

**This occupation is found in...** the Historic Environment, Construction, Building Conservation and Cultural Heritage sectors.

**The broad purpose of the occupation is...** to ensure the maintenance of heritage properties through construction projects that repair, restore, adapt, alter or retrofit historic buildings and heritage assets, doing so according to their significance and performance. Historic buildings and heritage assets are generally considered to be structures that were built before 1919, or those that are built using traditional methods and materials, including structures protected by legislation such as Listed Buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and those within Conservation Areas. Heritage Construction Specialists oversee work related to the fabric of a building and its internal and external features and settings. They combine practical construction skills with their knowledge of traditional materials, practices and the way each building performs holistically, to inform the conservation and construction techniques they use when managing and leading on historic building projects.

The Heritage Construction Specialist is typically site-based, including outdoor working, working at height, and working away from home, including rural and remote locations, but normal duties also include workshop operations, office working and attendance at meetings with stakeholders, clients or colleagues. They will typically need to be able to drive.

An individual in this role might typically have a trade, such as carpenter, joiner, stonemason or plasterer, and have specialist knowledge and experience of the requirements of working at heritage properties.

**In their daily work, an employee in this occupation interacts with...** a range of clients, colleagues and stakeholders in the public, private and third sectors, within organisations of any size. Heritage Construction Specialists might work alone or as a more senior member of a small team. They may oversee or coordinate other personnel or subcontractors and will sometimes work with other heritage professionals, such as a conservation officer or architect, to develop the detailed conservation solutions for adapting older buildings.

**An employee in this occupation will be responsible for...** assessing the condition of historic and traditional structures; understanding the significance and history of the buildings they work on; conserving and enhancing the fabric of a building according to its significance, performance characteristics and condition; integration of new systems (eg electrical, mechanical) into heritage buildings; creating recommendations and construction work plans, contributing to the costing and conducting of construction work to appropriate professional and conservation standards; liaising with specialist contractors, stakeholders and clients; documenting their work to appropriate conservation standards; communicating their work to the public. They need to be able to work alone or as part of a team, and make decisions about work plans for themselves and others.

**Typical job titles** Conservation Surveyor, Site Agent (Heritage Sector), Site Manager- Listed Building/ Heritage Conservation

**Typical duration** 24 months

**Occupational level** 5

Knowledge	
1	Principles, philosophy and ethics of conservation for historic buildings and structures.
2	Relevant statutory, quality and policy standards within which conservation, maintenance, repair, retrofit, alteration and renovation of historic and traditional structures takes place.
3	Historic, archaeological, architectural and environmental context relevant to understanding British historic building stock (built pre-1919).
4	Evaluation of the significance of historic and traditional structures: this includes whole buildings, parts of buildings, ancillary structures, monuments, and other architectural features such as garden structures, walls and paving.
5	Evaluation of the condition of historic and traditional structures, this includes whole buildings, parts of buildings, ancillary structures, monuments, and other architectural features such as garden structures, walls and paving.
6	Traditional and historic construction materials, techniques and practices used to build traditional and historic structures.
7	Construction materials, techniques and practices used to repair, maintain, adapt, retrofit and conserve traditional and historic structures.
8	The performance of historic and traditional buildings, where this differs to modern buildings, and the impact this has on the selection of construction methods.
9	The consequential impact of modern techniques, materials and systems on historic fabric and structures. This includes potential impact of current/future interventions, and of previous interventions.
10	Principles of sustainability in the historic environment, and how this impacts conservation, maintenance, repair, retrofit, alteration and renovation of historic and traditional structures.
11	Legal requirements and obligations relating to health and safety.
12	The standard forms of building/construction contract and subcontract, contractual mechanisms and procedures applied at various stages of the contract. The role and responsibilities of the contract administrator and the duties of the parties to the contract.
13	Documentation required during historic and traditional construction projects e.g. statements of significance, condition surveys and other heritage statements and specifications.
14	Quantification and costing of construction works and methods of cost planning that can be applied.
15	The hierarchy and structure of teams who work on historic and traditional buildings, including specialists and designers, and how the heritage construction specialist (tbc) interacts with these roles.
16	Understand the contribution that historic and traditional buildings can make to local, regional, national and community and cultural identities and how specialist heritage construction (tbc) can contribute to this.
Skills	
1	Apply relevant statutory, quality and policy standards to the planning and execution of construction projects on traditional and historic structures and settings.
2	Select and recommend appropriate construction techniques and technologies for conservation, maintenance, repair, retrofit, alteration and renovation of historic and traditional structures.
3	Undertake condition assessments and assessments of significance.

4	Apply sustainability principles to the planning and execution of projects within traditional and historic construction projects, including building performance and potential for retrofitting.
5	How to assess risks and mitigate against the consequential impact of modern techniques, materials and systems on historic fabric and structures. How to assess and mitigate the risks of current/future interventions, and to create repair/remedial strategies for previous interventions.
6	Complete and maintain project records, to include writing reports to a standard suitable for delivery to clients and stakeholders.
7	Undertake photography, drawing and sketching to communicate understanding of features and repairs to a standard sufficient to present to clients and stakeholders, to include using digital formats and data/ information storage where they benefit, or are required by, a project.
8	Design and manage work programmes appropriate to the condition and significance of the historic and traditional structure, including cost, risk and time management.
9	Identify when different forms of procurement and contracts are appropriate.
10	Provide advice in written or oral form. Recognise when other specialist skills outside your own are needed on a construction project.
11	Liaise effectively with stakeholders, specialists and clients where required.
12	Raise awareness, appreciation and understanding of historic and traditional structures, promoting best-practice, including through public engagement activities where appropriate.
13	Provide leadership and manage or supervise staff, volunteers, external specialist contractors or others, review and monitor others' work to technical standards.
14	Contribute to, or lead, the development of new techniques and best-practice through research and dissemination of research
<b>Behaviours</b>	
1	Be responsible and apply professional ethics in the execution of their work and in dealings with the public, employers, clients, and colleagues.
2	How to develop a personal development plan for learning and self-development with realistic but challenging objectives.
3	Enjoy problem-solving and working on unique and varied projects.
4	Knowledge of sources of and approaches to CPD, including commitment to passing knowledge to future generations.
5	Be self-motivated, capable of independent working, but also be a good communicator and a team player.