



Engineering
our future

Name: Dan Anderson

Age: 27

Job Role: Process Support Officer

What does your job involve?

In my current job I'm responsible for gas pressure control and storage which means making sure the people of Birmingham have a safe and reliable gas supply to their homes. It's my job to make sure equipment is maintained and gas pressures are correct so they don't have to think about it.

How long have you been working at National Grid?

Three years

What inspired you to study engineering?

I came into engineering because I've always been interested in finding solutions to problems. Engineering is all about using science and maths to solve many of the problems we face so the chance to be involved in work that helps society made it a natural choice for me.

Detail your career path so far

During my Masters degree in Mechanical Engineering I worked at Land Rover developing parts for a new vehicle chassis. Since graduating I joined the National Grid Graduate development programme.

My first job after joining National Grid was to help develop a new overflow system for gas holders. After that I was making modifications to pylons on the country's high voltage electricity system.

When I moved to my current job working on the gas distribution network in the West Midlands, my first big project was to decommission four gas holder sites in the region. This project involved developing procedures for the work on site, managing and directing the field force, arranging supplies and managing costs while all the time being responsible for everyone's safety. The project was made all the more interesting as one of the sites was James Bridge in Walsall where the holders are just 12 metres from the M6 and another in Washwood Heath in Birmingham where the holders are two of the biggest in Europe, the equivalent in volume to 3000 double-decker buses.

Would you encourage others to consider an engineering career?



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I definitely would. Most people think an engineer wears overalls and holds a spanner, but nothing could be further from the truth. An engineer is a highly qualified person who could be working on anything from developing a new computer processor to working out how to reduce the aerodynamic drag on Formula 1 cars. This presents endless opportunities for people taking up a career in engineering.

How would you sum up your job in three words?

My job is demanding but varied and very rewarding. Let's face it, there aren't many professions where you can boast that you've developed something that is now in mass production for markets around the world, or decommissioned major structures that have dominated the West Midlands skyline for generations.

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