

Apprenticeship fact sheet

Groundworks Level 2

The NHBC Groundworker apprenticeship is the ideal first step for starting an exciting and rewarding career in construction. It's perfect for anyone who wants to earn while they learn the fundamentals of groundworks on housing developments.

Over a period of 18 months, apprentices will be immersed in the construction industry, gaining experience of real groundworks tasks, and understanding the complexities and challenges in respect to house building. Our unique position as the standards setting body allows us to incorporate changes now and in the future to enhance our syllabus in meeting the apprenticeship standard.

An apprenticeship with NHBC provides trainees with the path to a successful and rewarding career. Many people currently holding senior positions in the industry started with a trade apprenticeship.

Our apprentices demonstrate drive, determination, a practical hands-on approach to everyday tasks on a daily basis, and luckily, also like the outdoors!

This Groundworker apprenticeship is designed to address the shortage of skilled workers in the house-building industry by helping to train and prepare the next generation of highly proficient groundworkers.

Please read on for a quick summary of the apprenticeship, learning blocks and delivery methods. For more information or to contact us, please visit: nhbc.co.uk/apprenticeships.

Key points

- Train at one of our unique, purpose-built training hubs that mirror a real-life working environment.
- Meets the Apprenticeship Standard set by the industry.
- Co-created with leading groundworkers within house building to meet the specific needs of this sector.
- Suitable for beginners with no experience in the industry.
- Delivered through intensive blocks of training and time spent on site with your employer.
- Fully qualified tutors with construction and training expertise.
- End point assessment is via an independent organisation, triggered when the employer, apprentice and NHBC agree the individual is ready. Assessment includes an online portfolio of evidence, an online knowledge test, a skills test and a professional discussion.
- Apprenticeship usually completed within 18 months, including the end point assessment.
- Provides a route to career progression with hands-on learning from day one.



Delivery methods

- Hands-on training at an NHBC training hub.
- Periodic progress reviews (at least every 12 weeks).
- Regular assessment through an apprenticeship management system containing evidence of tasks completed.



Apprenticeship learning blocks

The first two-week block of learning focuses on getting apprentices 'site ready' and will cover:

- health and safety
- working safely and keeping clean as you go
- setting out simple structures
- calculating quantities of paving
- manual handling
- basic paving techniques
- awareness of environmental and health hazards
- contaminated ground conditions
- using and maintaining a silo
- traditional mixing methods
- measuring and placing
- Building Regulations awareness
- NHBC Standards.

Time is then spent with the employer to hone these skills, before re-joining the training hub for further blocks of learning throughout the duration of the apprenticeship, covering:

- systems of safe working
- setting out, buried services and ironworks
- construction methods and drawings (BIM)
- construction mortars and concrete
- trenches
- temporary works
- drainage and ducting
- reinstating excavations
- ground surface finishes
- geo membranes
- safe use of cutting equipment
- customer care.

Functional skills (maths and English)

- Entrants to the apprenticeship will ideally hold maths and English qualifications equivalent to Functional Skills Level 1 (eg GCSE grade E-D / 2-3), however consideration will be given to any applicant who can achieve diagnostic results at the required levels.
- If the equivalent is not already held, apprentices may need to achieve Level 1 and possibly go onto attempt Level 2 in order to complete their apprenticeship and support to achieve this will be provided. Employers must make time available for completion of maths and English qualifications in addition to the central programme if this is the case.
- Assessments, diagnostics and learning for those candidates needing to improve their maths and/or English grades will be face-to-face and embedded within learning, with additional support available 1-1 or in group sessions for those who need it.
- This is an accelerated apprenticeship over 18 months and without apprentice and employer commitment to the requirements for Functional Skills (maths and English) then it is unlikely that an apprenticeship will be achieved.

Apprentices – minimum requirements for acceptance on the scheme

- Self-motivation and a desire to achieve in an outdoor environment.
- Able to commit to block periods of learning.
- Some limited time away from the workplace to complete research/assignments and Functional Skills (if applicable) will be required. Apprenticeship guidelines state this can be paid, or in the apprentice's own time (to be agreed between the employer and apprentice).

Interested?

Please get in touch



Visit nhbc.co.uk/groundworker to find out more or email us on qualifications@nhbc.co.uk.



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