



**Thinking about a career in
Building Control?**



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Thinking about Building Control as a career?

Are you a technically minded person who's keen to work with people? A job in building control may be just the thing for you as it offers a unique opportunity to be involved in virtually all aspects of the construction process.

It's a professional career with professional qualifications, endless variety, and great prospects.

Every day will be different, and you'll work on homes, hotels, schools, hospitals, commercial properties and even sports stadiums.

You'll work with architects, contractors, designers, engineers, fire specialists, M&E experts, landlords, homeowners, and anyone involved in creating or maintaining our built environment.

You'll make a difference, helping to make buildings safe, comfortable, accessible, and sustainable and most importantly, protecting our communities.

What is a Building Control Surveyor and how do I become one?

Building Control Surveyors (also known as Building Inspectors) make sure that building regulations are followed during construction. The regulations cover things like fire safety, structure, acoustics, drainage, energy conservation and accessibility.

You can work for a Local Authority or in private practice.



Key skills

You'll need to have good problem-solving skills, be technically minded and up for a challenge. As a great communicator you'll learn to explain complex technical terms and regulations clearly to members of the public and other professionals such as architects and builders. You'll be a quick learner, confident in the skills you'll learn, happy to work independently in an office as well as on site but always as part of a team.

Qualifications?

There are many routes into Building Control. Many new entrants have A-levels, an HNC, HND or a degree, or an equivalent qualification in building studies or a trade background.

As part of the 3,600 strong LABC network, you'll have access to our ground-breaking qualifications pathway. You'll combine formal virtual learning with residential courses, on the job mentoring and support and remote study to complete our modular learning packages.

Plus you get to earn while you learn!

You can also move into this job from another role in building and construction.



What does a typical day look like?

As a Building Control professional, you'll work predominantly on the design and construction phases of building projects to make sure they meet building standards. Projects can range from a small house extension to a large city centre redevelopment. No two days are the same: you may be in a design meeting with a team of architects, on site checking ground conditions before foundations are poured or checking fire alarm systems in a completed building.

You can expect to:

- Work closely with architects, designers, builders, and engineers.
- Make sure building designs and plans meet regulations.
- Have a direct impact on limiting climate change
- Suggest ways to make the building project more cost effective such as reducing energy and water use.
- Carry out regular site inspections at each stage of the building process.
- Write inspection reports and keep records.
- Attend dangerous structures, advise on how to make them safe and help safeguard the public.
- Check safety at public venues like sports grounds and festivals.
- Be involved in enforcement and formal legal proceedings where defects or poor practice make this the only option.

Working hours and conditions

You'll normally work 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. You may sometimes be on a 24-hour call-out rota, for example if the emergency services needed you to inspect an unstable building. You'll usually split your time between the office (which might be in your home) and site visits. You can be on site in all weather conditions and some jobs will involve working at heights on scaffolding or ladders.



What will I qualify as?

You'll work towards different qualifications such as HNC's, degrees and the various Diplomas and Certificates under LABC's career and learning pathway.

Ultimately, you'll have the opportunity to qualify as a Chartered Building Control Surveyor with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), a Chartered Building Engineer with the Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE) or a Chartered member of the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB).

You can also search on the RICS, CABE and CIOB websites for information about career pathways.

You don't have to be a school or college leaver: experience of working in building and construction is an excellent route into this career. You may also move into building control from another discipline like quantity surveying or as a Clerk of Works.

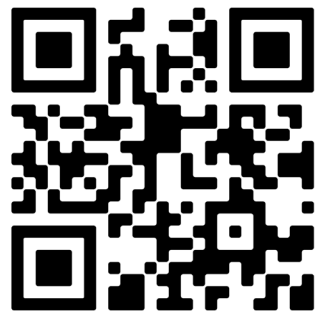
Generally you won't personally be expected to pay for your formal education – something to think about if you're reluctant to take on student debt.

What can I expect to earn?

Depending on the location in the country, starting salaries for surveyors range from £22,000 to £27,000 a year although you may start as an apprentice on a lower salary initially. Experienced surveyors can earn between £30,000 and £50,000. Fully qualified senior surveyors can earn up to £70,000 a year. (Figures are intended as a guideline only.)

Additional skills, interests and qualities that might mean Building Control is the career for you:

- Good problem-solving skills
- Strong IT skills
- Excellent communication and negotiating skills - a tactful approach helps!
- The ability to explain technical terms clearly to members of the public
- Time management skills and organisational ability
- Good teamwork skills, with the ability to work alone when required
- A working knowledge of building regulations
- A good understanding of the technical side of construction



SEARCH FOR BUILDING CONTROL JOBS

LABC Qualifications

Level 3 – Technical Support Certificate

Designed for building control administrative staff this programme aims to develop the learner's knowledge and skill to perform building control administrative tasks.

Level 4 – Residential Surveying Diploma

Designed for new building control officers working on domestic extensions and alterations.

Level 5 - Low Risk - Non-Residential Surveying Diploma

Designed for experienced building control officers working on low-risk new housing / apartments / commercial and industrial projects.

Public Service Building Control Apprenticeship Degree

Designed for new building control officers or building control officers with some experience.

Level 6 - Fire Safety in Complex Buildings Certificate

Designed for mid-career highly experienced building control officers who have responsibility for ensuring the fire safety of complex high-risk projects.

Level 6 - Managing Legislative Compliance Certificate

Designed for mid-career highly experienced building control officers and / or managers who have responsibility for complex enforcement cases.

Level 6 - Management of Public Service Building Control Certificate

Designed to look at how to manage enforcement by influencing Policies within the Authority Constitution, Risk Assessments, Lone Working Policies, Emergency Planning, Staff development and action proportionate to the risks presented.

Level 6 - SASG & other Public Events Certificate

Designed for mid-career highly experienced building control officers who have responsibility for ensuring public safety at sports ground and other large events.



QUALIFICATIONS



**Join the Local Authority Building Control network
and kick-start your career with one of LABC's
award winning qualifications**

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