

## **Women propelled into construction through industry-leading training at Southall Waterside**

Berkeley, West London College (WLC) and Women Into Construction (WIC) teamed up this summer to offer women an opportunity to kick start a career in construction by hosting a four-week training programme at the West London Construction Academy (WLCA), located on Berkeley's Southall Waterside development.

The programme provided an insight into the vast career options available within the construction industry and provided invaluable hands-on experience through a two-week work placement.

As part of the programme, there were CV writing workshops and interactive sessions to develop interview skills. To prepare and help the participants become work-ready, the attendees also completed the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) – an essential qualification for working in the sector – as well as a NCFE Certificate Level 1 in employability skills. Women were also provided support for returning to work, with advice on childcare, benefits and tax credits.

**Angela Ramsay, aged 43 from Southall**, took part in the scheme and tried her hand at plumbing with firm H2O, where she has since been offered a job. She said: *"I worked in retail for 14 years before taking part in the Women Into Construction programme. If you had told me six months ago that I would be working in construction, I would have laughed – construction seemed male dominated so I didn't think there would be a role for me. But I just thought 'why not?' and now I'm so glad that I decided to go on the course. The programme has helped boost my confidence and I would recommend it to anyone – I am now in a job where I do something different every day and everyone is really friendly!"*

**Kath Moore MBE, Managing Director at Women Into Construction** said: *"With a two week course and two week placement, we've provided women, such as Angela, with vital qualifications and employability skills to return to work or kick start their career in construction, with some participants being offered jobs immediately after the programme. The construction industry is facing a workforce shortage, especially among women, so we're looking forward to running more of these courses with Berkeley and West London College and getting more women working in the construction industry. Interested women can find out more by visiting our website: [www.women-into-construction.org](http://www.women-into-construction.org)."*

The WLCA is based at Southall Waterside and is run in partnership by Berkeley and West London College. The new term begins on 9 September and the WLCA is still accepting applications. Applicants can start courses after this date and extra support will be provided from WLC. To find out more, visit the WLCA website: <https://www.wlc.ac.uk/contact-us/wlca>.

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**Damian Leydon, Operations Director at Berkeley West Thames said:** *“The West London Construction Academy is a great place to begin a career in construction, giving students the opportunity to immerse themselves and get to grips with a live construction site at Southall Waterside.*

*“We’re still accepting applications for the new term at the Academy, so I’d encourage anyone – from school leavers to adults looking for a fresh start – to consider a career in construction and do what Angela did and just give it a go!”*

If you are interested in a career in construction and would like to take part in a training course at Southall Waterside, please visit the WLCA [website](#) or email [lis@wlc.ac.uk](mailto:lis@wlc.ac.uk) / call: 020 8741 1688 to find out more.

**- ENDS -**

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**Notes to editors**

**Southall Waterside**

Southall Waterside, Berkeley’s exciting new development in West London is one of the capital’s most ambitious regeneration projects. The 3,750-home scheme will bring a redundant gasworks site back into use for the whole community to benefit from. Southall Waterside is about more than just homes. It will be a thriving new neighbourhood on the Grand Union Canal – with a buzzing commercial district, two new parks and landscaped green spaces, and open up access to the adjacent 90-acre Minet Country Park for all to enjoy.

The first 304 homes to be delivered at Southall Waterside are all affordable and are being offered to existing Ealing residents under either affordable rent or shared ownership.

Every home at Southall Waterside will be within a five-minute cycle of a station, and the arrival of Crossrail will provide a direct service to Bond Street in 17 minutes and Canary Wharf in 30 minutes. A network of safe cycle paths and walkways will improve connections to the surrounding area and open up access to a 1km waterside trail along the Grand Union Canal.

**About Berkeley Group**

[Berkeley Group](#) builds homes and neighbourhoods in London, Birmingham and across the South of England. We create beautiful, successful places where communities thrive and where people of all ages and backgrounds enjoy a great quality of life.

We are a FTSE 100 company. In the last five years we built more than 19,500 homes of all types and tenures and made a £12bn contribution to the UK economy.

We take a holistic approach to placemaking that goes beyond the conventional role of a developer and puts the strength and wellbeing of the wider community at the heart of every plan. Every place that we create has a bespoke, locally inspired masterplan and every home we build is individually designed.

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Our business strategy is called [Our Vision](#). It provides a framework by which we strive to become a world-class business. It pushes us to create better places, to strengthen local communities and to achieve the highest standards of environmental sustainability.

Through the [Berkeley Foundation](#) we fund impactful charitable programmes and partnerships, which make a profound difference to thousands of disadvantaged people every year.

Find out more at [www.berkeleygroup.co.uk](http://www.berkeleygroup.co.uk)

**About West London College**

West London College is a large further education college with five sites: Hammersmith & Fulham College, Ealing Green College, Southall Community College, Park Royal College and West London Construction Academy.

Rated Good by Ofsted, West London College achieved the first position in the National Achievement Rate Tables for both Overall Achievement Rate and Adult Achievement Rate in London. Offering both full-time and part-time courses for 16-18 year olds and adults in a range of subjects, students can choose vocational and professional qualifications, including BTECs, apprenticeships, HNDs, Access to Higher Education Diplomas, CIPD courses, short courses and bespoke training for businesses and organisations. They also have courses that can help students learn English and a range of courses for students with Special Educational Needs.

Find out more at [www.wlc.ac.uk](http://www.wlc.ac.uk)

**About Women Into Construction**

Women Into Construction (WIC) is an independent not-for-profit organization that promotes gender equality in construction. WIC provide bespoke support to women wishing to work in the construction industry, and assist contractors to recruit highly motivated, trained women, helping to reduce skills gaps and create a more gender-equal work force. If you would like to know more, please contact us through [info@women-into-construction.org](mailto:info@women-into-construction.org) or visit our website: [www.women-into-construction.org](http://www.women-into-construction.org)