

The site visit is the first experience your students will have as part of the Challenge. It is also the point at which they receive the briefing about the Challenge. We are asking that this is delivered by one of the company's staff to give the Challenge more 'look and feel' of a construction project than of a school Challenge. We believe this is crucial to ensure your students see it as something new and different, in the hope that doing well will be a priority for them. For the site visit, your students will receive a 'Site Visit Worksheet' which they will need to complete during and after the site visit. This is designed to ensure they take away the key messages, which will prepare them for the Challenge they will receive at the end of the site visit.

**The site visit itself should highlight:**

- The overall site plan and mix of the dwellings (number of bedrooms, overall size, price range) or if the site is not a housing development the overall site plan and the details of what is being built.
- The way the development is laid out (and the thought that goes into this)
- How critical path analysis / Gantt charts are used, (we are providing a simplified version of critical path analysis for the students to use)
- How sustainable technologies are used on site and incorporated into the homes/building – this should include:
  - › The way incorporating these techniques affects the order of construction activities
  - › Sourcing of more sustainably produced materials
  - › Using different construction techniques
  - › Using more insulating / heat retaining / water efficient materials and devices within the homes/building

**We have also asked companies to deliver some basic, key skills messages through the site visit. These are:**

- Safety is a major priority for all construction activities.
- Knowing about materials and techniques requires research, which takes time and requires patience.
- For a housing development, the research before starting takes many months, even for the highly knowledgeable professionals involved.
- Writing and reading are crucial in all areas of construction. Working safely on site is impossible without reading and writing. Many areas of construction require good writing skills, for different audiences. Gaining permission to build takes lots of paperwork. Selling houses requires different writing skills. Contracting requires even more writing skills.



**Before the visit to the site, it is crucial that you ensure your students will:**

- Pay attention to any safety briefings – the stakes on a construction site are very high.
- Follow safety instructions, including wearing personal protective equipment, and you will be safe.
- Obey any instructions from the site representatives
- Maintain a level of courtesy which can be expected by a company which is giving its time without charge.

**Before the site visit it is also a good idea to liaise with the employer hosting the site visit about all of the points below:**

- What Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is required during the site visit and who will provide it
- Organising copies of the 'Site Visit Worksheet'. Each student will require one copy plus a few extras for teachers/the employer
- Organise clipboards and pens for the students so they can easily fill out the 'Site Visit Worksheet' during the site visit
- If any photographs will be taken during the site visit and if the relevant student permissions have been sought
- Car parking on the construction site and directions to the site

