

w? what's your thing?

THE ULTIMATE ESSEX CONSTRUCTION CAREERS GUIDE





Your school, your house, your cinema...
Your whole town was developed by
the people who work in construction.



WHY CONSTRUCTION?

Construction is one of the biggest industries in Essex, employing over 65,000 people. That means that what you think you know about construction might not be quite right:

- Construction is well paid and you can travel the world.
- Construction is for all genders and backgrounds.
- Construction is more than just hardhats and high-visibility jackets.

'What's Your Thing?' is a local careers guide built for everyone who lives in Essex. You can learn about many different opportunities and get loads of advice on how to begin your career by learning about the skills you might need: whatsyourthing.org.uk

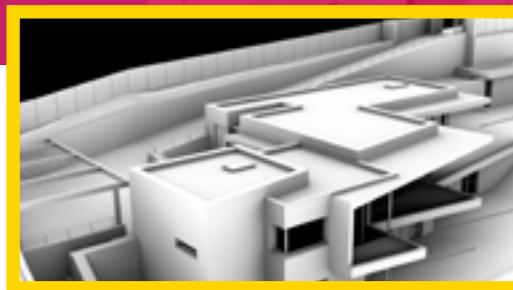
This information has also been provided by GoConstruct, a website which showcases the many career opportunities available in construction and aims to help people discover and experience the world of construction: goconstruct.org



digital

I AM A BIM COORDINATOR

Building Information Modelling (BIM) describes the process of designing and delivering a building using 3D and even 4D models.



Construction is going through a digital revolution!

You could earn:



Entry Routes and Skills:

There are a number of routes that can lead to a position as BIM coordinator but most will require a degree or equivalent in a relevant field such as architecture or construction. You will also be expected to be experienced in design software such as Autodesk Revit or AutoCAD Civil 3D.

Working for



"I have always looked for ways to apply my creativity and focus my inquisitive mind on how things are made. I was drawn to the construction industry through the broad range of opportunities to do something creative. The most rewarding part of my job at Kier is working on projects from start to finish, being part of a team and leaving a legacy." - Rebecca

More About the Role:

Design technologies play a pivotal role in the future of construction. They assist engineers with structural models, drawings and schedules. The role entails reviewing digitized models which are used for the final drawings. These models allow clash detection a term for when elements of a build do not fit together or conflict.

I AM A BUYER

analytic

Buyers are responsible for ensuring that the materials required for construction projects are provided to schedule and according to budgets.



Working for
KnightGroup
EST. 1977

"I started as a trainee buyer straight from college. I then completed a level 3, Construction and Built Environment apprenticeship. I'm responsible for purchasing all of the materials for our construction sites, but I also work with the other departments to ensure their costs are accurate too." - Harry

More About the Role:

Buyers are responsible for ensuring that the materials required for construction projects are provided to schedule and budget. You'll identify potential suppliers and products, pricing materials included in project plans and drawings. You'll keep detailed records and schedules as well as agreeing prices and delivery times. You'll usually work closely with an estimator to ensure that an accurate project cost is provided.

331 job postings across Essex required cost control skills (2017).

You could earn:



Entry Routes and Skills:

Apprenticeships are the usual route in and employers are often happy to offer work experience. You'll need to be a great communicator too. If you like business studies, and can manage a budget, with grades 9-4 in Maths and English, you'll be able to deal effectively with suppliers and ensure the flow of materials.

I AM A CIVIL ENGINEER

creative

Civil engineers have the important role of planning, designing and managing construction projects. They are creative and technical in their role.



Working for
RINGWAY JACOBS

"Before joining Ringway Jacobs I had just finished my A-levels in Law, Psychology and History, and had no previous experience in the construction industry. I wanted to pursue a career in construction as I wanted to apply my creativity into designing solutions for structural construction work." - Ashley

More About the Role:

Typically you would choose to specialise in a particular area, for example: structural, transportation, environmental or geotechnical. Civil engineers assist with site investigations and must develop detailed designs for all different infrastructure projects. As well as the creative elements, civil engineers must support with managing budgets, communicating with other colleagues and clients on the project and keeping the designs up-to-date.

1,061 job postings across Essex for civil engineering (2017).

You could earn:



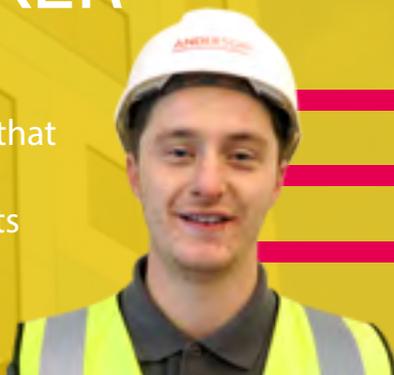
Entry Routes and Skills:

You usually need a three year Bachelor of engineering degree or four year master's degree in civil engineering. However you could qualify as a civil engineer by studying part-time or through a degree apprenticeship. You'll typically need five GCSEs grades 4-9 and three A levels, ideally including maths and science.

practical

I AM A GROUNDWORKER

Groundworkers are key for any construction project. Someone that can get things done as well as understand the technical aspects of construction.



Working for **ANDERSON**

"I always wanted to do something that was practical and hands-on, so I started a General Construction Operations and Groundwork Apprenticeship when I was 17. Every day is different, I really enjoy seeing works progress and seeing the finished product at the end. But outside of work, I like to regularly attend football matches - I am a huge Arsenal fan!" - Jack

More About the Role:

A groundworker is one of the most diverse trades in construction, giving practical people the opportunity to join a family of skilled workers. A groundworker is usually the first person on site, during the construction process, and the last person to leave. Seeing a job through from start to finish is one of the most gratifying feelings, rarely experienced by other trades.



You could progress into:

£16k-£34k

Groundworker

£34k-

£50k

Site Supervisor

£50k-
£60k

Site Manager

Entry Routes and Skills:

The preferred entry route is via an apprenticeship scheme hosted by many Essex based companies. Skills required include: hands on, practical, team player with the ability to think on your feet. Starting as an apprentice, you could work towards a qualified groundworker role then diversify into specialist areas. Some employers may ask for GCSEs Grades 4-9 in maths and English. Site experience is key, so look for work experience opportunities or construction Open Doors events to attend.

detailed

I AM A PLANNER

Planners are fundamental to the execution of a project, making decisions, ensuring new buildings/land uses fit into the local surroundings.



Working for **MORGAN SINDALL**

"I started on a trainee management programme after completing my A-Levels. I was interested in construction, having done work experience in this field and watching plenty of Grand Designs on TV. This involves earning (full-time on the job) and learning (part-time degree paid for by company). Every day is different. It's not just an office job, work inside and outside." - James

More About the Role:

Town planners balance the needs of a growing population for more homes and better transport. Planners look at the environmental impact; how we manage energy, waste, sustainability and business in order to make a place a better area to live. Project planners, like James, schedule, plan and report progress on the project environment.



£6bn

expected cost of Lower Thames Crossing.

You could earn:

£19k-£30k

Entry level

£30k-

£50k

With training

£50k-
£80k

Senior level

Entry Routes and Skills:

Skills include negotiation, problem solving and creative thinking. A degree in Town Planning is a common pathway alongside work placements. It is possible to gain professional qualifications through experience, starting with a Technical Support apprenticeship after GCSEs or A Levels. An interest in geography, history, design, sciences and law can all help.

I AM A PROJECT MANAGER

communicator

Project managers are in charge of making sure a building or other kind of structure is done properly from start to finish.



Working for



"Seeing how our home adaptations dramatically improve the lives of the many elderly and disabled customers we work for is easily the best part of the job! Construction has many career opportunities and I was always interested in the construction process so it was an obvious choice for me. Now I get to run my own projects and I contribute to each part of the process, from planning to design." - Laura

More About the Role:

Project Managers direct multi-disciplinary teams to make sure that each stage of a company's projects are going to be delivered on time, on budget and to a high quality. They are responsible for making sure that each team is supported to deliver the best that they can by creating detailed plans and doing the important paperwork for budgets and giving clear objectives to all.



901

job postings across Essex required project management skills (2017).

You could earn:



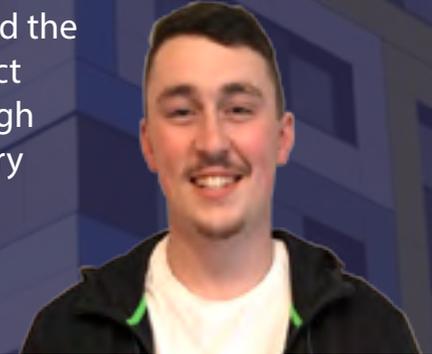
Entry Routes and Skills:

Like Laura, you could start by doing a course in Construction Management and The Built Environment. You usually need to be qualified to degree or post graduate level. Other useful degrees include business, management and IT. You'll need time management and communication skills to manage the human side of the project.

I AM A SITE MANAGER

leader

As a site manager, you would lead the team on site to ensure any project is completed on time and to a high standard. You will need to be very organised and motivated to support your team.



Working for



"I used to help my dad in the garden as a child. I spoke to a family friend who recommend a career in construction and I knew it was the industry for me when I started my course! Being a trainee site manager gives me a lot of responsibility, from overseeing site activity, to communicating with sub-contractors, ensuring they have the information they need." - James

More About the Role:

A site manager, sometimes called construction manager, building manager or site agent, is involved with the construction phase of a project, overseeing the workforce on a building site. Site managers often have to motivate staff, resolve day-to-day issues, oversee contractors, and most importantly, ensure the quality and overall safety of a site.



258

job postings across Essex required construction management skills (2017).

You could earn:



Entry Routes and Skills:

You'll need to be a great communicator as you'll have to liaise with clients, the public and other professionals. It's important you can lead and motivate others ensuring high standards. This requires great planning and IT skills. You may want to consider an apprenticeship as a pathway and good results in English, maths, and science or technological subjects will help.

I AM A SURVEYOR

organised

As a surveyor you could work all over the world and use the latest technology like aerial laser scanning, digital mapping and artificial intelligence.



You could earn:

New Entrant/
Chartered
Surveyor

£16k-£26k

Entry level

£20k-

£32k

With training

£32k-

£45k

Senior level

Quantity
Surveyor

£22k-£37k

Entry level

£30k-

£45k

With training

£42k-

£66k

Senior level

Building
Surveyor

£18k-£22k

Entry level

£23k-

£38k

With training

£50k-

£70k

Senior level

Entry Routes and Skills:

You'll work with a range of clients, so skills such as negotiation, listening, assertiveness, problem solving and decision making skills are essential. An eye for detail is key you will work to legal frameworks such as building regulations, or accessibility standards. A degree is the usual pathway.

Working for



"I started out with Galliford Try in Customer Service. I showed them that I was interested in a career in construction. One funded apprenticeship later and now I'm a trainee Quantity Surveyor!" - Chantal

More About the Role:

Surveyors provide professional advice on construction projects and generally will have responsibility for leading a team to follow their recommendations. They prepare designs and specifications, manage budgets and ensure projects are completed to schedule. Building surveyors assess the condition of structures and buildings, providing advice on repairs or proposed renovations or alterations. Quantity surveyors work out exactly how much a building costs to construct and are in charge of finances.

WITH THANKS TO:

You could work for some brilliant and well-known companies in Essex. Some of those companies are listed below and have helped to share their employees' experiences in one of the most diverse sectors in the UK.

ANDERSON

www.andersongroup.co.uk



www.tjevers.co.uk



www.gallifordtry.co.uk



www.kier.co.uk



www.knightgroup.co.uk



www.morgansindall.com



www.ringway-jacobs.co.uk



www.trinityconstruction.co.uk



www.housingessex.org

TRAINING PROVIDERS:

Getting training in Essex is easier than you think - there are many training providers ready to help you onto a construction course. You can find a list of these on our website: whatsyourthing.org.uk

WORKING IN THE SECTOR:

There are plenty of other rewarding, non-construction roles needed in the sector, including: HR, Marketing, IT, Accounts and Payroll. The sector also offers great benefits such as: work laptops and mobiles, 25 days holiday, discounts in stores or online and more depending on what company you work for.

whatsyourthing.org.uk

goconstruct.org

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Visit our website:
whatsyourthing.org.uk

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goconstruct.org

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