# UK construction apprenticeship drive accelerates with £3 billion funding and new industry hubs



The Sun on Sunday has recently highlighted 20 new apprenticeship opportunities within the UK construction sector as part of its "Builder Better Britain" campaign, which aims to support individuals of all backgrounds in acquiring skills for vital trades such as plastering, joinery, gardening, and groundworks. This follows a previous publication of 110 similar opportunities, underscoring the growing push to fill roles essential for building homes, schools, and hospitals across the country. Trainee carpenter Henry Plant, an 18-year-old from Cannock, West Midlands, praised the campaign for raising awareness about apprenticeship pathways, emphasising the challenges young people often face in securing suitable training placements.

The apprenticeship roles come with varying starting salaries, typically ranging from around £11,778 to £24,242 for the first year, dependent on age and specific trades. Examples include apprenticeships for gardeners, trainee estimators, groundworkers, plasterers, floorlayers, and administrative roles within construction companies. These apprenticeships combine hands-on experience with formal training and offer clear career progression routes—attributes that make them attractive for young people seeking long-term employment and skills development in the construction industry.

The push to expand apprenticeship opportunities is bolstered by significant government investment. According to official government announcements, a £3 billion apprenticeship budget is planned for 2025-2026, aiming to create 120,000 new training positions across multiple sectors including construction, engineering, health, social care, and digital industries. Within this, £14 million is earmarked specifically for adult skills training in construction, complementing a further £136 million allocated to Skills Bootcamps intended to train over 40,000 learners in priority areas. Additionally, the government plans to launch 13 new Level 2 construction courses under the Free Courses for Jobs initiative and open 10 technical colleges focused on construction skills by September 2025. These measures represent a concerted effort to address acute labour shortages in construction while boosting economic growth through enhanced domestic talent development.

Policy reforms accompany the funding increases. From January 2026, apprenticeship funding will focus more sharply on younger individuals aged 16 to 21 in priority sectors like construction, with public funding for some higher-level apprenticeships phased out. This strategic realignment seeks to build a future-ready, skilled workforce for industries facing persistent labour gaps. Large employers paying the apprenticeship levy are now permitted to transfer up to 50% of their funds to support apprenticeships in other businesses, benefiting smaller enterprises as well. Furthermore, full funding of apprenticeship training for under-21s working in small businesses has been introduced to reduce barriers to entry and expand opportunities for young people.

The housing sector also benefits from a complementary investment of £140 million facilitating 5,000 more construction apprenticeship places, aimed at accelerating UK housebuilding ambitions. This initiative includes the establishment of 32 new Homebuilding Skills Hubs, which will provide realistic and fast-tracked training environments for trades such as bricklaying, roofing, plastering, and carpentry. These hubs, to be fully operational by 2028, represent collaboration between government entities and industry bodies including the Construction Industry Training Board and the National House-Building Council, reflecting an industry-wide commitment to skills development.

For those interested in applying, The Sun directs candidates to the official government apprenticeship portal, advising them to include the company name and postcode when submitting applications by set deadlines. The diversity of available apprenticeships—from hands-on roles in gardening and landscaping to technical positions in estimating and administration—illustrates the broad opportunities open to those eager to kick-start careers in construction and related sectors.

This multi-layered approach—combining media campaigns, government funding, policy reform, and industry collaboration—reflects a robust strategy to revitalize UK construction skills and employment pathways. It aims to ensure that young people and adults receive the training and real-world experience needed to meet the country’s critical demand for skilled tradespeople and support the broader economic target of increased housing and infrastructure development.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.thesun.co.uk/money/36603586/apprenticeship-opportunities-jobs-employment-careers/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.thesun.co.uk/money/36603586/apprenticeship-opportunities-jobs-employment-careers/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-generation-of-builders-and-carers-set-to-rebuild-britain), [[4]](https://www.atkinssearch.co.uk/insights/apprenticeship-funding-rules/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.atkinssearch.co.uk/insights/apprenticeship-funding-rules/), [[6]](https://www.facilitatemagazine.com/content/news/2024/03/20/government-announces-funding-boost-apprenticeships)
* Paragraph 5 – [[7]](https://www.educationbusinessuk.net/news/22112024/government-launch-5000-construction-apprenticeships)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.thesun.co.uk/money/36603586/apprenticeship-opportunities-jobs-employment-careers/), [[5]](https://www.bestapprenticeships.com/gardening-landscaping-apprenticeships/), [[2]](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-generation-of-builders-and-carers-set-to-rebuild-britain)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.thesun.co.uk/money/36603586/apprenticeship-opportunities-jobs-employment-careers/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-generation-of-builders-and-carers-set-to-rebuild-britain> - The UK government has announced a £3 billion apprenticeship budget for 2025-2026, aiming to create 120,000 new training opportunities in sectors like construction, engineering, health, social care, and digital. This initiative includes £14 million in adult skills funding for construction, expected to support up to 5,000 additional adult learners, and £136 million for Skills Bootcamps across various priority sectors, providing training to over 40,000 learners. The plan also involves launching 13 new Level 2 construction courses for adults under the Free Courses for Jobs scheme and opening 10 technical excellence colleges specialising in construction skills in September 2025. These measures are part of the government's strategy to address skills shortages and drive economic growth by investing in domestic talent. ([gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-generation-of-builders-and-carers-set-to-rebuild-britain?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-funding/apprenticeship-funding> - The UK government's apprenticeship funding policy outlines the funding arrangements for apprenticeships in England, effective from 1 August 2025. It details funding bands, eligibility criteria, and the roles of employers and training providers. The policy includes an employer incentive of up to £2,000 for eligible foundation apprenticeships, aiming to encourage more businesses to invest in apprenticeship programmes. This initiative is part of a broader effort to enhance the apprenticeship system and support the development of a skilled workforce across various sectors. ([gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-funding/apprenticeship-funding?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.atkinssearch.co.uk/insights/apprenticeship-funding-rules/> - The UK government has announced significant changes to apprenticeship funding in England, effective from January 2026. Public funding for most Level 7 apprenticeships will end, with investment redirected towards training individuals aged 16 to 21 in priority sectors such as construction. This policy shift aims to address workforce shortages and create a future-ready workforce in industries with persistent labour gaps. For construction businesses, these reforms present both risks and opportunities that demand strategic planning. The changes include a £3 billion apprenticeship budget for 2025-2026, with £100 million allocated specifically for construction Skills Bootcamps. ([atkinssearch.co.uk](https://www.atkinssearch.co.uk/insights/apprenticeship-funding-rules/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.bestapprenticeships.com/gardening-landscaping-apprenticeships/> - The UK government offers two 24-month Level 2 apprenticeships in gardening and landscaping: Horticulture Operative and Landscape Construction Operative. These programmes provide hands-on experience in planting, maintaining plants, and constructing outdoor features. Upon completion, apprentices can pursue Level 3 Supervisor apprenticeships or continue their studies. The Royal Horticultural Society and other organisations offer related apprenticeship programmes. Entry requirements typically include being 16 or over, a UK resident, and not in full-time education. Some apprenticeships may require GCSEs in English and/or Maths, but Functional Skills assessments can be taken during the apprenticeship. ([bestapprenticeships.com](https://www.bestapprenticeships.com/gardening-landscaping-apprenticeships/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.facilitatemagazine.com/content/news/2024/03/20/government-announces-funding-boost-apprenticeships> - The UK government has increased the amount of funding that employers paying the apprenticeship levy can pass onto other businesses. Large employers can now transfer up to 50% of their funds to support other businesses, including SMEs, in hiring apprentices. Additionally, from 1 April, the government will fully fund apprenticeships in small businesses for individuals up to the age of 21, covering the full cost of training. This initiative aims to reduce costs for businesses and deliver more opportunities for young people to start their careers. ([facilitatemagazine.com](https://www.facilitatemagazine.com/content/news/2024/03/20/government-announces-funding-boost-apprenticeships?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.educationbusinessuk.net/news/22112024/government-launch-5000-construction-apprenticeships> - A £140 million industry investment has facilitated 5,000 more construction apprenticeship places as part of an initiative to boost housebuilding in the UK. Up to 32 new Homebuilding Skills Hubs will deliver fast-tracking training and provide apprentices with vital skills, aiming to have all hubs operational by 2028. These hubs will offer realistic working environments for training in key construction trades, including bricklaying, roofing, plastering, scaffolding, electrical work, and carpentry. The initiative is a collaboration between the government, Construction Industry Training Board (CITB), National House-Building Council (NHBC), and Skills England. ([educationbusinessuk.net](https://www.educationbusinessuk.net/news/22112024/government-launch-5000-construction-apprenticeships?utm_source=openai))