

# Leaving a legacy

## Keepmoat supporting Luton residents to kick-start their careers

**Keepmoat was delighted to host its first Kick-start employability programme on the Marsh Farm estate.**

The two week programme aimed to give local unemployed people a boost to their employment prospects. A barrier for many people looking for work in the construction industry is the requirement to hold a CSCS card; most contractors and major house builders require construction workers on their sites to hold a valid card. A key aim of the programme was to support the candidates to achieve this, opening up their prospects to sustainable employment in the construction and related industries.

Candidates also took part in a range of fully accredited health and safety training courses, employability skills and practical 'hands on' work experience. Through a visit to the Marsh Farm site office and a 'Q&A' with the site team, they were also able to experience a site induction and gain an insight into the day-to-day activity on a busy construction project.

A highlight of the programme was the practical work carried out in the local community. Henge Farm, formerly derelict land on the Marsh Farm estate, has been reclaimed by the community and transformed into a working 'farm', enabling local people to grow fresh produce, get involved in outdoor activity as

well as providing an Iron Age educational experience. Over two days, our Kick-start participants worked alongside Keepmoat staff and our grounds contractors, Dawkins, to prepare and erect a perimeter fence. This was a great way of encouraging the group to work together as a team, as well as putting into action the various safety considerations that had underpinned the classroom based sessions.

At the end of the two week programme, Luton's Mayor, Dave Taylor, presented the group with certificates at a ceremony on the estate.

***"I really enjoyed the kick-start course, it has helped build my confidence. I am pleased with passing my tests - this would not have been achieved without the excellent teaching and kind staff."***

Jane Calvano, Kick-start graduate

***"The course will kick-start a future career in construction. Because of the course I will have more opportunities open up for me."***  
Eve Waysome, Kick-start graduate and Marsh Farm resident

***"The course is wicked! I would like even more training with Keepmoat. It has been an epic journey. I will now be able to register with agencies too."***

John Leckey, Kick-start graduate and Marsh Farm resident



Preparing materials for Henge Farm



On their site visit



Building the fence at Henge Farm



The Mayor, Keepmoat team and graduates at the ceremony

***"This is a brilliant initiative and a real stepping stone for local people looking to secure work in the construction or related industries. Schemes like this show that the investment framework, our 20 year plan for major transformation and job creation to improve health and enhance prosperity, is coming to life. Our residents show great commitment to get into work and on behalf of the Council and Keepmoat, I wish them all the best in their endeavours."***

Dave Taylor, Mayor of Luton