

# Cartographic Draughtsperson



Connexions Library: BC - Surveying, Housing, Property and Planning

## Introduction

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A cartographic draughtsperson uses the information selected by cartographers to produce maps and charts.

Also known as:

- Draughtsperson, Cartographic
- Map Maker - Draughtsperson

## Work Activities

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A cartographic draughtsperson uses material selected by a cartographer to produce maps and charts.

A draughtsperson may add details such as new housing estates to existing maps. They have to decide how big letters and symbols should be on the map; they do this by looking at how important each feature of the map is.

A draughtsperson might have to gather information from things like aerial surveys or satellite observations. They might also collect statistical information on things like climate, plants and animals. All this information will be used to make maps or charts more accurate and useful to users.

## Personal Qualities and Skills

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To do this job well, you'll need:

- Patience, concentration and attention to detail.
- Good IT skills.
- Experience of using computer-aided design (CAD) software.
- An eye for design to make sure that maps are attractive as well as accurate.
- Good vision, including colour vision.

## Pay and Opportunities

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### Pay

Salaries vary depending on employer and level of responsibility.

The pay rates given below are approximate.

Cartographic draughtspeople earn in the range £18,000 - £21,000, rising to £25,500 - £29,500 with experience. Senior positions can earn up to £45,000.

### Hours of work

Cartographic draughtspeople work a basic 42-hour week, Monday to Friday. Occasionally, you may need to work late, especially as deadlines approach.

### Demand

Demand for cartographers is steady. However, this is a small industry so competition for places is strong.

### Where could I work?

Most cartographic draughtspeople work for government departments, including: Ordnance Survey, the Hydrographic Office, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and the Scottish Executive

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Development Department.

Other employers include local government, firms in mineral exploration, civil engineering and map publishing and with the Civil Aviation Authority.

Opportunities for cartographic draughtspeople occur with employers in towns and cities throughout the UK.

## **Where are vacancies advertised?**

Vacancies may be advertised on some of the major job boards.

The British Cartographic Society website also lists some vacancies.

## Entry Routes and Training

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### **Entry routes**

You'll usually need at least 4 or 5 GCSEs at grade C or above to get into this career.

Some people enter this work with A levels.

### **Training**

To train for this work, you can combine on-the-job training with part-time study for an Edexcel (BTEC) National Certificate course in a subject such as surveying and land administration.

### **Progression**

With further training, some people in this career become cartographers.

## Qualifications

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To enter a suitable Edexcel (BTEC) National course, you will usually need:

- 4 GCSEs at grade C or above; subjects to include Maths, any subject testing the use of English, and Geography.

Equivalent qualifications will often be acceptable as an alternative to GCSEs.

## Adult Opportunities

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### **Age limits**

It is illegal for any organisation to set age limits for entry to employment, education or training, unless they can show there is a real need to have these limits.

### **Skills/experience**

Relevant draughting skills are useful. Knowledge of computer-aided design (CAD) is also useful.

### **Courses**

Colleges will usually consider applications from candidates who do not meet their usual entry requirements. You should check the admissions policy of individual colleges.

### **Statistics**

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- 19% of people in occupations such as cartographic draughtsperson are self-employed.
- 6% work part-time.
- 16% have flexible hours.

## Further Information

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### Resources

- Careers in Cartography. *British Cartographic Society*. ([www.cartography.org.uk](http://www.cartography.org.uk))
- Engineering Careers Publications. *SEMTA*. (Available from [www.semta.org.uk](http://www.semta.org.uk))

### Contacts

- British Cartographic Society.  
**Website:** [www.cartography.org.uk](http://www.cartography.org.uk)
- Environmental Careers.  
**Website:** [www.environmentalcareers.org.uk](http://www.environmentalcareers.org.uk)
- Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland. (*Irish enquiries*)  
**Website:** [www.lpsni.gov.uk](http://www.lpsni.gov.uk)