

**Matt Thomas**  
**Contracts Manager at Blanchard Wells Ltd**

Matt Thomas talks about his 23 year-career, progressing through a range of roles in the industry ...

“I started off working as a labourer when I left school and over time, through hard work and gaining as much knowledge as possible, I was given the opportunity to become a Site Foreman and run my own job. I was successful in this role, so then progressed to be a Site Manager for large sites, before being promoted to Contracts Manager, where I now manage up to 150 men.

Gaining ongoing knowledge and undertaking a much training as possible will help you go far in this industry. I have completed a range of training courses including: NVQ L3 Works Supervisor, NVQ L2 Plant Operations, NVQ L2 Construction & Civil Engineering Services, NVQ L4 Supervising Lift, Streetworks Supervisor, First Aid at Work L3, Site Safety Plus SMSTS & Temporary Works, CSCS Gold Supervisors card, CPCS competent in Forward Tipping Dumper, Excavator 360 above/below 10 tonne, Ride on Roller, Lifting Operations & Crane Supervisor – this gives a flavour of the many opportunities that are on offer to develop new skills!

I have been involved in a range of different projects, working on houses, factories and multi-storey car park builds. Some really impressive jobs have included Dockgate 4, the new terminal for ABP, and Edenbrook Leisure Centre, which involved putting in the substructure for three swimming pools and completing all the finishing.

I would highly recommend a groundwork apprenticeship for those interested in a career in construction. It is an interesting job with daily challenges – seeing a project evolve from a greenfield site to a fully constructed building is really rewarding, and there are plenty of opportunities to better yourself if you show the right dedication and commitment.”