



**Cain Elen Thomas**  
Operations Engineer  
Age 23

### What's your current role?

I'm an Operations Engineer working within Horizon's operations department and pursuing my ambition to become a future control room operator at Wylfa Newydd on Anglesey, where I grew up. I've always been passionate about electricity generation and, after a placement at the existing Magnox Wylfa power station, I knew I wanted to pursue a career in the nuclear industry as an operator working in the control room.

### What did you study when you were at school and what qualifications do you have?

After completing my GCSEs, I attended Ysgol David Hughes where I studied my A-levels, including; maths, physics, chemistry, French, further pure maths and the Welsh Baccalaureate. I really enjoyed maths and physics at school, so I chose to study a master's in engineering at the University of Bath; I achieved a MEng (Hons) in Integrated Mechanical and Electrical Engineering.

### Your career path so far...

I completed several work placements before joining Horizon, including three months at the existing Magnox Wylfa nuclear power station where I shadowed reactor operators on the reactor control desk in the control room. I spent another three months with Scottish Power Energy Networks as part of the operations department, where I worked with engineers and linesmen to carry out isolation on high and low voltage networks (testing direct current resistance). I also spent a year with Horizon's engineering department supporting the Generic Design Assessment (GDA) team for a year's practical experience in industry.

### How did the knowledge you've gained through previous roles help you to get your job at Horizon?

I've been lucky to have built a solid foundation for my engineering career through my experience so far and gained a holistic view of the power industry. My 'year in industry' with Horizon gave me a more detailed understanding of the Advanced Boiling Water Reactors (ABWR) – the technology proposed for Wylfa Newydd – and the GDA process.

### What are your top tips for somebody who wants a job in the nuclear industry?

- Get relevant industry experience! Securing real-life experience will allow you to develop your knowledge of the industry and could help you decide which specific departments you're most interested in.
- Do something you're passionate about! I studied Integrated Mechanical and Electrical Engineering at university because I enjoyed A-level maths so much, and I've chosen this career following my work experience at Magnox Wylfa.

### Where do you see your career in 10 years' time?

In 10 years' time, I hope to be qualified as a reactor operator and working my way towards becoming a control room supervisor. My ultimate ambition is to become a Shift Manager in the control room at the future Wylfa Newydd station.