

A place of diversity, opportunity and growth

The First 100

Canada Water is creating new opportunities for local people, including education, learning and skill development, new jobs, support for local entrepreneurs, and more.

Canada Water Connect, a partnership between British Land and charity ELBA, is linking businesses with

great local talent and connecting Southwark residents to life-changing employment.

We're delighted to celebrate the first 100 formerly unemployed Southwark residents to successfully move into work on the Canada Water development.

100+ Jobs

Over 100 local people supported into jobs, working here for six months or more – paid London Living Wages or higher.

60+ Apprenticeships

More than 60 people earning and learning on apprenticeships.

100+ Training

Over 100 local people have completed multiple professional training courses, supporting them on their way into employment.

39% Global Majority

39% of all candidates supported into work are Black, Asian or from the Global Majority – making progress towards our ambition to reflect our diverse local community.

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From the start, our ambition has been to connect thousands of local people with new opportunities being created at Canada Water, enabling them to work in quality careers they love. We look forward to building on our early success of over 100 local job seekers already securing employment. We are committed to supporting local talent into a range of roles with the businesses that will call Canada Water their home.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our partners who are having a positive, long-lasting social impact and contributing to a thriving new town centre alongside us.

Emma Cariaga -
Chief Operating Officer, British Land

We invite businesses across Canada Water to plug into our partnerships to recruit and develop talent, with the option to tailor programmes for different sectors and levels – from entry level roles to advanced skills.

With opportunities in construction, retail, hospitality, leisure, estate management and more, local residents of all ages and backgrounds are creating new futures for themselves. Enabling local people to thrive is essential to the lasting success of Canada Water. We encourage Southwark jobseekers to contact us to find out about the new opportunities opening up.

Julie Hutchinson -
Chief Executive Officer,
East London Business Alliance
& Strategic Lead, Canada Water Connect

We are thrilled that British Land and ELBA, our partners at Canada Water, have helped the First 100 to achieve this milestone six months ahead of schedule. I also extend my personal congratulations to our residents working in the new town centre and wish them the best for the future. We believe that sustained employment where local people are paid the London Living Wage represents a life-changing opportunity and look at the work here as a model for Southwark.

Councillor John Batteson -
Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency,
Jobs and Business, Southwark Council

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The power of partnership

Canada Water is delivered in partnership by:



AustralianSuper



Canada Water Connect is delivered in partnership by:



AustralianSuper



Thanks to our supply chain partners for providing employment opportunities, including:



and many more subcontractors

Thanks to our local partners and charities for their vital support, providing training for people facing barriers to employment and growing people's confidence and resilience, including:



Big Local Works



and many more

Canada Water is a new district for central London.

We are creating a place that embraces wellness and nature, that's climate ready and inclusive, that's diverse and filled with opportunity, and one which truly works in partnership with the existing community.

Once complete, Canada Water will feature thousands of new homes, workspace for thousands of people, shops, cafes, restaurants, and leisure and cultural venues, all the while enabling opportunities for those who already live and work here.

For more information on Canada Water visit **canadawater.co.uk**

For more information on Canada Water Connect and how local people can access new opportunities visit **canadawater.co.uk/jobs**



Brian Katongole Trainee Bricklayer at City Brickwork (UK) Ltd

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I've always wanted to be a bricklayer so, when Canada Water Connect linked me to this opportunity with City Brickwork, I was very happy! I'm now on the path to learn my trade and become a certified bricklayer.

Canada Water Connect does everything possible to help you get into what you want to do. I often talked with their team, who were always available and helpful, guiding me in what skills are needed for my particular trade. I took part in an employment skills workshop, which included site tours and visits to different employers and subcontractors. That's how I found this job.

Everything about my job is good. You feel proud when you walk past a structure you've built and think 'I did that' and when people compliment it. You're also learning something new, finding out how structures are put together.

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Samie John Project Manager at East London Business Alliance

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Canada Water Connect really prioritises finding opportunities that align with people’s career goals. I felt such a sense of excitement when I heard about the project manager role, as it aligns perfectly with my experience and career aspirations.

My goal is to be a beacon for the Southwark community, where I was born and raised.

As a project manager, I take pride in connecting young professionals to high-skilled careers, and uplifting communities. It’s particularly rewarding to help business leaders understand how our work contributes to a broader ecosystem of social change.

I want to shift the focus of diversity and inclusion to equity and social justice. It’s not just about having diverse voices, but also including and valuing those who are often overlooked, and taking everyone’s ideas seriously. With Canada Water Connect, I always felt heard, as my goals were well understood. I’m now living my passion for social mobility.

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Sylvia Nakatudde Forklift Driver at O'Neill & Brennan

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I love my job because I earn from it and I've made so many friends. I've learnt a lot about construction at Canada Water and I'm looking forward to learning more. This is my first job local to where I live, so it only takes me 10 minutes to walk here from home.

I started as a hoist driver on this project and now I'm a forklift driver. I've never worked on such a high building before. The view from the top is fantastic. You can see the big boats moving along the Thames and everything.

At first, I found it challenging working around so many men, but I find it good now. Canada Water Connect is helping more women find opportunities in construction. In the future, I hope to become a manager.

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Anthony Stewart Level 2 Groundworker at Galldris

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I learn different things every day at Canada Water. It feels good to learn and earn at the same time. I also like meeting new people at work.

Before starting here, I was cleaning windows far away. Now, I'm progressing on a Level 2 groundwork apprenticeship. I want to keep learning construction trades and hopefully move up.

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Stephen Dann General Operative at Erith Group

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Canada Water Connect supported me to get my Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) Card and then helped me to find my first job.

They're a great team and they connected me with an employer in my local area, in my community, which I was really chuffed about. An extra plus is that I get to walk to work!

For anyone living in Southwark, who is looking for work and hasn't tried Canada Water Connect, I'd advise you to get involved. It's a very good tool for people living in the community, connecting us with employment and training opportunities locally.

There's a lot happening with the Canada Water Masterplan. Looking forward, I'm hoping to go even bigger with Erith Group, doing more projects and continuing to advance.

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Kingsley Okezie

Painter and Decorator at Cousins Group

I always wanted to do painting and decorating but didn't know where to start, until Canada Water Connect supported me. I love this job because I have a passion for colours, so I enjoy every day at work.

As a local, Canada Water Connect really helps you in getting a good job, fast.

They gave me useful information and placed me on a training programme to hone my employability skills. When they supported me to work professionally as a painter and decorator, I was excited and quickly clicked into it.

I like seeing things looking new, especially when I've done it myself. That gives me an inner energy to do even more. One day, I want to be at management level. I've always had leadership traits in me and I hope to climb that leadership ladder.



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Araci Simone Assuncao Gomes Cleaning Supervisor at Principle Cleaning

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I've worked as a cleaner in so many buildings but, for the first time, I feel like I belong. We are members of the Canada Water team. Everybody is friendly and respectful.

Before getting this job, I worked part-time and had to commute. It's great to have a full-time job so near my home and the school. I hope to keep working here and to grow professionally and personally.

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Thiago Vaz Cleaning Operative at Principle Cleaning

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I love the whole environment at my work and the people. I feel an important part of the Canada Water project and hope to grow with the company.

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Angela Simpson Receptionist at the Paper Yard, Rapport

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I feel pride in working locally, building a stronger connection to the area. Canada Water Connect is the ideal platform for finding jobs and training opportunities.

The best parts of my job are the team I work with and the variety of people I meet and interact with every day, being the first point of contact for clients and visitors.

As the Canada Water development continues to grow, it will create even more possibilities for individuals to build their careers and gain valuable skills. My plans for the future include building on the skills I've developed and hopefully contributing in a larger capacity.

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Jordan Payne Account Manager at EQ Communications

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Since joining EQ Communications, the local communications agency working on the Canada Water development, I've grown as a person and learnt a lot about myself, the industry and Canada Water.

I love engaging with the community and seeing how good engagement with local people can make the difference in building a development that caters to different walks of life.

I recently enjoyed working with Redriff Primary School students and the Rotherhithe and Bermondsey History Society on a street-naming video that brought together months of hard work. Working alongside Canada Water Connect, I encourage people to get in touch. They're knowledgeable, helpful, caring and genuinely want to help local people get on in life.

Living in Rotherhithe, I understand why people refer to it as a 'hidden gem' in London – with special credit to Russia Dock Woodlands, Southwark Park and Surrey Docks Farm! I hope to continue challenging myself, learning, advancing in my career and seeing out the progress being made at Canada Water.

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