

Overview of the role

Multi-skilled to a foundational level in bricklaying, carpentry, plastering and painting & decorating.

Standard in development

L2: General builder

Version 2.0

Title of occupation

General builder

UOS reference number

ST0984

Core and options

No

Level of occupation

Level 2

Occupational maps data

Route: Construction and the built environment

Pathway: Onsite Construction

Cluster: Core building tradesperson

Typical duration of apprenticeship

24 months

Does professional recognition exist for the occupation?

No

Regulated occupation

Is this a statutory regulated occupation?

No

Occupational summary

This occupation is found in the construction industry, predominantly within businesses operating in the housebuilding sector and the Repair Maintenance and Improvement (RMI) sector. There is an expectation that, due to the nature of their work and the average size of their teams, this occupation would be more commonly found within and used by micro, small and medium-sized construction businesses, where there is a need for operatives to be multi-skilled to give flexibility to deliver on small projects. Employees of this occupation would be particularly well-suited to working within businesses undertaking domestic alterations or new-builds on small sites, where there are both new structures as well as refurbishments and retrofits of existing structures.

The broad purpose of the occupation is to undertake a variety of fundamental skills on a construction project. Employees in this occupation are multi-skilled to perform routine tasks in bricklaying, carpentry, plastering and painting. They will either work alongside and support experienced specialists in these trades, or hand over tasks to them when the complexity is beyond their skillset. They also understand how buildings have been constructed over time in order to identify different building techniques within the properties that are being renovated in order to tailor their approach to the work. Additionally, with the need to retrofit housing stock to meet required levels of carbon emissions, employees are equipped with the skills needed for the installation and awareness of energy efficient measures.

In their daily work, an employee in this occupation interacts with colleagues and customers. They work as part of a team, reporting to their supervisor, to deliver the requirements of a project. As a result of the multi-skilled focus of their work, employees build relationships across their business, undertaking work alongside colleagues skilled in a variety of trades. Interacting with a range of colleagues within the business forms a critical element of the apprenticeship to enable a full understanding of different stages of construction processes and their interdependence in creating the finished, new-build, renovation or refurbishment. Employees will also possess good customer service skills as some of their work will be undertaken in the home of clients.

An employee in this occupation will be responsible for completing the on-site tasks assigned to them, working within a team to keep the project running to schedule. Employees monitor aspects of their own work to ensure they have sufficient materials allocated for the job, the quality of their workmanship and reporting any delays which could impact on the next section of the work to their immediate supervisor. Duties and responsibilities may vary on a day-to-day basis. Employees must be aware of the limits of their own competence, ensuring they only carry out work that they have been trained to do.

Are there any statutory / regulatory or other typical entry requirements?

No

Occupation duties

DUTY	KSBS
Duty 1 Assess the safety of the workplace before starting work, make the work area safe and work safely on site at all times.	K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6 K7 K8 K9 K10 K11 K12 K13 K14 K15 K16 K17 K18 K20 K21 K22 K23 K24 K25 K26 K27 K28 K29 K30 K31 K32 K33 K34 S1 S2 S3 S4 S5 S6 S7 S8 S9 S10 S11 S12 S15 S16 S17 S18 S19 S20 S21 S22 S23 S24 B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6
Duty 2 Assist with calculation of the correct quantity of materials required. Carry out batch code checks when materials are delivered to ensure a continuity of colour shades on tiles, wallpaper and wooden flooring before starting work.	K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6 K7 K8 K9 K10 K11 K12 K13 K14 K15 K16 K17 K18 K20 K21 K22 K23 K24 K25 K26 K27 K28 K29 K30 K31 K32 K33 K34 S1 S2 S3 S4 S5 S6 S7 S8 S9 S10 S11 S12 S14 S15 S16 S17 S18 S19 S20 S21 S22 S23 S24 B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6
Duty 3 Undertake basic bricklaying duties required for new-build projects and the construction of an extension or other walls required within a renovation.	K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6 K7 K8 K9 K10 K11 K12 K13 K14 K15 K16 K17 K18 K20 K21 K22 K23 K24 K25 K26 K27 K28 K29 K30 K31 K32 K33 K34 S1 S2 S3 S4 S5 S6 S7 S8 S9 S10 S11 S12 S14 S15 S16 S17 S18 S19 S20 S21 S22 S23 S24 B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6
Duty 4 Undertake basic carpentry duties to fit out a new-build site, an extension or the replacement of features in an existing structure.	K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6 K7 K8 K9 K10 K11 K12 K13 K14 K15 K16 K17 K18 K19 K20 K21 K22 K23 K24 K25 K26 K27 K28 K29 K30 K31 K32 K33 K34 S1 S2 S3 S4 S5 S6 S7 S8 S9 S10 S11 S12 S13 S14 S15 S16 S17 S18 S19 S20 S21 S22 S23 S24 B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6
Duty 5 Undertake basic plastering duties to prepare walls for painting.	K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6 K7 K8 K9 K10 K11 K12 K13 K14 K15 K16 K17 K18 K20 K21 K22 K23 K24 K25 K26 K27 K28 K29 K30 K31 K32 K33 K34 S1 S2 S3 S4 S5 S6 S7 S8 S9 S10 S11 S12 S14 S15 S16 S17 S18 S19 S20 S21 S22 S23 S24 B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6
Duty 6 Undertake painting and decorating duties on new sections and on the existing structures of the building in the final stages of construction.	K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6 K7 K8 K9 K10 K11 K12 K13 K14 K15 K16 K17 K18 K20 K21 K22 K23 K24 K25 K26 K27 K28 K29 K30 K31 K32 K33 K34 S1 S2 S3 S4 S5 S6 S7 S8 S9 S10 S11 S12 S14 S15 S16 S17 S18 S19 S20 S21 S22 S23 S24 B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6
Duty 7 Communicate clearly and professionally with the client during all interactions, maintaining a healthy relationship between company and client, remaining highly aware that they are undertaking work within the client's	K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6 K7 K8 K9 K10 K11 K12 K13 K14 K15 K16 K17 K18 K20 K21 K22 K23 K24 K25 K26 K27 K28 K29 K30 K31 K32 K33 K34 S1 S2 S3 S4 S5 S6 S7 S8 S9 S10 S11 S12 S14 S15 S16 S17 S18 S19 S20 S21 S22 S23 S24 B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6

DUTY	KSBS
home and notifying a supervisor of any potential issues as they develop.	
Duty 8 Dispose of on-site waste in a correct and safe way, ensuring adherence to environmental and sustainability practices.	K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6 K7 K8 K9 K10 K11 K12 K13 K14 K15 K16 K17 K18 K20 K21 K22 K23 K24 K25 K26 K27 K28 K29 K30 K31 K32 K33 K34 S1 S2 S3 S4 S5 S6 S7 S8 S9 S10 S11 S12 S14 S15 S16 S17 S18 S19 S20 S21 S22 S23 S24 B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6
Duty 9 Check adherence to relevant and current building regulations at regular intervals during the project.	K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6 K7 K8 K9 K10 K11 K12 K13 K14 K15 K16 K17 K18 K20 K21 K22 K23 K24 K25 K26 K27 K28 K29 K30 K31 K32 K33 K34 S1 S2 S3 S4 S5 S6 S7 S8 S9 S10 S11 S12 S14 S15 S16 S17 S18 S19 S20 S21 S22 S23 S24 B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6
Duty 10 Liaise with relevant supervisors to support energy efficient installations in line with current environmental and safety regulations, with the aim of creating properties with low carbon emissions.	K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6 K7 K8 K9 K10 K11 K12 K13 K14 K15 K16 K17 K18 K20 K21 K22 K23 K24 K25 K26 K27 K28 K29 K30 K31 K32 K33 K34 S1 S2 S3 S4 S5 S6 S7 S8 S9 S10 S11 S12 S14 S15 S16 S17 S18 S19 S20 S21 S22 S23 S24 B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6

KSBS

Knowledge

K1: Awareness of health and safety regulations, standards, and guidance and impact on role. Control of Lead at Work Regulations. The Building Safety Act. Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (CoSHH). Fire safety. Health and Safety at Work Act. Asbestos awareness. Manual handling. signage, fire extinguishers. Safety signage. Situational awareness. Slips, trips, and falls. Working in confined spaces. Working at height. Electrical safety respiratory protective equipment (RPE) and dust suppression.

K2: Personal protective equipment (PPE): types and use.

K3: Safe systems of work: site inductions, toolbox talks, risk assessments, method statements and hazard identification in the work area.

K4: Impact of the sector on the environment: efficient use of resources, recycling, reuse, surface water contamination and safe disposal of waste.

K5: The importance and considerations of the environment and sustainability: thermal qualities, airtightness and ventilation in buildings, surface and foul water.

K6: Principles of building: foundations, roofs, solid walls and walls including cavity, floors, utilities and services, insulation, fire, moisture including damp proofing, air protection and retrofit.

K7: Standards and regulations associated with general building activities: British standards, building regulations and warranty provider standards.

K8: Materials and their characteristics: bricks and blocks, masonry components, mortars, concrete and steel lintels, Rolled Steel Joist (RSJ), fire stopping, insulation, hard wood and softwood, manufactured timber-based products, ironmongery and components.

Plasterboard, floating coat plasters, finishing coat plasters, sand and cement render, silicone

renders, plaster and render components. Water-borne and solvent-borne paints and filling materials.

K9: Modern methods of construction: rapid build technology, precast components, alternative frame and cladding systems, masonry support systems and methods of installation.

K10: Methods of interpreting and extracting relevant information from drawings and specifications.

K11: Basic principles of digital design and modelling systems.

K12: Basic resource estimation techniques.

K13: Brick and block walling techniques: setting out, construction and joint finishing.

K14: Masonry component installation techniques: Damp proof courses (DPCs), wall ties, wall starters, lintels, cavity closers and the importance and installation of fire stopping.

K15: Basic principles of concrete installation: preparation, laying damp proof membranes (DPM), reinforcement, tamping and finishing.

K16: Basic principles of below ground drainage installation: combined and separate systems, gradients, protection, piping, fittings, lubricants, inspections chambers and gulleys.

K17: First fix carpentry installation techniques: joists, partition walls and first fix floor coverings.

K18: Second fix carpentry installation techniques: non-fire doors, skirting board, architrave and timber-based flooring.

K19: Carpentry associated components, uses and installation techniques: ironmongery, mechanical fixings and adhesives.

K20: Plasterboard installation techniques: mechanical and adhesive fixing and joint reinforcement tapes.

K21: Floating coat plaster and scratch coat render application techniques: tools, background preparation, mechanical key application and mixing.

K22: Finishing coat (setting coat) plaster and plain face render application techniques: tools, mixing, drying times, beading and finishing.

K23: Surface preparation techniques to receive paint systems: new and existing timber and plaster including surface conditions and defects found in existing buildings, knotting, priming or sealing, filling and abrading.

K24: Water-borne and solvent-borne paint application techniques: brush and roller and coat requirements.

K25: Methods of protecting materials and work: frost, water and construction damage.

K26: The integrity of masonry structures and structural alteration techniques.

K27: The roles and responsibilities of a general builder and the purpose and inter-dependencies of other trade operatives.

K28: Common defect identification and rectification techniques.

K29: Verbal communication techniques and construction terminology.

K30: Principles of good team working.

K31: Inclusion, equity and diversity in the workplace.

K32: Well-being: mental and physical health considerations in self and others and how to access support.

K33: Common tools and equipment used in general building.

K34: The principles of heritage building, considerations and like for like replacement.

Skills

S1: Comply with health and safety regulations, standards, and guidance.

S2: Identify and use personal protective equipment (PPE).

- S3:** Comply with environmental and sustainability regulations, standards, and guidance. Segregate resources for reuse, recycling and disposal.
- S4:** Comply with industry regulations, standards, and guidance.
- S5:** Read and use information from drawings and specifications.
- S6:** Estimate and select required resources.
- S7:** Prepare and maintain the working area.
- S8:** Select, use and store tools materials and equipment.
- S9:** Apply methods and techniques to set out, build and joint finish brick and block masonry. For example, brick garden walls, blocking and bricking up doors and windows, structural block walls, basic cavity walls and single skin brick or block walls.
- S10:** Apply installation techniques for masonry-based components, for example, DPCs, wall ties, wall starters, lintels and cavity closers.
- S11:** Apply installation techniques for first fix carpentry, for example, joists, partition walls and floor coverings.
- S12:** Apply installation techniques for second fix carpentry, including non-fire doors, skirting board, architrave and laying timber-based flooring
- S13:** Apply installation techniques for carpentry associated components, including ironmongery, mechanical fixings and adhesive.
- S14:** Fix plasterboard for example, mechanical or adhesive fixing and reinforce joints.
- S15:** Apply floating coat plaster and scratch coat render including applying mechanical key.
- S16:** Apply finishing coat plaster and plain face render, including fixing beading.
- S17:** Prepare surfaces for paint, including new or existing timber and plaster.
- S18:** Apply water-borne and solvent-borne paint to surfaces, using roller and brush.
- S19:** Apply techniques to alter an existing masonry structure, for example, load bearing wall removal or creation of a new door or window opening.
- S20:** Identify common defects and undertake remedial works, for example, rot repairs and timber replacement, repair holes or damaged plasterboard, blown plaster or render, re-pointing or brick replacement.
- S21:** Escalate tasks beyond limits of competency.
- S22:** Protect materials and work.
- S23:** Verbally communicate with others, applying construction terminology.
- S24:** Applies team working principles to their own and the wider build team.

Behaviours

- B1:** Prioritises health, safety and wellbeing first.
- B2:** Considers the environment when using resources and carrying out tasks.
- B3:** Contributes to an inclusive and diverse culture.
- B4:** Seeks learning and development opportunities.
- B5:** Team-focus to meet team goals including, considering the wider build team.

Qualifications

English and maths

English and maths qualifications must be completed in line with the [apprenticeship funding rules](#).

Does the apprenticeship need to include any mandated qualifications in addition to the above-mentioned English and maths qualifications?

No

Consultation

Extensive consultation has taken place throughout the development process, both within and beyond the trailblazer network. The primary impact of this consultation is the selection of trades included in the standard. This selection was decided by industry, as a reflection of the combination of skills they have stated is most needed for someone in this occupation.

Progression routes

Supporting uploads

Mandatory qualification uploads

Mandated degree evidence uploads

Professional body confirmation uploads

Involved employers

Beau Homes, Carl Construction Ltd, Create For You , Earl & Calman Builders Ltd, Eco-Tiffin, Fairgrove Homes, Federation of Master Builders, Gateville Ltd, Green Life Contractors , Home Builders Federation, IPSUM UK, Kingdon Design and Construction, Kisiel Group, Leeds College of Building (LCB) , Paul Morris General Building Ltd, The Building Crafts College (BCC)

Other involved stakeholders

Subject sector area

5.2 Building and construction