

We call it *Jacksonesque*

Just the job

Gavin Fozard – Site Engineer

“The satisfaction of seeing a completed project I was personally involved with is phenomenal.”

The Great Wall of China is the only man-made structure visible from outer space. Though his work might not be so prominent, seeing something he has helped create still gives Site Engineer Gavin Fozard a buzz.

“Buildings and structures are the biggest mark anyone can make on the land and they will normally stand for a good few decades. The satisfaction from revisiting areas and pointing at structures I have worked on and seeing them still in use is phenomenal.”



His route to Site Engineer began with a Degree in Civil and Structural Engineering (BEng). Whilst studying he gained work experience at a Norfolk based construction company.

Being a good communicator is vital in Gavin's job. He is the link between client and site ensuring dimensions and specifications are maintained. He begins by studying the project drawings, producing a list of all the materials required. On site he sets the position where everything is to be built *“so everyone knows what's going on.”* New kerbs, lamp posts in fact everything needed is marked and explained to who ever needs to know to ensure the project matches the client's design.

When construction is under way Gavin carries out checks to ensure everything is positioned as shown on the drawings. Sometimes changes are necessary to meet design changes, client requests or problems with the site. Gavin liaises with the resident engineer who works on behalf of the client, to discuss any problems and work out new solutions acceptable to both sides.

“Occasionally a client will make changes or request additional work after we have completed the project. Going back to something already finished can be disheartening but the customer is always right and we do everything we can to meet their needs.”

“The people you meet and work with day-in day-out are all excellent and a good fun bunch”

Since starting with Jackson's Gavin feels his communication skills have improved ten-fold. His ability to communicate ideas and designs to all levels is very important within the construction industry. In the future he would like to move into management working with clients before the design stage.

“The people you meet and work with day-in day-out are all excellent and a good fun bunch. I also find this type of work enjoyable. It's just like doing design technology everyday except not just your teacher sees the finished project; the whole community will see and use it. Most will be grateful for it as well.”

1

Next steps: Still at School

It will help if you take post 16 subjects to prepare for your career. Useful subjects would be mathematics and physics. Some colleges and universities will require these subjects while others may offer entry from a wider choice including geography and economics.

2

After School

After school you are likely to progress your academic qualifications by full time study at college or university. Alternatively part time study at a college or university on day release from your employer.

Choosing what, where and how to study is a big decision. It is important that you choose a course or programme recognised by the Institution of Civil Engineers who will help you gain the professional qualification you seek.

3

Gaining Professional Qualifications

Once you have completed your academic education you are well on your way to achieving a professional qualification as a Civil Engineer. A professional qualification is recognised as a mark of quality and establishes your credentials in your profession.

The process of qualifying can involve work assessments, written work and interviews. Jackson Civil Engineering will support and encourage you to achieve these goals.

For more advice and information visit
the Institution of Civil Engineers website:
www.ice.org.uk



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