



Engineering
our future

Name: Gareth Burden

Age: 29

Job Role: Project Engineer, UK Construction

What does your job involve?

The delivery of National Grid projects across multiple disciplines; electricity cable works and tunnels, gas plant and compressor projects and high pressure pipelines.

All this involves working to project specifications like timescales and costs set with our asset management department and sanctioned by the Transmission Investment Committee or the National Grid Board (where spend is dictated Board approval is required).

Day to day I project-manage large scale projects. Our team is responsible for land acquisition, planning applications, consent requirements, council interfaces, engineering design and procurement. I manage and coordinate project progression and project programmes with key stakeholders including operations, cable contractors and the substation alliance.

I engage with local communities affected by construction works and meet with senior council representatives to inform them of our works and the impacts on their constituents.

How long have you been working at National Grid?

Six years

What inspired you to study engineering?

I was inspired by a natural curiosity for how products and systems operate and function (basically pulling things apart). Science is the study of how things might work in certain conditions.

Engineering concerns itself with how things actually work and function in the real world and everyday of everybody's life is impacted by it in one form or another.

Detail your career path so far

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I began on the Graduate Scheme (in various roles), I then moved into Gas Operations in central London and then Harrow and Barnet. After this I moved into UK Construction working on and project-managing pipeline projects, gas compressor projects and high voltage cable projects.

Would you encourage others to consider an engineering career?

Absolutely. The satisfaction of designing, managing and/or constructing anything is extremely satisfying. Once you have completed your project it is there in front of everyone for all to see.

How would you sum up your job in three words?

Construct assets safely.