



**Name:** Phil Clements

**Age:** 29

**Job Role:** Power Systems Engineer

### What does your job involve?

My job involves analysing National Grid's transmission system to decide what additional infrastructure is needed to connect large generation companies and local distribution companies to our network. As part of the job I have to deal with people at all levels, both within the company and customers, to find solutions through engineering.

### How long have you been working at National Grid?

Three years

### What inspired you to study engineering?

I've always liked building things and at school I enjoyed the problem-solving subjects such as maths, science and technology. I suppose it was inevitable that I would pursue a career in engineering because I was inspired by members of my family, who also work in the industry. They are very enthusiastic about their work and, like them, I wanted to be able to point to things and say 'I helped to build that.'

### Detail your career path so far

I left school with nine GCSEs and took up an apprenticeship with a microelectronics company. I gained an HNC in mechatronics before spending a couple of years as a metalworker for a bulk handling company to gain valuable practical experience. From there I joined the petrochemical industry as a design engineer where I was inspired to gain further qualifications in electrical engineering.

I returned to the University of Teeside and gained a First Class BEng (Hons) degree in electrical engineering. I wanted to specialise in high voltage electrical power systems so I went on to complete a one year MSc at Manchester. From there I joined National Grid's graduate development scheme and, after 18 months, I took up my current role in electricity network investment.

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### **Would you encourage others to consider an engineering career?**

Definitely! I love the buzz I get from my job - there's never a dull day. There are so many aspects of engineering to explore that no one could possibly get bored. You deal with knowledgeable and experienced people and can develop a huge range of skills.

The best part of the job for me is the people I work with. This industry is full of enthusiastic people who are hugely knowledgeable about their subject and welcome the opportunity to help young engineers like me increase their own knowledge.

### **How would you sum up your job in three words?**

If I had to sum up my career in three words I say it has been educational, multidimensional and inspirational. The only down side is that there's not enough hours in the day. However that keeps you on your toes so, maybe it's not such a bad thing.