

Thinking of a career in

building and construction

Building and construction involves designing, planning, maintaining, repairing and building our houses, transport systems, hospitals, factories and shops. A career in building and construction gives you the opportunity to affect and improve the world we live in.



connexions

LEICESTER SHIRE

Is this YOU?

- Interested in design and technology
- Good at paying attention to detail
- Enjoy working outdoors
- Like doing practical work and working with your hands
- Work well in a team
- Want to work in an industry that is always changing and moving forward

If so...

You could be well suited to a career in building and construction, or a related sector, such as engineering.

Getting in

and moving on...

Jobs

You could take an unskilled job, for example as a labourer, as a step into building and construction work and do more on-the-job training in the future.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are available with local training providers in many crafts, such as carpentry, general construction, painting and decorating or plumbing. For some Apprenticeships you might need GCSEs in English and maths.

Further education (FE)

There are a wide range of courses available at local colleges and sixth forms that can lead to a career in building and construction. This includes general qualifications such as AS or A levels in maths and design technology, or specific qualifications such as BTECs in construction. You can then begin a career as a trainee or continue on to higher education.

Higher Education (HE)

To do some jobs in building and construction, such as architect, civil engineer or quantity surveyor, you will need a degree, HND or HNC. You can study full-time or part-time alongside a job.

Self employment

A lot of people dream of running their own business within this industry. Like in any sector, being self employed is very competitive and comes with a lot of risks. It's a big step to take, and a lot of researching and planning is needed. It isn't something that a lot of people go straight into after finishing school — most people gain experience of the industry first as an employee.

The training given in this industry is broad based and you could move from one job in building and construction to another. You will also learn transferable skills, such as team work and communication, which will be useful in any job.



Local a

Despite a slow down in the building and construction industry, there are still major projects like the new schools and facilities such as roads.

Previously, the UK built 88,000 new recruits each year in the housing market.

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Level

7 to 8

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4 to 5

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Vac

**Trainee
dryliner
plasterer**

needed for s
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Leicester
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Myth buster

There are no jobs in building and construction these days and the ones that do exist are dead end!

Not true! There is demand for people to work in all areas of building and construction, particularly in professional positions and in wood and electrical trades.

and national

Numbers employed

trends

In 2007 and 2008, it is expected that the UK building industry will grow over the next few years. This is due to Olympic Park and continued investment in services roads, schools and hospitals.

Building and construction industry needed an average of 1.5% of the workforce each year. This has fallen dramatically due to a slow down in the manufacturing and related sectors.

In Leicester and Leicestershire, 10% of employed people work in building and construction.

90% of building and construction jobs in the UK are self employed or work part time (less than 11 hours a week).

10% of those employed in the building and construction industry are self employed.

There has been a decline in the number of people entering construction. In the future, the workforce will be lost due to people retiring over the next few years.

Jobs in and up

Qualifications

Local Courses

Jobs

Pay

<p>Masters Degree Post graduate certificates or diplomas</p> <p>Doctorate Graduate Apprenticeship</p>	<p>MA property development and construction PG Diploma in international construction management</p>	<p>Architect Structural engineer Town planner Civil engineer Building manager</p>	<p>£20,000 rising to £50,000+ a year</p>
<p>Honours Degree Management certificates and diplomas</p> <p>Graduate Apprenticeship</p>	<p>BA sustainable built environment BEng or MEng civil engineering</p>	<p>Site manager Housing officer</p>	<p>£17,000 to £50,000 a year</p>
<p>Foundation Degree Management certificates or diplomas HNC HND</p> <p>NVQ level 4 NVQ level 5 Higher Apprenticeship</p>	<p>Foundation degree built environment HNC building services engineering</p>	<p>Supervisor Surveying technician</p>	<p>£16,000 to £40,000 a year</p>
<p>A levels BTEC National Technical certificates</p> <p>NVQ level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship Advanced Diploma</p>	<p>A level maths and physics NVQ level 3 general construction</p>	<p>Bricklayer Plumber Joiner</p>	<p>£12,000 to £25,000 a year</p>
<p>Higher Diploma GCSEs at grade A* to C BTEC First Diploma</p> <p>NVQ level 2 Apprenticeship</p>	<p>Higher Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment NVQ level 2 carpentry and joinery</p>	<p>Ground worker Construction operative</p>	<p>£12,000 to £20,000 a year</p>
<p>Foundation Diploma GCSEs at grade D to G</p> <p>NVQ level 1</p>	<p>NVQ level 1 pathway to skilled work - general construction operative</p>		

Vacancies in Leicestershire

<p>Site agent</p> <p>needed for Melton based company. Must have HNC or equivalent in civil engineering £18.50 an hour</p>	<p>Qualified electrician</p> <p>needed for large property maintenance company in Loughborough £426 a week</p>	<p>Painter and decorator</p> <p>required for private decorating company in Coalville £10 an hour</p>	<p>Quantity Surveyor</p> <p>needed for well established company near Hinckley £35,000 per year plus company car</p>
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James's story...



James is currently working as an apprentice bricklayer for a building company in Leicestershire. He works on various construction projects across the Midlands alongside qualified bricklayers. After making sure he arrives at work on time, he gets his instructions for the day and will usually start laying bricks or blocks according to drawings. On small jobs he also has to do some labouring work such as carrying bricks and mixing mortar.

James' job involves using his hands and working neatly, accurately and quickly. He uses numerical skills for measuring and reading plans and drawings. He works 40 hours each week which could be indoors or outdoors in all weather conditions.

How he got there...

After leaving school with seven GCSEs including maths and English, James completed an NVQ Level 2 in Bricklaying. He now spends one day a week studying for an Advanced Apprenticeship in Bricklaying at a local college.

James currently earns £16,000 a year but plans to continue with his college education and earn up to £25,000.

Employer profile

Westleigh Developments are a successful, privately owned, development company based in Leicestershire and operating throughout the Midlands.

The company build new homes for housing associations and for outright sale along with office parks and warehouse/industrial estates.

The environment is high on the agenda at Westleigh, with energy efficient buildings being produced, using thermally efficient timber frame technology, produced by Westleigh's own timber frame manufacturing arm, Westframe at Enderby.

The company employ approximately 200 people spread over their Head Office, at Westframe and on development sites. Jobs range from site based, hands on construction work and site management through to in house design of drainage systems, site layouts, construction cost estimating, land acquisition, sales and marketing, public relations, accounts management and administration.

Westleigh operate apprenticeship programmes and are accredited with "Investors in People" status.

Looking for ... Courses

CourseFinder is the main place to go to find information on local courses and other learning opportunities for 14-19 year olds. Log on to it at www.coursefinder-leics.org

Jobs and Apprenticeships

Check out www.connexions-leics.org/opportunities or call into your local Connexions centre.

Check out the Leicester Mercury every Wednesday or other local papers.
Find addresses of building and construction companies and send them your CV with an accompanying letter or email.

Ask around friends and relatives about vacancies where they work.
Contact your school work experience employer to ask about vacancies.

Go to www.apprenticeships.org.uk to register with the National Apprenticeship Service.

Quiz

- 1 What percentage of the local building and construction workforce may be lost due to retirement?
A 7% B 30% C 25%
- 2 Which of the following is not a job in building and construction?
A carpenter B plumber C courier D architect
- 3 What level of NVQ did James, the apprentice bricklayer, take?
A level 1 B level 2 C level 3
- 4 How many people are employed by Westleigh Developments?
A 75 B 125 C 200
- 5 Where might you find advertisements for jobs in building and construction?
A the internet B local newspapers
C employment agencies

Checklist



I need to:

- ➔ Visit www.coursefinder-leics.org to find out about information on courses, apprenticeships and other training opportunities in and around Leicester and Leicestershire.
- ➔ Visit www.connexions-leics.org/work/ to find out more on jobs and training.
- ➔ Check out www.connexions-leics.org/opportunities or call into my local Connexions centre for job and training vacancies.
- ➔ Research different careers using www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u
- ➔ Use the 'Routes in and up' grid to see what the different routes are to a dream job! Different qualifications are taught using different learning styles, so I need to decide what suits me best.
- ➔ Use **Kudos** – a career matching software program – to find out what jobs my skills and interests are best suited to. Kudos may be available in my school, college or training provider. It is also available in all Connexions centres.
- ➔ Speak to my Connexions adviser for advice about my options and where I can find more information.



Useful websites

- www.connexions-leics.org – useful information about careers, courses, qualifications, work and training.
- www.apprenticeships.org.uk - everything you need to know about becoming an apprentice.
- www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u - a database of information about hundreds of jobs.
- www.coursefinder-leics.org – search for courses, qualifications and training opportunities for 14-19 year olds in Leicester and Leicestershire.
- www.cbediploma.co.uk/ - the official website for the Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment.
- www.bconstructive.co.uk - everything you need to know about careers in construction. Includes job and employer profiles.
- www.cskills.org – find out about careers and qualifications in the building and construction industry.
- www.summitskills.org.uk – information from the Sector Skills Council about the building services engineering sector.

Where we are...

Leicester

91 Charles Street,
Leicester LE1 1HL
Phone: 0116 262 7254

Coalville

5 Hotel Street,
Coalville LE67 3EQ
Phone: 01530 812231

Hinckley

51 Castle Street,
Hinckley LE10 1DA
Phone: 01455 632719

Loughborough

7 Fennel Street,
Loughborough LE11 1UQ
Phone: 01509 214002

Market Harborough

2 St Mary's Road
Market Harborough LE16 7DU
Phone: 01858 462309

Melton Mowbray

22a Burton Street
Melton Mowbray LE13 1AF
Phone: 01664 569966

South Wigston

50E Blaby Road, South Wigston,
Leicester LE18 4SD
Phone: 0116 277 8090

Connexions

how we can help you and
where you can find us

Connexions Leicestershire can give you information, advice and practical support with careers, education, training and jobs to help you make the right choices, fulfil your potential and have a better life and future. Find your Connexions adviser in school, college or at your local Connexions centre.

Visit us at
www.connexions-leics.org

Alternative Formats

For a version of this brochure in large print, on audio, in Braille or in another language, call **0116 261 5923**.

All publications are also available on our website at
www.connexions-leics.org

