

UK Construction Blog Releases New Podcast Episode Addressing the Construction Skills Shortage and Labour Crisis in 2026

UK Construction Blog releases new podcast episode tackling the 2026 labour crisis, featuring Riley Pond of The Labour Desk on recruitment and skills gaps.



Grays, Essex Mar 10, 2026 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - UK Construction Blog Launches New Podcast Episode Examining the Construction Labour Crisis and Recruitment Challenges Facing the Industry in 2026

Host Jimmy Webb is joined by Riley Pond, Contracts Manager at The Labour Desk, to discuss the worsening skills shortage, recruitment strategies, and routes back into work for ex-offenders

UK Construction Blog has released a new episode of the [UK Construction Podcast](#), focusing on one of the most pressing challenges facing the construction sector in 2026: the ongoing labour shortage and widening skills gap. The episode, titled "UK Construction Skills Shortage 2026: Inside the Labour Crisis and Recruitment Frontline," is available now on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, iHeart Radio, and Amazon Music.

Host Jimmy Webb is joined by Riley Pond, Contracts Manager at The Labour Desk, a specialist construction labour and recruitment agency. The conversation examines why the construction industry continues to struggle to attract and retain qualified workers, and what those operating on the recruitment frontline are doing to address it.

The episode covers a range of topics central to the current state of the construction labour market, including the persistent shortage of asbestos operatives — a specialist role that requires licensed training and remains chronically undersupplied — as well as the ongoing debate between temporary and permanent employment models. Asbestos operatives are workers trained and licensed to safely identify, manage, and remove asbestos-containing materials from buildings, a legal requirement under UK health and safety regulations.

Riley Pond shares observations from direct experience working with contractors and subcontractors, offering insight into how market uncertainty has affected hiring decisions and what early signs of recovery, if any, are beginning to emerge. The episode also addresses the role of training investment as a long-term solution to structural skills shortages, rather than relying solely on short-term labour supply.

A particularly notable moment in the episode centres on Riley Pond's account of visiting a prison to promote careers in construction to inmates. Pond describes the visit and the impact it had, including a follow-up in which one of the individuals spoken to during the visit went on to secure employment on a construction site after release. The segment highlights the potential for the sector to draw on underrepresented talent pools as part of a broader response to the recruitment crisis.

"Construction has its challenges right now. But it also has real opportunity," said Jimmy Webb, host of the UK Construction Podcast.

The episode is the latest in a series of expert-led conversations produced by UK Construction Blog, a platform that has been covering the UK construction industry for over 14 years. The podcast aims to provide construction professionals, recruiters, and those with an interest in the labour market with informed perspectives from those working directly in the field.

The Labour Desk is a construction-focused recruitment and labour supply agency working with contractors across the UK.

The episode is available to stream and download via the following platforms:

Apple Podcasts: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/uk-construction-skills-shortage-2026-inside-the/id1779967807?i=1000751866283>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/0uFN6Na7UpBqYD4e8dGfAz>

iHeart Radio: <https://www.iheart.com/podcast/269-uk-construction-podcast-238752619/episode/uk-construction-skills-shortage-2026-inside-the-labour-crisis-recruitment-frontline-325009000>

Amazon Music:

<https://music.amazon.com/podcasts/3ad3ec88-a97e-4b33-a750-765f6255cad4/episodes/f9a0127d-a018-4d0a-bb78-59c03effdcf0/uk-construction-podcast-uk-construction-skills-shortage-2026-inside-the-labour-crisis-recruitment-frontline>

A full audio transcript is also available at:

<https://ukconstructionblog.buzzsprout.com/2225279/episodes/18745301-uk-construction-skills-shortage-2026-inside-the-labour-crisis-recruitment-frontline>

About UK Construction Blog

UK Construction Blog is a digital media platform dedicated to news, insights, and expert commentary across the UK construction industry. Operating for over 14 years, the platform serves construction professionals, businesses, and organisations with editorial content, industry reports, guides, and a podcast series. UK Construction Blog is operated by Design 2 Ltd (Company Number: 07587634).

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