

Ground Worker

Introduction

As a Groundworker you will be working as part of the team or 'gang', who carry out the very first work on a construction site. You will be responsible for preparing the site so that the major construction can begin.

Work Activities

As a Groundworker you will be working as part of the team or 'gang', who carry out the initial preparation of a construction site. It will be up to you to get the site ready so that the necessary people and vehicles can get the access they require, and so that the skilled trades people can begin their work.

This initial site preparation will include:

- creating access to the site by making paths and roadways
- laying foundations for the building
- constructing the underground drainage system.

You will also need to carry out certain tasks at the very end of a construction project, such as creating driveways and kerbs using tarmac or concrete slabs.

You may need to use different types of equipment, machinery or vehicles to carry out your tasks. This may include operating:

- an excavator
- a dumper truck
- a self-propelled roller (for flattening freshly laid tarmac)
- a block grab (a tool designed to lift heavy slabs)
- a quick hitch device (a piece of equipment which helps you to change the attachments on an excavator easily and safely)

Safety is a top priority in this career, because of the nature of the work and the heavy equipment you will be using. You will be expected to wear personal protective equipment (PPE), such as a safety helmet, high-viz jacket, and steel toecap boots.

Personal Qualities and Skills

As a Ground Worker, you'll need:

- Physical fitness, strength and stamina to cope with lifting and bending.
- To be able to understand instructions and carry them out reliably and efficiently.
- Some knowledge of health and safety issues
- To be good with numbers
- To be able to work confidently on your own, or as part of a team.

Most of the work is outdoors, so you should be prepared to work in all kinds of weather conditions.



Pay and Opportunities

Pay

The pay rates given below are approximate.

Ground Workers normally earn in the range of:

- The national minimum wage to £17 per hour.

Hours of work

Ground Workers work a 39-hour week. Overtime, including Saturday working, may be available.

Where could I work?

Employers include building, construction and civil engineering companies of all sizes. These range from local building firms employing one or two operatives, to nationally known firms employing hundreds of operatives.

Opportunities for Ground Workers occur in towns, cities and rural areas throughout the UK.

Where are vacancies advertised?

Vacancies are advertised on WorkTrack, all the major job boards, on Universal Jobmatch, and at Jobcentre Plus.

Entry Routes and Training

Entry routes

Ground Workers enter this career by applying directly to individual companies. You might not need any qualifications to get into this job, although employers may ask for GCSE English and Maths.

Some people go into this career via an Intermediate Level Apprenticeship.

Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS)

For most building companies, you'll need a CSCS card to work on site. These cards show that you are qualified to do the work you've been employed for. Go to the CSCS website for more details.

Training

Your training will be on-the-job. You might be able to complete an NVQ in Construction.

Progression

With experience and training, operatives can move into craft-level roles, such as bricklayer.

Qualifications

You do not always need educational qualifications to enter this work.

For Intermediate Level Apprenticeships, you may have to sit an aptitude test involving maths, and problem solving. You might also have to sit a literacy test.

Adult Opportunities

Age limits

It is illegal for any organisation to set age limits for entry to employment, education or training, unless they can show there is a real need to have these limits.

Skills/experience

Applicants who are physically fit and have related skills gained in the construction industry will be considered for training.

Courses

Some people go into this career via an Intermediate Level Apprenticeship.

Further Information

Contacts

- **Apprenticeships: Get In. Go Far**
National Apprenticeship Service (NAS)
Website: www.apprenticeships.org.uk
- **CITB-ConstructionSkills**
Skills for the construction industry
Address: Bircham Newton, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE31 6RH
Website: www.cskills.org
- **CITB-ConstructionSkills Northern Ireland**
Northern Ireland Enquiries
Address: Nutts Corner Training Centre, 17 Dundrod Road, Crumlin, County Antrim BT29 4SR
Tel: 028 9082 5466
Email: info@citbcsni.org.uk
Website: www.citbcsni.org.uk
- **Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS)**
Address: Bircham Newton, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE31 6RH
Tel: 0844 5768777
Website: www.cscs.uk.com
- **Careers Wales - Welsh Apprenticeships**
Tel: 0800 028 4844
Website: ams.careerswales.com/

Related Careers

- Building Technician
- Facilities Manager
- Builder