

A Day in the life of...

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MY ALARM GOES OFF...

My alarm goes off at 6am. I get to work by both the train into Waterloo and the tube to Canary Wharf, which takes around 1.5 hours. It is a good chance to catch up with 'life admin' and read the paper, a magazine or book. To work, I wear trousers and a shirt. I also wear PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) which includes a hi-viz jacket, steel toe cap boots and safety glasses. My clothes are smart but not overly expensive as they can get dirty working on a building site.

I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR...

I am responsible for being the link between the professional team (architects, engineers, planners, cost management team) and the builders and contractors out on site. My role is to ensure the job is built safely, on time and within budget. My main focus is planning the onsite works and looking ahead to solve issues before we arrive there and to ensure the workforce is never held up.

I GOT MY JOB...

I studied GCSEs and A-Levels at school. Then I got a job as an apprentice construction manager at 18. I was granted day release to attend university and studied for a degree in Design and Construction Management. Since then I studied to become chartered at the professional body for my job at the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB). I got my current job by applying to Canary Wharf speculatively as I liked the company, having lived in South East London, and seeing the estate grow as a child I wanted to be a part of the future.

AT SCHOOL I STUDIED...

I studied all the core subjects at GCSE level and for A-Level chose Design and Technology, Geography and Economics

as they were my favourite subjects and the ones I most enjoyed. Design and Technology has helped me in my problem-solving skills and planning, and Economics has helped plan the works from a financial point of view.

MY TYPICAL DAY...

My typical day starts at 8am. I get out on site to check everyone is working where we



Construction



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planned them to be. I pick up any issues on my inspections and return to the office for tea at 10am where I often have a meeting or two. I go out again before lunch to check on safety and programme issues. The afternoon is often planning the next day and week's activities, have a final check of progress on site and often finish just after 5pm.

THE KEY SKILLS I USE IN MY JOB...

Good communication is essential in my role. I speak to a vast range of people from architects, clients, engineers and directors to the operatives on site. Some colleagues on site don't have English as a first language, so communication and camaraderie are essential. A good degree of detail is needed to check method statements and ensure everything is safe and being built to the specification. Additionally, having 'Vision' is required to solve problems and plan the future works.

Determination is also required to get the whole team to work towards the same goal.

THE BEST PART OF MY JOB IS...

It can be very satisfying when everything goes to plan, and the job can be handed over to a satisfied client. The job can also be good fun out on site, plenty of banter can be had within the team. You also get to spend a lot of the day outside which is great in the summer.

THE WORST PART OF MY JOB IS...

The job is reliant on good weather so it is frustrating when it has been windy or cold not only because I spend the majority of my time outside but I have to rearrange works that have stopped due to the weather and having to catch up time on very short programmes. Design changes are also frustrating as you sometimes must remove already constructed works and start again.

MY ROLE MODEL GROWING UP WAS...

My parents taught me determination was the key to success. I had a few good teachers who helped me on my career path. Also, watching sports and how people manage their career and training shows that it's not just the skills you have but how you apply them is the difference between winning and losing.

AFTER WORK...

I get home at around 7pm and enjoy a nice meal with my wife and sometimes

a glass of wine (or two). I enjoy running or cycling in the evening when I can. I also like going to the cinema and theatre or going for a long walk along the Thames close to where I live. I go to bed at around 11pm having watched an hour of TV to relax beforehand.



MY PLAN B...

I would love to have played cricket to a professional level but sadly was neither good enough or tall enough!! Or I would have loved to be an air traffic controller as I love aviation and would have enjoyed arranging all the flights in a methodical order! I'm like that with the delivery wagons out on site...

