Ford Mainwaring

TRUSTED BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEERS



FROM SERVICE TO SITE

Civilian Career Opportunities in M&E Engineering

INTRODUCTION

Leaving the Armed Forces marks a major life change. It's a moment of pride and reflection, but also one of uncertainty as service leavers navigate the civilian employment landscape.

At Ford Mainwaring, we recognise the immense value, discipline, and skill set that ex-Forces personnel bring to civilian industries, especially in technical, secure, and high-integrity environments like ours.

As proud supporters of the Armed Forces Covenant, we've created this guide to assist recent service leavers in making a smooth and confident transition into meaningful civilian work.



TRANSLATING MILITARY SKILLS TO CIVILIAN ROLES

Understanding Your Value

Many service leavers underestimate the transferability of their experience.

Here's how your military skills apply in sectors like ours:

Military Skill	Civilian Equivalent in Our Sector
Leadership & Team Command	Project Management, Site Supervisors, Engineering Leads
Problem Solving Under Pressure	Fault Diagnosis, Critical Systems Support
Technical Proficiency	HVAC Systems, Electrical Installations, Building Management Systems
Discipline & Reliability	Compliance-Focused Roles (e.g., Health & Safety, QA)
Security Clearance (e.g. CTC)	Eligibility for Secure Sites (e.g. Prisons, MOD, Healthcare)

CV & APPLICATION TIPS FOR THE BUILDING SERVICES SECTOR

Tailor Your CV to the Role

- Avoid acronyms and military jargon.
- Use plain English: “Led a team of 8 engineers” rather than “Commanded a REME section”.
- Focus on outcomes: “Completed £500k refit under time and budget”.

Highlight Certifications & Transferable Experience

- Mention any technical qualifications (e.g. NVQs, apprenticeships, trade training).
- Emphasise experience in secure environments – we value DBS/CTC clearances.



CHOOSING THE RIGHT EMPLOYER

What to Look For

- **Understanding of Defence Culture:** Companies that actively support the Armed Forces Covenant.
- **Structured Onboarding:** Look for mentorship schemes or phased transitions.
- **Support During Mobilisation:** Ensure policies are in place to protect your job, pay, and benefits if you're called to serve.

Why Ford Mainwaring?

- **Valued Military Skills:** Your leadership, teamwork, and resilience developed in service are recognised and rewarded.
- **Diverse, Secure Work:** Join projects across education, healthcare, prisons, highways, and MOD – many within secure environments that value your clearance and background.
- **Genuine Armed Forces Supporter:** We're proud ERS Bronze Award holders – your service is respected and recognised here.
- **Training-Friendly Employer:** We accommodate training commitments - with additional leave if needed.
- **Your Development Matters:** You'll receive annual appraisals, pay reviews, and real opportunities for progression.



REALISTIC PATHWAYS INTO THE FM SECTOR

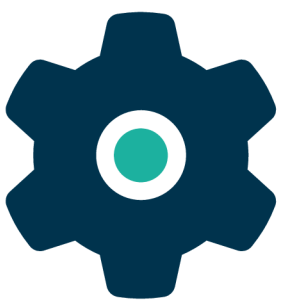
- Example Pathway: Electrical Installation Engineer.
- From Royal Engineers Electrician to Electrical Engineer at Ford Mainwaring.

Step 1: ECS card + BS7671 (18th Edition)

Step 2: Civilian work trial or shadowing on a site

Step 3: Secure site placement with support from our Project Manager

Step 4: Progression into team lead or supervisory roles





SUPPORT & RESOURCES

Recommended Resources:

- **Career Transition Partnership (CTP):** www.ctp.org.uk
  - The official Ministry of Defence resettlement provider offering tailored career support, vocational training, and job listings for service leavers.
- **BuildForce:** www.buildforce.org.uk
  - Focuses on helping ex-forces personnel transition into the construction and built environment sectors, including mentoring and job placements.
- **Forces Employment Charity:** www.forcesemployment.org.uk
  - Free career advice, CV support, and mentoring. Supports all veterans, regardless of discharge date.
- **Veterans' Gateway:** www.veteransgateway.org.uk
  - A one-stop shop connecting veterans with employment, housing, health, and welfare support. Available 24/7.
- **LinkedIn for Veterans:** www.linkedin.com/military
  - Veterans can get a free Premium Career account for a year, giving access to job insights, InMail, and learning tools.

CONCLUSION

Ford Mainwaring is committed to being more than just Forces-friendly - we aim to be Forces-capable. As we grow our business and pursue the Silver Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Award, we want to ensure that veterans know they have a place here, not just as employees but as leaders, mentors, and subject matter experts.

If you're a service leaver or know someone transitioning out, we'd love to speak with you.

Please reach out via our website or LinkedIn page and let us help you shape the next chapter of your career.

