

Issue No 90 September 2022

CONTENTS

- [National and regional news](#)
- [Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole](#)
- [Devon and Cornwall](#)
- [Hampshire and the Isle of Wight](#)
- [Somerset](#)
- [Surrey and Sussex](#)
- [Local Enterprise Partnership \(LEP\) News](#)
- [Useful websites](#)
- [Future events](#)

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL NEWS

[Amazon to create 4,000 new jobs in the UK this year](#)

The news roles will be permanent and will include posts in software development, product management and engineering, as well as in operations teams.



[The best UK companies for women to work for in 2022](#)

The results are based on what women across the country have reported about their workplace experience in terms of equality, representation, and fair treatment.

The list was compiled by the workplace culture organisation Great Place to Work, which evaluated hundreds of employee surveys from super large, large, medium-sized and small businesses.

Admiral, Home Group, Hilton and DHL are amongst the top 10 super-large businesses for women in the UK according to the survey.

You can see the full list for each category here: business-live.co.uk/enterprise/best-uk-companies-women-work-24542801?int_source=nba

[Apprenticeships and traineeships, Academic Year 2021/22](#)

The apprenticeship data for the first nine months of the 2021/22 academic year have been published and below are some of the key figures:

Between August 2021 and April 2022:

- Nearly half of the starts (over 42%) were in Advanced (Level 3) apprenticeships, followed by higher apprenticeships (Level 4 and above) which accounted for over a third of starts.
- South East was the English region with the highest number of starts (43,900).
- Most apprenticeship starts in England were from 19+ year-olds (over 76%), followed by those aged 25+ (over 45%).
- Health, Public Services and Care is currently the most popular sector subject area, accounting for 27.5% of starts (79,500). This is closely followed by Business, Administration and Law -related subjects, which accounted for 26.8% of starts (77,400).

[Skills for a net-zero economy: Insights from employers and young people](#)

Learning & Work Institute's recent research report explores the green skills landscape across the UK, in terms of employers' demand and young people's perceptions and understanding of green skills and careers.

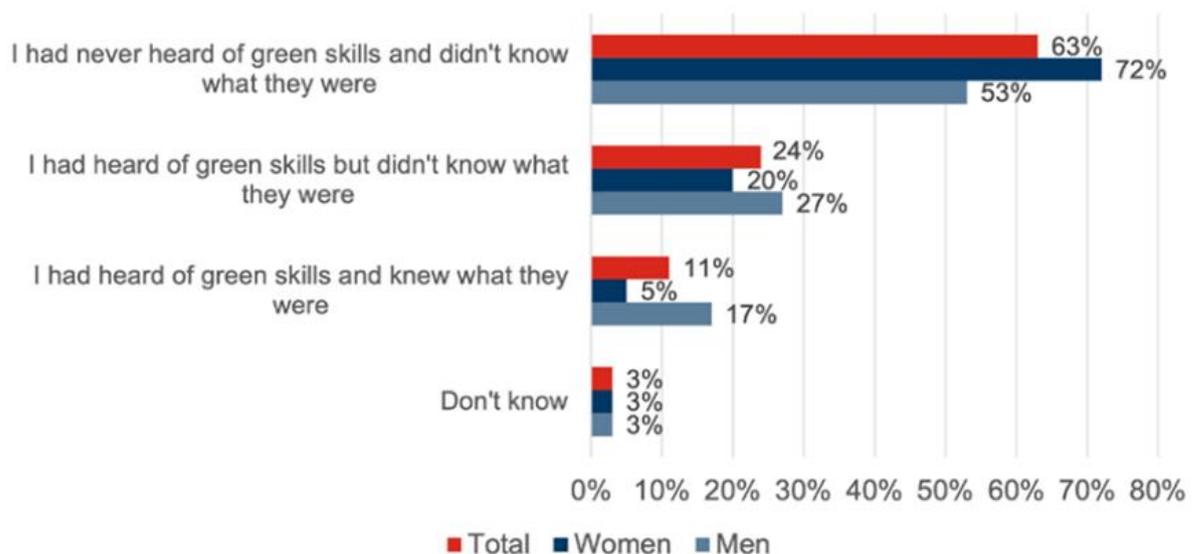
In addition to revealing the specific areas of work where there's currently a high demand for green skills, the research sheds light on what seems to be the biggest barrier that prevents young people from pursuing relevant opportunities.



More specifically, despite the growing employer demand for green skills, a significant number of young people are not aware or familiar with what green skills and green jobs are, or what jobs, careers and training opportunities are currently available - based on the responses of over 1,000 people aged 16-24 in the UK.

The chart below translates young people's levels of awareness and understanding around green jobs into percentages, revealing that 63% of them had never heard of green skills and didn't know what they were.

Figure 16: Awareness of green skills



What's more interesting is that four out of five young people surveyed (80%) said it was 'very' or 'quite' important that they work for an organisation that is committed to tackling climate change. In other words, the findings suggest that the lack of understanding and awareness doesn't stem from a lack of interest.

This certainly adds a positive note to the outcomes, but at the same time, it shows that besides developing appropriate education and training provision, there is another step that needs to be taken to set the ground for attracting people to green careers. This lies in good career guidance to establish a good awareness around green jobs and the available pathways.

You can read the full report here: [Skills for a net-zero economy: Insights from employers and young people - Learning and Work Institute](#)

[Top 50 jobs that UK workers would like to do](#)

HR software provider Ciphir surveyed 1,000 UK employees to find out what their ideal job would be, if they had complete freedom to do what they'd like to.



Their answers generated a list with the 50 most popular jobs - below are the top 5:

- Teacher
- Business owner/self-employed
- My current job
- Nurse
- Work with animals

It is certainly encouraging to see that a significant number of people sees their current job as ideal, although it is those aged 45 and above who are more likely to prefer their current job, as opposed to younger people who are at the start of their career - which shouldn't be surprising. The results also differ by gender, as well as age.

[Full list: Lloyds bank and Halifax announce a further 66 branches set to close](#)

With digitisation currently being one of the main trends which are transforming the world of employment - as well as our daily lives - we're seeing more and more examples of what the actual changes tend to look like and what they mean for the labour market.

A recent one comes from the Lloyds Banking Group, which has announced the closure of 66 Lloyds and Halifax branches across the UK, which will start taking place from October. This will be in addition to their 28 branches which will be closing between August and November. This is a direct result of the bank's increasing shift to online banking which is reducing the need for a large number of high street banks.

Devon, Hampshire, Somerset, Surrey and Cornwall are amongst the locations that will see their offices shut down.

You can see the full list of the closures here: [business-live.co.uk/retail-consumer/full-list-lloyds-bank-halifax-24591246](https://www.business-live.co.uk/retail-consumer/full-list-lloyds-bank-halifax-24591246)

[UK tech talent shortage threatens to stifle growth in the industry](#)

We've been seeing a lot of research reports and news highlighting the mismatch between the demand for jobs in tech and the lack of people with the required specialised skills. This is another call for action, this time coming from the UK's tech industry body TechNation, which sees the acute digital skills shortages as a barrier that prevents the industry's growth.



Despite the millions of vacancies in tech last year, there are nearly 12 million employees who lack basic digital skills, according to the industry coalition FutureDotNow.

Considering the increasing number of education and training initiatives across the country (such as digital skills bootcamps and apprenticeships) which aim to tackle this issue, there might be a question of whether there is enough awareness and understanding around the available pathways and jobs in tech.

On the same note, [The Open University's recent survey](#) revealed that over 70% of IT employers in England have a digital skills gap in their organisation and are struggling to hire new staff with adequate skills. According to the findings, the specific skills they're lacking the most are:

- Cyber Security (42%)
- Software Development (36%)
- Network Engineering (24%)

In terms of the education and training pathways that employers see as most suitable to meet their current demands, **84%** of employers think that both HTQs (Higher Technical Qualifications) and apprenticeships are a good way to meet the digital skills gap in their business, and **72%** think digital bootcamps could also solve their skills shortage needs.

[Plans unveiled for job-creating Kent development](#)

Proposals that would convert the previous Marley Tiles site near Wrotham to a DPD facility have been revealed and if successful, they could create 250 full-time jobs, while supporting a further 325 roles in the supply chain. Moreover, 429 direct and indirect construction positions could be created during its construction process.

Further updates will shed more light on the final outcomes.

[Mayor's plan to help 400,000 more Londoners get the skills they need](#)

The new measures include a £2m [No Wrong Door programme](#) that was launched in July which will be focusing on directly supporting Londoners in greatest need, such as people with disabilities, women, refugees, young people and over 50s. The programme aims to help people move into good work, regardless of their starting point.



Additionally, 400,000 more Londoners will be able to access funded training opportunities without having to prove that they receive state benefits and some immigration schemes will no longer require a three-year residency in order to access support.

Help to Grow: Digital expanded to help more SMEs

The Government has expanded its Help to Grow: Digital scheme which was previously available only to businesses with more than five employees, to allow businesses with at least one employee to apply for the programme.

Eligible SMEs with less than 250 employees can get 50% discounts worth up to £5,000, to buy approved software solutions which include eCommerce, accounting and Customer Relation Management (CRM) software.

The scheme also offers free 1:1 business advice and resources on using software and digital practices for the business.

For more information, visit: <https://www.learn-to-grow-your-business.service.gov.uk/>

Joint venture to deliver local training and jobs via new West London development

Housing association L&Q in partnership with the housebuilder The Hill Group have embarked on a new development in Brentford that will deliver 441 new homes, a residents gym and a new nursery. The project is expected to create job and training opportunities during its construction - which has already begun and is planned to be completed by the end of 2026.

BOURNEMOUTH DORSET AND POOLE

Dorset LEP's mid-year Labour Market Information Report

Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership's latest LMI report reveals the local economic and labour market developments across the county over the first half of 2022.

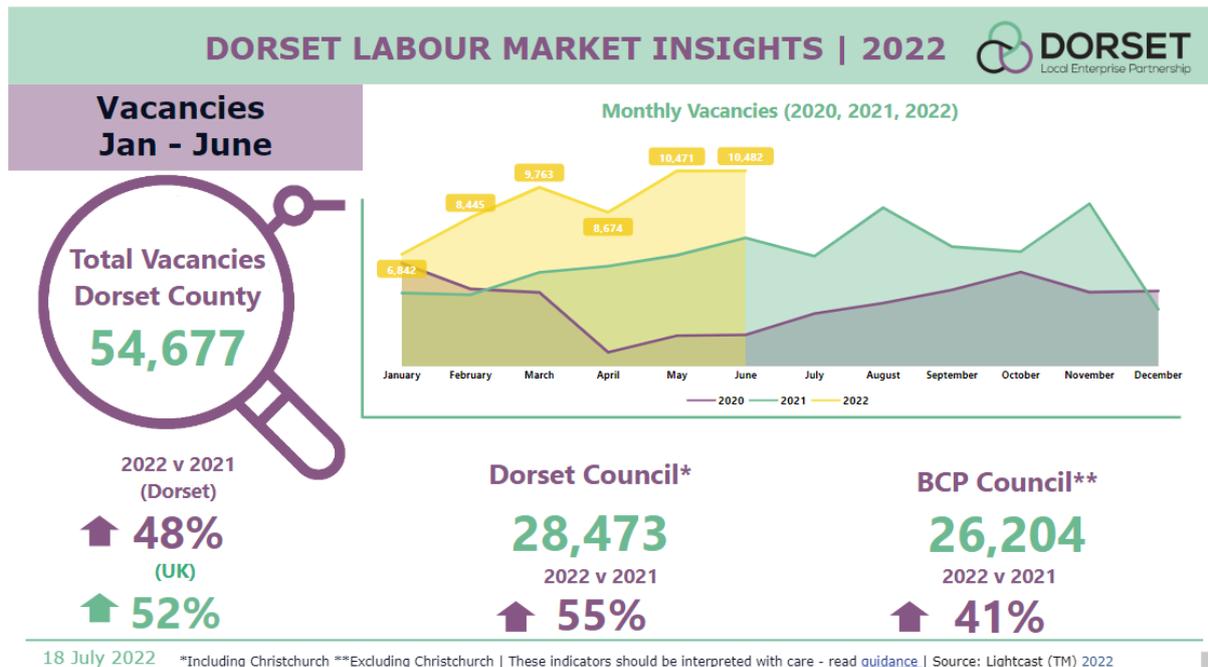
Dorset saw an increase of 50% in the number of job vacancies advertised during January 2022 to June 2022, compared to the same period of 2021, leading to a vacancy growth across all sectors.

The largest growth was recorded in tourism and hospitality (170% increase), followed by education (110% increase)



At the same time, the growing demand for remote and hybrid working has led most employers in the South West to offer hybrid opportunities, as a third of employees in the region currently work from home.

An earlier researched carried out by [Zoom & Indeed](#) revealed that Bournemouth was amongst the UK's top 25 hiring hotspots for remote workers.



The report also reveals the county's top employers in terms of the number of vacancies they posted in the first half of 2022. These come from areas such as healthcare, local governments, finance, tourism and hospitality, education, manufacturing and retail.

Below are the top employers who advertised the most vacancies, as well as the most frequently advertised occupations in Dorset during the first half of 2022:

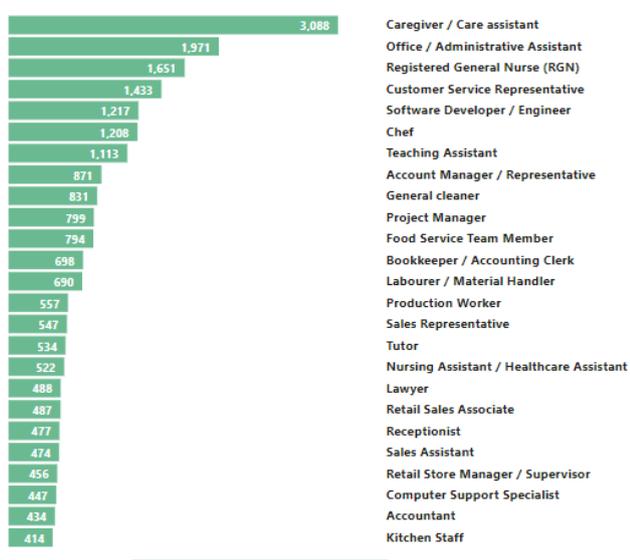




Top Employers & Top Jobs

Top Employers	#Jobs
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE	4,694
BCP COUNCIL	781
JPMORGAN CHASE & CO	513
BOURNE LEISURE	414
BOURNEMOUTH UNIVERSITY	368
HOLT ENGINEERING LIMITED	273
COLTEN CARE LIMITED	233
WHITBREAD	226
TESCO PLC	203
DORSET COUNCIL	186
HALL & WOODHOUSE	185
VITALITY LIMITED	180
HAVEN LIMITED	179
AGINCARE GROUP LTD	170
CARE SOUTH	153
RNLI	148
CARE UK	124
CO-OPERATIVE GROUP LIMITED	113
ASDA	112
BRITANNIA HOTELS LIMITED	99
NATIONAL TRUST	97

Top jobs in demand



18 July 2022

Source: Lightcast (TM) 2022

However, despite the labour demand, Dorset saw its employment levels dropping, together with the doubling of its unemployment rates, which exceeded the national rates for the first time.

You can read the full report here: [Dorset Labour Market Insights Q2 22 final.pdf \(dorsetlep.co.uk\)](#)

Aldi set to hire more than 100 people in Dorset

The supermarket is looking to fill 104 roles for both full-time and part-time positions by the end of the year in areas such as Bournemouth, Poole, and Weymouth.

There are available roles for people of all levels of experience which range from stock and store assistants to store manager positions.

It's worth mentioning that Aldi is the UK's best-paying supermarket and last month it announced a second pay rise for its store colleagues, who will be earning a minimum hourly rate of £10.50 nationally.



[Daily Echo Job Fair in Bournemouth](#)

The next Job Fair will take place on Thursday, September 22, from 10am to 3pm at the Bournemouth Pavilion in Westover Road and will be free for the public to attend.

[Raymond Blanc company to reopen Britannia at Ashley Cross](#)

The White Brasserie Company is reopening the Britannia pub in Poole in October, creating 55 jobs.

[Jollyes pet store set to open in Poole](#)

The new store officially opened in Poole's Wessex Gate East Retail Park on Saturday August 20.

You can search and apply for vacancies on the store's website, here:

<https://tinyurl.com/ycksbwcb>

[NHS job vacancies in Weymouth](#)

The exceptional demand for staff in health (particularly the NHS) and social care is a prominent trend which is consistent across the country. According to a recent report published by the [Health and Social Care Committee](#) an additional 475,000 jobs in health and 490,000 jobs in social care will be needed within the next decade.

In the South West alone, there are over 8,000 NHS roles to be filled according to the latest NHS vacancy statistics.

At a more local level, there is a range of roles currently advertised in Weymouth, which range from administrative assistants and care assistants to nurses and GPs. To see all the available opportunities and apply, visit:

https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/search_vacancy/

DEVON AND CORNWALL

[Devon food wholesaler set to expand into new HQ, creating 30 jobs](#)

R D Johns Foodservice which supplies hospitality venues, schools and care homes across the South West is creating 30 new jobs as it moves into new headquarters. The new Devon site is expected to be operational by the end of the year.



[Rockfish to open three new Devon seafood restaurants after record year](#)

The seafood chain is planning to open three new restaurants in Salcombe, Sidmouth and Topsham over the next year.

[Recycled furniture maker invests £290,000 at Exeter facility and creates jobs](#)

Exeter-based DCW Polymers is set to create eight new jobs after investing in new machinery that will increase its production.

[Cornwall's lithium and tin mines 'vital' to UK economy, says government](#)

The Government's Critical Minerals Strategy which has recently been published highlights the importance of Cornwall's mineral wealth for the UK's economy.

The county's resources (particularly lithium) are used for the production of electric car batteries and wind turbines, giving rise to a promising industry that can lead to job growth while attracting investments.

Cornish Lithium has secured government funding to build a [pilot plant](#) to produce commercial samples of lithium hydroxide for evaluation by battery producers and manufacturers.

HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT

[Work set to start on trio of Solent Freeport units](#)

The development of Solent Freeport is expected to drive the area's economic growth as it's expected to create tens of thousands of jobs, while attracting new investments within Solent. Located in Portsmouth, [Dunsbury Park](#) which is the freeport's key location, is about to see the construction of its first three facilities begin. The sites will offer 77,000 sq ft of industrial and manufacturing space where businesses can start moving in from early 2023.

Freeports are areas near shipping ports or airports designated by the government with the aim to create economic activity. Goods imported into freeports from abroad



are exempt from taxes that are normally paid to the UK government on arrival. Therefore, manufacturers in freeports can import raw materials tariff-free, only paying tariffs on finished products leaving the site for elsewhere in the UK. In England, companies inside the sites will also be able to claim lower property taxes, including on new buildings they buy.

For more information on freeports, visit: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/freeports>

To find out more about the Solent Freeport, visit: <https://solentfreeport.com/what-is-a-freeport/>

Southampton leisure venue set for imminent reopening

Plans to re-open St Mary's Leisure Centre – which closed in December 2021 - have been approved and the re-opening is expected to happen as soon as possible.

The Hunters Inn in Swanmore announces August opening after being closed for three years

Hampshire welcomes another reopening, this time in Swanmore, from the Hunters Inn pub which has been closed for three years.

Miss Millie's Fried Chicken coming to Southampton

Another example that highlights the county's business activity comes from Miss Millie's Fried Chicken restaurant which is set to open in Southampton in early September.

SOMERSET

New jobs earmarked for Wellington as expansion of business park near M5 approved

The expansion of the Westpark 26 employment site near Wellington will see the creation of dozens of jobs. The 56 new units which will be based close to the Jurston Fields housing development are expected to be developed over the next 12 months.



[Huge new charity shop opens in Somerset town](#)

Weston Hospicecare has opened its biggest charity shop in Weston-super-Mare.

SURREY AND SUSSEX

[New store for Haywards Heath: specialist wine retailer Majestic expects to see record sales of homegrown drinks](#)

The new store which opened in early August will create five jobs in the area.

[Shut Chichester pub set to reopen](#)

The Wickham Arms pub on Bognor Road is due to reopen after closing in February this year and will be recruiting for full-time and part-time roles.

[Sussex-based waste management firm acquires new HQ and creates 80 jobs via HSBC UK funding](#)

The new roles that will be created in Sweeptech Environmental Services' new site in Hickstead will include posts in operations management, sales and marketing, as well as technicians, HGV drivers and operatives.

[Japanese restaurant to open at £130m Circus Street development in Brighton](#)

The Circus Street site will include hundreds of private homes and student accommodation bedrooms, as well as 30,000sqft of office space and food, drink and shop units. The development will create more than 400 jobs in the next ten years.

The new restaurant, Fumi, will open later this year and another site that will be part of the development is White Cloud Coffee which will be opening soon.



LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIPS (LEP) NEWS

[First low carbon hydrogen hub to be built in Devon and Cornwall](#)

Carlton Power – a well-established energy infrastructure development company - is building its third hydrogen hub in Devon and Cornwall within the Language Energy Business Park. The project responds to the [Government's Ten Point Plan for a Green Revolution](#) which sets the growth of low carbon hydrogen as one of its key ambitions that aims to support up to 8,000 UK jobs, while attracting over £4 billion of private investment in the period up to 2030.

The Language Energy Park, where the green hydrogen hub will be built, is also part of the [Plymouth & South West Freeport](#) which is expected to drive economic growth and generate thousands of well-paid jobs into the region by focusing on carbon zero technologies.

[Great South West receives £1.5m to back region's green economy ambitions](#)

The prospects for the region's green economy seem to be promising after securing £1.5 from the Government to deliver sustainable economic growth over the next three years.

The announcement comes after the [prospectus](#) that the Great South West partnership released in January 2020, where it set out plans to deliver £45 billion to the economy and 190,000 jobs by 2035 through net zero projects.

*The Great South West covers the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) areas of Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly, the Heart of the South West (which includes Devon, Plymouth, Torbay and Somerset), and Dorset.

[Somerset receives funding boost to support people into skilled jobs](#)

Somerset County Council and Dorset County Council have launched a third round of Train4Tomorrow Skills Bootcamps which will be running until March 2023.

There is currently a wide range of courses available in areas such as Green Skills – Construction, CAD, Mechanics, Welding, IT and Cyber Security, Digital Marketing and Social Media, Cyber Readiness, Programming, and Health and Social Care.



Training providers include Bridgwater and Taunton College, Weymouth College, Somerset Skills & Learning, Train4All, Bluescreen IT, Bath College, and the NHS.

To find out more, visit: <https://skillslaunchpad.org.uk/skills/skills-launch-digital-and-technical-bootcamps/>

Colleges secure £2.6m funding to respond to employers' skills needs across the Enterprise M3 area

The Government's Strategic Development Fund project will be providing equipment and skills training for the green economy through the collaboration of 13 colleges across Surrey and most of Hampshire, with Sparsholt College leading its delivery.

The project's aim is to meet the skills needs of local employers and the broader regional economy to support staff recruitment, by focusing on the below areas:

- Green land-based skills
- Green construction skills to support retrofitting activity to decarbonise homes and buildings
- Green transport skills
- Professional skills to support domestic and international growth in the sales of the area's innovative products and services
- Carbon Literacy to make individuals better informed about the costs of climate change

FUTURE EVENTS

Hampshire

- ISS Military Talent Careers Day Aldershot – 20th September
[ISS Military Talent Careers Day](#)
- Southampton Careers Fair – 23rd September
[Southampton Careers Fair](#)
- Careers & Apprenticeship Show, Portsmouth – 27th September
[Careers & Apprenticeship Show](#)
- Reading Jobs Fair – 28th October
[Reading Jobs Fair](#)



- Portsmouth Jobs Fair – 16th November
[Portsmouth Jobs Fair](#)
- Southampton Careers Fair – 23rd November
[Southampton Careers Fair](#)

Surrey

- Careers Fairs Egham – 19th October
[Careers Fairs](#)

Sussex

- Hastings Training, Apprenticeship and Jobs Fair – 30th September
[Hastings Training, Apprenticeship and Jobs Fair](#)
- AJW Careers Fair – 5th October
[AJW Careers Fair](#)
- Crawley Jobs Fair – 25th November
[Crawley Jobs Fair](#)
- Brighton Careers Fair – 15th February (2023)
[Brighton Careers Fair](#)

Cornwall

- Truro Careers Fair – 1st March (2023)
[Truro Careers Fair](#)

Devon

- Careers and Placement Fair – 18th October
[Careers and Placement Fair](#)
- University of Exeter Recruitment Fair – 19th October
[University of Exeter Recruitment Fair](#)
- Plymouth Jobs Fair – 4th November
[Plymouth Jobs Fair](#)



Dorset

- Apprenticeship and Careers Fair – 8th February (2023)
[Apprenticeship and Careers Fair](#)
- Bournemouth Careers Fair – 26th April (2023)
[Bournemouth Careers Fair](#)

Somerset

- Taunton Careers Fair – 20th September
[Taunton Careers Fair](#)
- Yeovil Jobs Fair – 21st September
[Yeovil Jobs Fair](#)
- Bath Careers Fair – 22nd September
[Bath Careers Fair](#)
- Apprenticeship Jobs Fair Bridgwater – 23rd February (2023)
[Apprenticeship Jobs Fair](#)

London

- London Croydon Jobs Fair – 30th November
[London Croydon Jobs Fair](#)
- Job and Careers Fair 2022 – 6th October
[Job and Careers Fair 2022](#)
- London Croydon Jobs Fair – 20th January (2023)
[London Croydon Jobs Fair](#)
- London Twickenham Jobs Fair – 17th March
[London Twickenham Jobs Fair](#)





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