



Mathew Cave
Operations Lead Engineer
Age 34

What's your current role?

I'm an Operations Lead Engineer at Horizon and mainly work in the Wylfa Newydd site office. I'm responsible for the development of operational processes and procedures to get ready for when Wylfa Newydd is operational, as well as being one of the first employees to complete the operator training and simulator training at the Boiling Water Reactor Training Centre in Japan.

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

I completed 11 GCSEs at Holyhead High School (including electronics, science and languages) before studying a National Diploma in Electronic and Electrical Engineering at Coleg Menai. I continued this subject at Manchester Metropolitan University, where I completed a Higher National Diploma. Later, I completed a BSc (Hons) Design degree at The Open University, while working at Wylfa Newydd.

Your career path so far...

After studying electronic and electrical engineering for five years, I applied for a job back home on Anglesey at the Magnox Wylfa nuclear power station as an Operations Engineer. I worked in shift operations for 10 years where I ran the nuclear reactors in the main control room. I supervised the main control room for five years, which included the two reactor operations engineers, and had responsibility for the rest of the common plant, such as the electrical system, cooling water, and the emergency diesels and gas turbines.

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

I hope to be part of the shift operations group at Wylfa Newydd, leading one of the teams who operate the plant.

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

From operating reactors and the physics involved, to emergency operations and isolating parts of the plant for safety tests, my operations background has been invaluable to support my work at Horizon.

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

- If you're still studying, use the education resources to help make important decisions about academic versus vocational choices.
- Companies like Horizon need all types of people, so become highly skilled and stand out.
- Investigate the varied and exciting opportunities at operating and decommissioning nuclear power stations. Ask lots of questions – there's no such thing as a silly question!