

# The Steeplejack and Lightning Protection Training Group

## Becoming a Steeplejack or Lightning Conductor Engineer



### Steeplejacks

Steeplejacks work at heights on tall structures carrying out a variety of building, repair and maintenance jobs. Much of the work involves renovation, e.g. on power station chimneys, cooling towers, oil refineries, tower blocks, bridges, church spires or even castles. Steeplejacks also fit aircraft warning lights on tall structures, replace roof glass, repair masonry, paint structures such as bridges, dismantle or demolish tall chimneys or buildings and inspect structures for damage.

### Lightning Conductor Engineers

Lightning Conductor Engineers fit lightning protection systems and work on industrial chimneys, power station cooling towers, churches and heritage buildings, high-rise buildings and bridges. They also commission and test lightning protection systems.

During your apprenticeship, you will undertake a number of different qualifications with your employer and whilst at College.

A number of progression routes are open to apprentices once they complete their S/NVQ Level 2, and further information regarding the career progression open to you once you complete your apprenticeship is available via the [SLPTG website](#).



## Qualifications

There are no specific entry qualifications for becoming a Steeplejack or Lightning Conductor Engineer, but GCSEs/S grades (A-E/1-5) in Maths, English, Science subjects and Craft, Design and Technology (CDT) are useful. Lightning Conductor Engineers particularly need knowledge of Maths to help them learn basic electrical theory.

Trainees are sponsored by an employer and spend about six months, spread over two years, at the National Construction College in Bircham Newton, Norfolk. They work towards **S/NVQ Level 2 in Steeplejacking or Lightning Conductor Engineering**.

Whilst at College, Apprentices will be able to undertake additional qualifications including:

- Abrasive Wheels
- First Aid Certificate
- Fire Fighting
- Health and Safety Test
- Industrial Rope Access
- Ladder Safety
- Manual Handling
- Mobile Towers
- Working at Heights for Operatives.



On qualification, apprentices will be able to apply for a Steeplejack or Lightning Conductor Engineer CSCS Skilled Worker card.

## Adult Entry

People of any age can start work with a Steeplejack or Lightning Conductor Engineering company and receive training and support towards achieving an S/NVQ.

## How to Apply

To apply for an apprenticeship in either Steeplejacking or Lightning Conductor Engineering, please apply on the [CITB website](#). Once you have applied, you will be matched with a suitable employer in your area.

The application process will include a Skills Learning Exercise Test (SLE) which you can complete online or in a classroom if you have special learning needs. The test is used to ensure that you are provided with any support which you may need to complete your apprenticeship.

Training at college begins in January or February each year, and application deadlines are shared on the SLPTG website once available. If you have any queries regarding becoming an apprentice within the sector, please contact [Nick Hutson, Apprenticeships Officer](#).

**The Steeplejack and Lightning Protection Training Group (SLPTG)**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 6-8 Bonhill Street, London, EC2A 4BX

Tel: 0844 249 0023 Fax: 0844 249 0025

Email: [info@slptraininggroup.org.uk](mailto:info@slptraininggroup.org.uk) Website: [www.slptraininggroup.org.uk](http://www.slptraininggroup.org.uk)

Company No: 05025611 Registered in England VAT No: 690 1700 50