

focus on

a career in
building control

local government talent: careers



What is building control?

Building control is about ensuring that new buildings, or structural alterations to existing buildings are safe, accessible, energy efficient and conform to all building regulations.

What kind of work would I be doing?

As a building control professional, you would be involved in a construction project from the very beginning, checking designs and architectural drawings, and meeting with designers, architects and planners. You would then carry out on site inspections throughout the project to ensure building regulations are followed and that the building is constructed correctly, according to the agreed plans. If a building is not progressing to plan, you would provide advice and guidance on how to put things right, and you may ultimately have the power to prosecute contractors if they persist in ignoring regulations.

Much of the work focuses on construction and can include anything from small household alterations and extensions to large town centre developments. Some of the work also involves assessing potentially dangerous buildings and approving demolitions.

Where can I find out more?

local government careers information,
job vacancies and talent pool:
www.LGtalent.com

national graduate development programme:
www.ngdp.co.uk

RICS careers information:
www.rics.org/careers

Insider view: 'I first started work for the council as a typist, but when a trainee building control post became available I decided to apply. The council has supported me through my building control qualifications and I am now a qualified building control surveyor. It's a challenging job and there's always something new happening, but I really enjoy seeing the end product after a project.'

What kind of jobs are there?

Here are some examples of building control related job roles:

- access officer
- architectural technologist
- building control surveyor/officer
- building maintenance engineer
- planning and building control manager
- surveyor
- technical assistant
- urban design and conservation officer.

What qualifications do I need?

Most employers ask for a degree in building studies or engineering, although assistants, trainees and technicians may be able to study a building qualification whilst working. To become fully qualified you need to pass professional exams set by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) or the Association of Building Engineers (ABE).

What skills do I need?

You need to be:

- able to communicate clearly with different people,
- practical, with good attention to detail,
- able to understand technical information,
- well organised,
- a good problem solver,
- a logical thinker.

How much would I get paid?

Salaries vary around the country, but qualified building control surveyors/officers may earn £22-30,000 per year.

Are there any other benefits?

Working for a local council can offer a lot of additional benefits, not least, the great feeling of being able to help people in your own community and do something worthwhile and rewarding.

Local councils may also offer some or all of the following: generous annual leave, flexible working hours, pension scheme membership, reduced price public transport, gym membership, crèche facilities, employee guidance and support groups.

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