

INVEST IN  
**South  
Lakeland**



Duckett Building Services  
and Clawthorpe Hall Business Centre

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## In the hands of the third generation, Duckett Building Services is a local family firm.

After being demobbed following World War II, brothers Ernest and Edward established the company in 1946 and, after buying a local joinery and undertakers business (Bell and Wilson), the Ducketts started trading from Holme before moving to Greenside near Burton-in-Kendal.

Years later, Edward Brian Duckett (known to most simply as Brian) started work as an apprentice joiner, keen to follow in his father's footsteps, and it was during the 1960's that E & E Duckett expanded their business and began housing construction, a development of 35 properties in their home village of Holme.

Brian outlines "There are three things that underpin how we run our business: Local investment; a personal and flexible approach to projects; and upholding the highest standards of workmanship and quality."

During recessions, many businesses shed resources and focus on the bottom line. However, the family business has avoided any redundancies and continues to invest, appointing at least one apprentice every year.

They liaise with local colleges helping young people develop practical skills in the workplace.

Brian emphasises "The loss of young people and skills to neighbouring cities is something we as business people have a responsibility to try and combat".

Brian's son, Edward Steven Duckett is now at the helm and he is the third generation involved in the company. He tells us more, "Our values have not changed in the last fifty years when it comes to what we're trying to achieve: no matter what project we're working on, we always want to do the best job possible".

The majority of their work – both locally and throughout the North West – comes from personal recommendation from our customers, both commercial and residential. "When it comes to word of mouth marketing, I don't think we could do much better."

Duckett Building Services employ around 35 staff, they boast the industry accreditations you'd expect (member of the National Federation of Builders, NHBC, they work in conjunction with C.I.T.B. and Construction Skills) and they're seen very much as a local company delivering exceptional high standards of workmanship.



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"We know that local people depend on Ducketts; the people who work for us or whom we sub-contract to or the people who put their faith in us to do the best work we can."

It's the "matter of fact" approach which has served the Duckett family well for over sixty years and continues to stand them in good stead, as can be seen by the list of high profile projects over the recent years. This includes extensive restoration works for the National Trust on a number of buildings within the Lake District, including Beatrix Potter's home.

In 2004, the family run firm invested in the acquisition of the former Clawthorpe Hall Hotel, near Burton-in-Kendal. Brian and Edward's vision was to create a business "hub" in the area which would provide employment sites for diverse incubator businesses, SMEs and the type of small, rural companies they themselves had once been.

Following extensive remodelling, Clawthorpe Hall Business Centre was born, with Duckett Building Services relocating their head office to Westmorland House within the site.

The Business Centre currently has 18 self-contained units, ranging from 20sq metres to around 500 sq metres, along with extensive conference and meeting facilities, and is home to a variety of companies. Also on site is "Spotted Dog" pre-school nursery which is owned and operated by another family member Edward's sister, Claire.

"The next step for Clawthorpe Hall is to develop eight more business units." continues Edward, "From what we've seen, there is a definite demand for affordable, modern and flexible employment sites in South Lakeland." The expansion will create a centre of excellence at Clawthorpe for professional services, construction and property businesses.

"We think that Burton-in-Kendal is a great location. It's just a few minutes from junction 35 and 36 of the M6, plus the West Coast Main Line runs pretty much past our front door."



"The new development has attracted investment from Defra and will become part of the National Rural Growth Network. Duckett Building Services are a great example of a family business who have [literally] built a very good name for themselves but have always been close to their community and the local economy."

The new development at Clawthorpe Hall business centre will be a great resource for more unique and innovative businesses to establish themselves in South Lakeland."

The Duckett's family now operate a number of businesses from their South Lakeland Site and have created a solid future for many generations to come.

## **Duckett Building Services**

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# Welcome to South Lakeland.

A Breath of Fresh Air for Business.

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An area known globally for its astounding natural beauty and unique vibrant culture, South Lakeland is also home for a thriving and innovative business environment where companies can become established, grow and prosper.

The entrepreneurial business spirit is strongly encouraged in South Lakeland, reflected in the healthy number of fledgling enterprises setting up each year in our region, and our work also encompasses projects designed to help make the first steps to start-up as easy as possible.

The Economic Development Team at South Lakeland District Council are an inward investment service providing information and support to businesses of all sizes, covering all industry sectors, whether you are already here or are looking to locate your operations in South Lakeland.

The Economic Development Team are here to help your business uncover the exciting potential that exists here. Should you have any questions, we are on hand to assist and tell you more about the opportunities to be found in the most beautiful corner of the UK.

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