

## Training Information Sheet

### Choosing the Right Training

Operatives qualified in the Lightning Protection or Steeplejack sectors should hold one of the following qualifications relevant to their sector:

- **S/NVQ Level 2 in Accessing Operations and Rigging (Construction) Lightning Conductor Engineer**
- **S/NVQ Level 2 in Accessing Operations and Rigging (Construction) Steeplejacking.**

Further to the S/NVQ Level 2, there are three additional qualifications available within the sector:

- **S/NVQ Level 3 Accessing Operations and Rigging (Construction) Lightning Conductor Engineer**
- **S/NVQ Level 3 Accessing Operations and Rigging (Construction) Steeplejacking**
- **S/NVQ Level 3 Accessing Operations and Rigging (Construction) Lightning Protective Systems Inspecting and Testing.**

### Obtaining an S/NVQ

Depending on the level of experience and competence of the operative, there are a number of training routes available to obtain an S/NVQ:

- **A new entrant with no previous experience in construction**  
An apprenticeship programme is available at the National Construction College (NCC) - East at Bircham Newton residential campus starting in January or February each year
- **Experienced steeplejack and lightning protection operatives**  
Experienced Worker Practical Assessment (EWPA) or On Site Assessment and Training (OSAT)
- **Operatives with experience in lightning protection, but limited knowledge of inspection and testing**  
Specialist Upskilling Programme (SUP).

When registering an operative for an S/NVQ, a training provider will carry out a pre-course interview to assess and profile the operative's existing skills and assign them to the appropriate training route.

## Training Routes

Course	Type of Candidate	Duration	Delivery	Training & Assessment	Cost	CITB Grant
Apprenticeship	New entrants with no previous experience who would like to achieve an S/NVQ Level 2.  Aged 16+	Two years.	Two years at the National Construction College (NCC) in 3-4 week blocks.	The employer must allow for off-site training and provide a mentor for the apprentice.  The apprentice must complete a portfolio.	Free to CITB levy-registered employers.	£2,500 attendance grant per year + £3,500 achievement grant TOTAL GRANT= £8,500  Additional incentive available for eligible employers of new apprentices via the <a href="#">National Apprenticeship Service</a> .
Experience Worker Practical Assessment (EWPA)	Experienced operatives who would like to achieve an S/NVQ Level 2.  Must have experience within the Lightning Conductor or Steeplejack sectors.	Typically 2-3 intensive days off-site at the National Construction College.	A weekend at the National Construction College.	The employer must allow for off-site assessment.	£1,000 - £1,680 plus expenses via NCC – East.	NVQ achievement grant = £600.
On Site Assessment and Training (OSAT)	Experienced operatives who would like to achieve an S/NVQ Level 2 or Level 3.  Must have two years' experience working within the Lightning Conductor or Steeplejack sectors.  Require four days or less of training.	Typically 4-5 assessor visits over one year.	On site assessment and training.	The employer must allow for on-site assessment.  The operative must complete a portfolio.	£1,000 - £1,680 plus expenses.	NVQ achievement grant = £600.
Specialist Upskilling Programme (SUP)	Operatives within Lightning Conductor Engineering but with limited Inspecting and Testing experience. Operatives will achieve an S/NVQ Level 3.  Require a minimum of five days occupational training.	One year.	Five days off-site training plus a minimum of one assessor visit.	The employer must allow for five days off site training and on site assessment.  The operative must complete a portfolio.	POA.	NVQ achievement grant = £600.

## How to Apply for an Apprenticeship

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.

Please note that to be an apprentice within the industry you will need to be able to work at height and you should take this into consideration before applying.

## Further Training and Development

For those who are keen to develop and progress in the workplace there are a number of general courses which are available to operatives and managers in Health and Safety, Leadership and Management.

Health and Safety courses including the Site Safety Passport (SSP) Suite and National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health (NEBOSH) can help business create a safer, more efficient working environment which could help businesses to mitigate risks and stay compliant.

Leadership and Management courses include NVQ Level 3 in Construction Site Supervision, NVQ Level 6 in Construction Site Management and short duration courses in Management. These courses have a number of benefits including increasing motivation and productivity which can have a positive effect on businesses.

The Steeplejack and Lightning Protection Training Group (SLPTG) organises a range of training and development courses each year, either free of charge or at low cost. Courses include training for operatives in areas such as Anchors for Steeplejacks, Safe Earth Testing and Working at Height for Lightning Conductor Engineers. For details of the training courses currently available from SLPTG, please visit the [SLPTG website](#).

## Manufacturers' Training

Further training is available from sector manufacturers including [A.N. Wallis & Co.](#), [DEHN UK](#) and [Furse \(ABB\)](#), who are able to deliver CPD presentations to consultants and industry related partners on Earthing, Lightning Protection Standards and Surge Protection. For further information regarding the courses available, please contact the manufacturer directly.

## Finding a Training Provider

	Apprenticeship	Experienced Worker Practical Assessment (EWPA)	Onsite Assessment and Training (OSAT)	Specialist Upskilling Programme (SUP)
Association of Technical Lightning & Access Specialists (ATLAS)				✓
Millbrook First, Norfolk		✓	✓	
National Construction College – East Bircham Newton, Norfolk	✓	✓		
On Site Assessment and Training Services, Norfolk			✓	
PTSG – Access and Safety			✓	
Syntex Engineering Services			✓	

### Key

Orange = Steeplejacking only

Yellow = Lightning Conductor Engineering only

## Training Provider Contact Details

<b>A.N. Wallis &amp; Co.</b>	<b>0115 927 1721</b> <a href="mailto:info@an-wallis.com">info@an-wallis.com</a>
<b>Association of Technical Lightning &amp; Access Specialists</b>	<b>0844 249 0026</b> <a href="mailto:info@atlas.org.uk">info@atlas.org.uk</a>
<b>DEHN UK</b>	<b>01484 859 111</b> <a href="mailto:info@dehn.co.uk">info@dehn.co.uk</a>

<b>Furse (ABB)</b>	<b>0115 964 3700</b> <a href="mailto:enquiryuk@tnb.com">enquiryuk@tnb.com</a>
<b>Millbrook First</b>	<b>01362 691 603</b> <a href="mailto:hello@millbrookfirst.co.uk">hello@millbrookfirst.co.uk</a>
<b>National Construction College (NCC) – East</b>	<b>01485 577 770</b> <a href="mailto:nationalconstruction.college@cskills.org">nationalconstruction.college@cskills.org</a>
<b>On Site Assessment and Training Services</b>	<b>07515 112532</b> <a href="mailto:davidgaughran@osats.org">davidgaughran@osats.org</a>
<b>PTSG – Access and Safety</b>	<b>0131 401991</b> <a href="mailto:pcampbell@ptsg.co.uk">pcampbell@ptsg.co.uk</a>
<b>Syntex Engineering Services</b>	<b>01642 454016</b> <a href="mailto:pford@syntex-chimney.com">pford@syntex-chimney.com</a>