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John Corcoran of Chepstow Plant International

PEOPLE

COMMUNITIES

Creating Opportunities Through Skills and Apprenticeships

Tarmac is committed to being an integral part of local communities, not only as an employer but as an active contributor to developing future talent. OurPark -Tarmac’s National Skills and Safety Park in Nottinghamshire - plays a central role in this commitment. As well as supporting Tarmac colleagues through practical training and development, the site also works with a wider network of employers and industry initiatives to help new entrants gain the skills and confidence needed to begin their careers. Jake, an apprentice from Chepstow Plant International, is one example of how this collaborative approach can make a lasting difference.



Jake’s Journey into the Industry

Jake joined the Professional Operator Development Programme (PODP) after leaving school with

minimal qualifications. Through hands-on training at OurPark, combined with support from Chepstow and the wider Minerals Matter initiative, he has made significant progress both personally and professionally. He has gained qualifications, built confidence and found a clear path into a long-term career within the mineral products industry.

Reflecting on his experience, he shared:

“The opportunity gave me a second chance. Since joining the PODP, I’ve become more confident, a better communicator, and I’ve finally passed qualifications I didn’t think I’d ever get. It’s really changed my life, and I’m proud to be where I am today.

Jake, Apprentice at Chepstow Plant International

A Collaborative Approach to Development

Jake’s achievements demonstrate how OurPark brings together practical learning, real-world experience and structured support. His progress has been shaped not only by training but also by the partnership between Tarmac, Chepstow and the Minerals Matter initiative, all of whom share a commitment to nurturing new talent.

Matt Gibbs, Senior Manager for Operational Competence at Tarmac,

highlighted this collaborative effort:

“Jake’s story is a brilliant example of what can happen when training, employer support and industry-wide initiatives work together. Programmes like PODP are helping to reshape perceptions of our sector and give individuals a solid foundation to build a lasting career, whether it’s young people looking to start their career or an individual that is looking to learn new knowledge, skills, and behaviours. We’re proud to support that.”

Chepstow Plant International, one of the UK’s leading earthmoving contractors, continues to champion apprenticeships and early-career development. The company plays an active role in supporting Minerals Matter and in working with OurPark to provide real-world training opportunities.

“Jake’s development is a testament to what structured apprenticeship programmes and the right support can achieve. At Chepstow, we’re proud to back initiatives like PODP and to work closely with Tarmac to provide real-world training opportunities that make a difference. It’s vital for the future of our industry that we invest in young people and champion stories like Jake’s to inspire the next generation.”

John Corcoran of Chepstow Plant International

Supporting Communities Through Skills

Jake’s story reflects more than the success of one apprentice. It demonstrates how we support talent development not only across Tarmac but also within the wider mineral products sector. By bringing employers, training providers and industry bodies together, the OurPark helps individuals take their first steps into the sector while giving businesses access to a new generation of skilled, confident and capable people.

Looking Ahead

The work of OurPark reinforces Tarmac’s commitment to supporting education and development within local communities. Programmes like the Professional Operator Development Programme provide clear pathways into meaningful careers, helping individuals build stronger futures while supporting the long-term success of the mineral products industry.

Jake’s journey is just one example of the difference this collaborative approach can make. As demand for skilled operators continues to grow, OurPark will remain a cornerstone of Tarmac’s efforts to nurture talent, strengthen community connections and build a workforce ready for the years ahead.