

Name

Louise Round



Education, Experience & Achievements

I gained a BSc in Civil Engineering from Nottingham University.

My experience has been a mix of Local Government Engineering and consultancy. This has enabled me to develop my interest in Road Safety and Traffic Engineering.

I think one of my greatest achievements is now being in a position where I can have a positive influence on the careers of other women in Engineering.

What led you to choose Engineering as a career?

As with many Engineers, my interest in Engineering was sparked by a family member working in the industry and my strengths in maths and physics. My Dad was a quantity surveyor by profession and I chose Civil Engineering as a way into the construction industry.

What is it about Engineering that inspires you?

There are tangible results with Engineering. Civil Engineering also allows you a combination of technical results with using a little imaginative flair.

What has been the high point in your career to date?

Being promoted to Senior Associate.

What has been your biggest challenge so far and how have you solved it?

I am currently facing the biggest challenge, which is the shortage of Engineers. I have a number of ideas of how to work with the situation but it is going to take a lot more than one person or one organisation to solve the problem.

How have you managed your work and family commitments?

I am very fortunate to be married to someone who is prepared to support me in my career. Whilst women in Engineering face challenges of prejudice the other side to this is men in non traditional roles. It takes a very special man to join a Mother and Toddler Group.

Do you have any advice for women who are considering engineering as a career, or for those who are already Engineers?

I believe that outdated perceptions of women being weak in the sciences needs to be stamped out once and for all. There is still a feeling among some teachers and female students that these subjects are too hard and should only be tackled by girls wanting to enter veterinary science or medicine. I have seen girls who are thinking of taking up engineering studies being dissuaded at secondary school level due to a perceived weakness in maths and science subjects. This needs to be corrected if we want more women engineers.

I think that the promotion of engineering needs to improve to prevent potential female engineers being lost to other industries. I think that law, medicine and, more recently, finance have been good at promoting themselves. This has led to these areas being popular career choices and by default more women are undertaking careers in these fields. To attract more women to engineering the industry needs to continue with its promotion to high school students and increase the promotion of the profession in general.

As a Senior Associate part of my role is to undertake graduate recruitment. To do my part in promoting the industry to potential female engineers, I attend many graduate career fairs. In this way I can show the students that there are women in senior positions in engineering, even if we are few and far between.