



CASE STUDY

Chelbie Jones - Bouygues UK



About Chelbie:



I am a Senior Site Manager at Bouygues UK with 9 years of progressive experience in the construction industry. At the young age of 18 years old, I began my journey with Bouygues as a Trainee Site Manager, quickly rising through the ranks thanks to my unwavering determination, strong work ethic, and passion for delivering results. I am known for my energetic approach to life and work, combining a positive attitude with the seriousness and dedication required to achieve project goals. I take pride in motivating teams, overcoming challenges, and contributing to the success of every project.

Why Chelbie wanted to get involved with this initiative:

I'm getting involved in this student engagement initiative because I believe that construction is an industry full of opportunity and creativity, and I want to help break down barriers for young women considering this career path. From my own experience, I know how challenging it can be to take that first step, especially when self-doubt is holding you back. I feel strongly that many capable and talented young women underestimate themselves and their ability to succeed in construction. By sharing my journey and supporting this initiative, I hope to show that anyone with determination and passion can thrive in this industry. I want to encourage young people to believe in themselves, pursue their ambitions, and realize that they absolutely belong here.

Chelbie Jones - Building Confidence, Careers, and Change

From Hairdryers to Hard Hats: A Leap of Faith into Construction

For Chelbie Jones, now a Senior Site Manager at Bouygues UK, her journey into construction began with a simple moment of instinct and courage.

“When I first enrolled at college, I chose hairdressing because it was popular and my mum was a hairdresser,” Chelbie recalls. “But on the day of enrolment, I realised I could barely manage my own hair, let alone enjoy working with anyone else’s! I knew instantly it wasn’t for me.”

Standing in the college hallway, unsure of her next step, she noticed a poster for a carpentry course. Something about it sparked her curiosity. “I didn’t know anything about carpentry, but I decided to take a risk and sign up. People thought I was crazy, but I absolutely loved every minute of it.”

That spontaneous decision changed everything. It opened the door to a rewarding career in construction and taught Chelbie one of her most valuable lessons: trust your instincts and take the leap.

“Trust your instincts and take the leap”

Breaking Barriers and Finding Confidence

Like many women entering a male-dominated field, Chelbie faced her share of self-doubt early on. “I’d heard so many stories about how rare it was for women to work in construction, and that image stuck with me,” she says. “I thought I had to prove myself by knowing all the answers.”

But her experience at Bouygues UK quickly changed that perception. “The environment was completely different from what I expected — I was empowered, trusted, and encouraged to be myself. That support gave me the confidence to ask questions and grow without judgment. It showed me that women absolutely have a place and a voice in this industry.”

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Climbing the Ladder: From Trainee to Senior Site Manager

Chelbie began her career at just 18 as a Trainee Site Manager. From day one, she was eager to learn and ready to take on new challenges.

“I made a point to ask questions, seek advice from experienced colleagues, and constantly improve my skills — both on-site and in managing teams. I built strong relationships, saw setbacks as learning experiences, and volunteered for new responsibilities whenever I could.”

With the guidance of supportive mentors and managers at Bouygues UK, Chelbie’s confidence and capabilities grew. “Their trust and encouragement allowed me to take ownership of my work and develop as a leader. Becoming a Senior Site Manager is the result of persistence, teamwork, and not being afraid to ask for help.”

The Power of Mentorship and Teamwork

Chelbie credits much of her success to the people she’s worked alongside. “I’ve been incredibly fortunate to be supported by great teams and leaders throughout my journey,” she explains. “Every colleague, manager, and mentor has played a part in shaping who I am today.”

“Success is never a solo effort. It comes from surrounding yourself with people who lift you up, challenge you, and celebrate your achievements.”



A Day in the Life of a Senior Site Manager

Every day on site is different. Chelbie typically starts early, walking the site to review progress, check safety standards, and join daily briefings with her team.

She liaises with subcontractors, coordinates logistics, reviews risk assessments, and ensures that every task meets quality and safety standards. “As a Senior Site Manager, you’re the go-to person for most site decisions. It’s about keeping the site safe, productive, and moving forward as planned. No two days are the same — flexibility is key!”

“Success comes from surrounding yourself with people who lift you up”

A Defining Moment

Asked if there was a moment that made her stop and think “this is why I do it,” Chelbie reflects on a challenging project.

“Despite all the difficulties, the final result was incredible. What stood out most was how the team came together to overcome every obstacle. That experience reminded me that success in construction is never just about the building — it’s about the people.”

The Strengths Women Bring to Construction

Chelbie believes women naturally bring valuable skills to the industry.

“Emotional intelligence is a big one. It helps you understand different perspectives, communicate effectively, and resolve conflicts. Women often bring adaptability, empathy, and a collaborative mindset — all vital in site management.”

Opportunities for Growth and Leadership

Chelbie is passionate about encouraging others to consider a career in construction. “There’s a clear pathway for development here,” she says. “If you’re proactive and passionate, you can progress quickly. Leadership is encouraged at all levels, and every project helps you grow — professionally and personally.”

Chelbie’s Advice: Take the Leap

Reflecting on her journey, Chelbie has one message for others considering construction:

“Don’t be afraid to take risks or try something new. That one leap of faith led me to a career I love. Trust yourself, embrace learning, and never underestimate the power of teamwork.”

