

BRIANS TRIP BACK IN TIME WITH YOUNG WELDERS

Engineering students from Derbyshire were given an inspirational tour of the Humber Bridge in Hull by one of the welding engineers who worked on the bridge's construction over 20 years ago, their training instructor Brian Crofts.



The 16-18 year olds, who are studying for an NVQ Level 2 in Engineering at NLT Training Services in Chesterfield, were given a tour of the UK's largest suspension bridge to study how welding is used in the construction of major structures.

Brian Crofts, training instructor at NLT Training Services, said: What better place to show what a valuable trade they have chosen, than by studying a structure as impressive as the Humber Bridge. It is so important to emphasise to the next generation about the need for skilled engineering staff who will be responsible for projects of this kind in the future. I have a real sense of satisfaction when I see the bridge, because of the part I played and hopefully these young engineers will go on to work on exciting structures like this too.

The trip was important because it enabled the young welders to see welding in another form and as part of a major structure, rather than just on the shop floor. Students went up onto the bridge to study the cables and structure and learnt about how the bridge was built and what welding techniques were used and why.

As part of their NVQ portfolio, the students produced a brochure on the bridge, which included mathematical work on suspension and toll charging and the history behind the bridge.

The Humber Bridge took eight years to build and provides a link between Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Thousands of tonnes of steel and concrete and more than one thousand workers and staff were employed to construct the bridge, which is seen as an engineering masterpiece and focal point for engineering students throughout the UK.

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