

Building a Future in Fibre: Jacob Ibbetson's NCI® Apprenticeship Journey

As the main training provider for the Network Cable Installer (NCI®) Apprenticeship, CNet Training an Uptime Education company, is committed to developing skilled professionals who can excel within the digital infrastructure industry. Jacob Ibbetson's journey showcases how the apprenticeship supports both personal and professional growth.

About Aztek

Aztec Holdings Ltd delivers fully managed IT, communications, and cyber security solutions designed to support modern, high-performing businesses. As a UK-based managed service provider, the company combines technical expertise with a proactive, service-led approach, helping organisations streamline operations, strengthen security, and embrace digital transformation.

Jacob Ibbetson

Jacob joined Aztek on the Level 3 NCI Apprenticeship from a background working as a labourer. Joining the digital infrastructure sector presented Jacob with a "steep learning curve"; however, through dedication and structured support, he quickly built both technical knowledge and professional confidence. Jacob highlights the teamwork and people-skills training as being highly valuable in developing his interpersonal skills noting: "I had very limited experience in a professional environment, but I now feel confident communicating and working with both colleagues and clients."

Milestones

A key milestone in Jacob's journey, and a moment that fills him with pride, was the successful completion of his end point assessment, where he achieved a distinction. He completed this ahead of schedule due to an upcoming shoulder surgery, which adds further significance to the achievement.



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Jacob Ibbetson
Aztech Holdings Ltd



The Road to Success

Throughout the apprenticeship, Jacob developed a particular interest in fibre technologies, with one of his highlights being fibre splicing using specialist testing equipment. He found working with Instructors during the practical sessions to be a real benefit "The practical sessions helped me identify my strengths and the areas where I needed more practice."

These skills are now central to his day-to-day responsibilities, where he contributes to a wide range of infrastructure projects delivered by Aztek. Jacob says "every day, I use what I learnt across all kinds of infrastructure projects, from carrying out site surveys and designing systems to splicing and terminating fibre, certifying installations, and completing annual PPMs to keep systems reliable and compliant."

Achievements

Following completion of the apprenticeship in early 2025, Jacob progressed into the role of Tier 1 Network and Fibre Technician which he is "Incredibly proud of". Jacob reflects on this as "a clear reflection of how far I've come."

His achievements have also been recognised externally. He was recently highly commended in the Digital and IT Apprentice of the Year category at the Cornwall Apprenticeship Awards 2026.

Career Ambitions

Looking ahead, Jacob is focused on continuing his development, with ambitions to move into a leadership role. He says "Ultimately, I'd like to lead my own team, combining my technical skills with project coordination experience to deliver high quality work. I also want to continue building on my qualifications."

Reflecting on his overall experience, Jacob highlights the commitment needed to succeed. He describes the apprenticeship as "challenging, but incredibly rewarding if you're committed and willing to put the effort in" and praises the support he received, saying "don't be afraid to ask for help... the support throughout was excellent and the tutors were always available whenever I needed guidance."

Jacob's journey demonstrates the impact of the NCI apprenticeship in equipping individuals with the skills, confidence and experience needed to build a successful career in the digital infrastructure industry.

"Jacob's apprenticeship journey shows what can be achieved with the right attitude and support. He joined us eager to learn and willing to put the work in, and he has turned that into real expertise that our team and clients benefit from every day. His progression is a credit to his own dedication and the quality of the training he received."

Tim Dunkley

Service Delivery Director, Aztek



Jacob Ibbetson now applying his skills in a full-time role at Aztek following his apprenticeship.



Jacob Ibbetson at the Cornwall Apprenticeship Awards 2026.

NCI®

Network Cable Installer Apprenticeship

The Network Cable Installer (NCI) Apprenticeship was developed by CNet Training in collaboration with major installation companies. It is the UK's first government-funded Apprenticeship for network cable installation and is the ideal choice for employers wishing to take on an apprentice within their business.

Course Duration

The Network Cable Installer (NCI) Apprenticeship is up to 15 months.

Course Objectives

Apprentices will learn to complete both copper and fibre cable installation projects and demonstrate the highest levels of skills and expertise in network cabling infrastructure.

Learner Profile

The Network Cable Installer (NCI) Apprenticeship is perfect for individuals wishing to acquire the very latest skills and knowledge to enable them to complete both copper and fibre cable installation projects to the highest standards whilst gaining valuable On-the-Job training.

The NCI Apprenticeship is suitable for new entrants to the cabling industry, as well as those already working within the cable installation environment wishing to improve their skills.

Pre-requisites

Functional Skills at Level 2 or GCSE Grade 4 and above in English and Maths.

For applicants aged 19 and over who do not already hold these qualifications, there is the option to complete them alongside the apprenticeship or to opt out; therefore, they are not mandatory.

No previous experience is required for this course; however, learners must be employed within the network infrastructure industry.