



**NEWS RELEASE – 22 February 2017**

**STARTS**

**UK's first MPO apprentice is from Wiltshire**



Apprentice Aidan Jeffreys helps to maintain a front-end loading shovel at Shorncote Quarry

A former Wiltshire student has become the UK quarry industry's first mobile and static plant operator (MPO) apprentice. Aidan Jeffreys is based at Hills' Shorncote Quarry near Cirencester. He is due to complete his studies in December this year with Level 2 Diplomas in both Plant and Processing Operations.

Hills Quarry Products is celebrating Aidan's progress as part of National Apprenticeship Week to highlight the career opportunities available for apprentices in the quarrying industry.

Peter Andrew, Group director Hills Quarry Products, said: "We are delighted to have Aidan on board; he has settled in extremely well and has shown a real flair for the tasks he has been set and is coping well with the pressures of learning whilst training."

Aidan spends the majority of his working week undertaking practical based learning, which includes operating mobile and static plant, and the remainder of his time is spent with external trainers and mentors learning the more theoretical requirements for the role.

Hills' attends events at local colleges to showcase the career opportunities available within the industry including this apprenticeship scheme.

Interested candidates are invited to spend a day at a working quarry to see for themselves the type of work they would be expected to undertake and the conditions in which they would be working. They also have the opportunity to meet up with potential future colleagues and share their experiences of working in the quarry industry.



Peter continues: "This is a real achievement for Hills and the quarrying industry. Hopefully this will set a benchmark and Aidan will be the first of many to join Hills as an apprentice."

Anyone interested in pursuing an apprenticeship can contact The Hills Group on email [info@hills-group.co.uk](mailto:info@hills-group.co.uk)

## ENDS

Notes to editors:

- National Apprenticeship Week runs from 5-9 March.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/national-apprenticeship-week-2018-naw-2018>
- Hills is partnering with Mentor Training Solutions Limited to deliver the external training courses along with industry specialist training Safety Coaching, MRS training, Ifast Fire and Safety Training and Serac UK.

**Hills Quarry Products** specialises in the production and supply of quarry products and ready-mixed concrete to the construction and agricultural sectors. It is a dynamic regional business which, while centred on Wiltshire, has stretched its boundaries into neighbouring areas to become one of the region's largest suppliers. Hills Quarry Products is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Hills Group Limited, a privately owned family company established in 1900. [www.hills-quarry.co.uk](http://www.hills-quarry.co.uk)

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