

BUILDING PLACES AND SPACES

Construction
site manager

Construction site managers run building sites, liaising with architects, planners, engineers and surveyors to see that projects are completed safely, on time and on budget. The 2012 Olympic Games mean big demand for construction skills, and the government's Building Schools for the Future programme will call for even more skilled workers. A mix of science and arts subjects at school will be useful, and a degree can help. Or you could start as a basic technician or craftsman. You'll need to be organised, good with people and able to solve problems. You'll also need to be considered and patient. 'Build it once, check it twice', as they say.

Degree needed

A degree can help towards a career in construction management. Relevant courses include building studies, building engineering, construction engineering management and building technology.



Lowenna Roxburgh at work
St George Regeneration



Good courses

Courses accredited by the Chartered Institute of Building include the following:

- BSc Hons Building Surveying (College of Estate Management, Reading)
- BSc Construction Engineering Management (University of Loughborough)
- BSc Hons Architectural Technology (Nottingham Trent University)

Facts and figures

Starting salary

Trainees earn between £14,000 and £19,000.

Working hours

9am to 5pm is the norm.

Days' holiday per year

On average 25.

Skills and experience

Knowledge of construction commerce, law, building materials and IT systems are important. Good communication and organisational skills are particularly helpful.

ask:
what if?

Your career - our future

Would suit

Someone who enjoys problem solving and has an ability to communicate decisions to a varied workforce of employees.

Likely employer types

- Construction companies
- Specialist subcontractors
- Central and local government bodies
- Utility companies
- Self-employment or consultancy
- Site managers can also move into contract management, teaching and research or become company directors

How many jobs available?

A report by the Construction Skills Network predicts that 87,600 new recruits will be needed throughout the construction industry each year between 2007 and 2011. Over 32 per cent of these are needed for professional roles such as construction managers.

Number of people employed in this field

Around 2.1 million people work in the construction industry in the UK.



Meet the expert
Lowenna Roxburgh,
St George Regeneration

Visit AskWhatIf.co.uk to watch video diaries and get opinions from other real people doing real jobs.



Did you know?

The 2012 Olympic Games has been cited as a major factor in the demand for construction skills. But the government's Building Schools for the Future programme is even bigger, and is set to eclipse even the games in terms of investment and the number of skilled construction workers required.

More information

- For career advice and case studies visit the Association for Project Management and the organisation bConstructive www.apm.org.uk www.bconstructive.co.uk
- For information on site management grants and university degrees visit the Construction Industry Training Board www.constructionskills.net
- For management training programmes and events visit the Chartered Institute of Building www.ciob.org.uk
- For building conferences, seminars, workshops and publications about site management www.abe.org.uk

"I make sure the construction team is set up safely and working up to spec. It's great when we achieve what seems the impossible, watching all the components of a job come together."

Some careers are more than just a job... Find out more at AskWhatIf.co.uk