



**Spotlight on...**  
women in construction

**CONSIDERATE  
CONSTRUCTORS  
SCHEME**

# Case Study: Robertson Construction

## Laura Doherty - Site Manager

### 1. WHAT FIRST ATTRACTED YOU TO WORKING IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY? HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THE JOB AND WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DID YOU REQUIRE?

At secondary school, I excelled at Technical and Graphic Design, which made me interested in pursuing this as a career. I then found out about a Joinery Apprenticeship through the Careers Officer at my college.

### 2. TELL US ABOUT YOUR CURRENT ROLE. WHAT DOES A TYPICAL DAY LOOK LIKE? WHAT DO YOU LIKE AND DISLIKE ABOUT THE JOB?

I normally arrive on site around 7.30am. I will start by taking a walk around the site taking note of progress and targets for the day, from then on it will vary drastically depending on the circumstances of that day. What I like about my role is that every day is different. Being a female in a male dominated industry at times will bring its challenges.

### 3. WHAT QUALITIES ARE REQUIRED TO DO YOUR JOB?

Patience, communication, determination and confidence.



### 4. WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST SURPRISE YOU FOUND WHEN YOU STARTED WORKING IN CONSTRUCTION?

There were no female toilets on some sites, and you couldn't get PPE that properly fitted women, which made it harder for them to work. The fact you can now get PPE designed for females shows that the industry is changing for the better.

### 5. WHAT WERE/ARE YOUR FUTURE CAREER ASPIRATIONS?

better I started at Robertson Partnership Homes as a trainee, and I have now progressed to be a Site Manager. I hope to continue to develop my skills, knowledge and experience within the construction sector.

**6. HAVE YOU ENCOUNTERED ANY OBSTACLES IN YOUR CAREER BECAUSE OF YOUR GENDER?**

Being a female in the construction industry has it challenges at times, but with the support of your team these challenges can be overcome.

**7. WHY DO YOU THINK WOMEN REMAIN UNDERREPRESENTED IN THE INDUSTRY?**

I would say the impression of it being a male dominated industry would put a lot of women off.

**8. WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THAT YOUNG WOMEN SEEK OUT CAREERS IN CONSTRUCTION?**

Absolutely, I would encourage young women to seek a career in construction.

**9. WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO ANY WOMEN WISHING TO PURSUE A CAREER IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY?**

Always remember your gender does not define you within the construction industry, it's your abilities. It's not what you are, it's who you are. There are always other options leading to different opportunities.

**10. HOW DO YOU THINK A DIVERSE WORKFORCE BENEFITS THE INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE?**

It encourages all generations, both old and new within the construction industry to work together.

**11. WHAT DO YOU THINK THE INDUSTRY AND WIDER SOCIETY SHOULD BE DOING TO ENCOURAGE MORE WOMEN TO WORK IN CONSTRUCTION?**

Promote the attraction of working in the construction industry to all individuals.

**12. DO YOU THINK THE INDUSTRY CAN GET TO A POINT WHERE THERE IS A BETTER BALANCE OF GENDERS?**

Yes, I think the industry is changing and by focusing on encouraging all genders to pursue a career in construction this can be achieved.