricklewood, Rob Fuller and Jim Lewis really helped me focus on my P-Way training, which is what I'm most interested in. The course I'm doing now will enable me to be a QS, which will help me become a Project Manager one day. I am studying for a BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment and a Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Surveying, Property and Maintenance. I do one day a week at college and have assignments looking at topics such as sustainability and building methods. Then I'm back in the office working with Vengai and Dennis in the commercial team. I do think there should be more apprentices, learning different trades. Applying for a Carillion Construction Apprenticeship was the best decision I've ever made."*

Ashley has also been assisting the Carillion Team to deliver their Community Engagement Plan. In February 2014 he attended Whitefield School near Carillion's site at Cricklewood to assist Jim Brown, NR Construction Manager and Debbie Bewley, Carillion Sustainability Manager, to highlight the dangers of trespassing on the railway and promote careers in the rail industry to over 300 students.

Ashley was contacted by his secondary school Careers Advisor this year inviting him to an apprenticeship Open Evening to inspire students to look at apprenticeships in construction. In May 2015 he delivered a presentation and Q&A session to 250 students at Aylward Academy in Edmonton which highlighted his experiences and helped them to understand how they can apply for apprenticeships. Ashley said of this trip back to school *"Whilst I was back at the school I met some of my teachers that used to teach me 4 years ago and they were really pleased and happy with what I have achieved"*.

Key Achievements:

- Actively supported delivery of Carillion Community Engagement Plan
- Promoted rail safety message to 300 local junior school children
- Promoted the opportunities for young people in the rail industry through apprenticeship schemes to 550 students.



Photo 1 – Ashley Edwards on the far right hand side, together with other Carillion apprentices Jason Platford and Jake Caddy, receiving their white hard hats from Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, Stephen Hammond



Photo 2 – Ashley Edwards along with Network Rail's Construction Manager Jim Brown talking to students at Whitefield School in Cricklewood.



Photo 3: Ashley at the Carillion Cricklewood site offices where he is now working with the commercial team.