



Mike Douch
Project Engineer
Age 31

What's your current role?

I'm a Project Engineer at Horizon Nuclear Power and I manage some of the most exciting projects on the Wylfa Newydd site, such as archaeology, ground investigations, construction and demolition projects. I work closely with our contractors on site to make sure everything they do meets Horizon's strict health and safety rules. I also work with my colleagues across the business to prepare for the construction of the Power Station.

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

I left school in Holyhead with 10 GCSEs (grades A to C) and enrolled on the Isle of Anglesey County Council's apprenticeship scheme to study engineering; I learnt many valuable skills including machining, fitting, electrical installation, welding and mechanical maintenance. After my first year I secured a job with Magnox for the final three years of my apprenticeship, specialising in Control and Instrumentation, and completed a Higher National Certificate (HNC) in Electrical Engineering.

Your career path so far...

After completing my apprenticeship, Magnox offered me a permanent job. I stayed there for five years and gained a second HNC, this time in Mechanical Engineering. I then became a Site Engineer where I was responsible for installing new structures in the turbine house before becoming a Project Manager with responsibility for delivering several multi-million-pound projects over the next three years. Throughout my career I've also gained project management and engineering qualifications and accreditations with the Association for Project Management (APM) and the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE).

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

When building your career in any sector it's important to diversify your skills, knowledge and experience, so you can stand out and take on roles with more responsibility. My Project Engineer role involves a combination of project management, commercial and technical skills, so it's essential to have a breadth of experience.

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

- Work hard, set yourself achievable goals and stick with them. And even when things don't go to plan, don't let setbacks put you off your targets.
- Ask questions. The industry is full of fantastic people who will go out of their way to help others if they're eager and willing to learn.
- Be professional. The industry is built on reputation and it's always important to convey a positive attitude.

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

Wylfa Newydd will open up a lot of opportunities, so it's my aim to be in a senior construction position. I hope I'll be using the new skills and experience I've gained on Horizon's next project – Oldbury in South Gloucestershire.