

Females of the Future: International Women's Day

Meet Elizabeth...



Elizabeth Draper
Head of Risk Change Management

What does your job involve?

I work on what's called the Regional Investment Programme – North. We deliver major projects (typically anything over £50m budget) on to motorways and other major roads across the North of England. My job is to set the strategy for how we'll manage risk on the programme, to lead a team of risk managers who work in the projects and to find ways to consistently improve how we do it, so we have the best chance of finishing any builds or upgrades on time and on budget, regardless of what surprises await us on site.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love leading a team of excellent people who are passionate about what they do. And I love transforming teams. The world of risk changes constantly and we always have an opportunity to do things better and smarter. I'm excited to see what AI brings to the role!

What career advice would you give your younger self?

Just get any experience you can. Even the shortest stint in retail for example will give you amazing customer service experience you can call on for the rest of your life.

And don't worry if you don't know what you want to do. Loads of jobs today didn't even exist when I was at school. Just build your toolkit of skills and experiences and see what's out there when it's time.

What did you want to be when you were at school?

A doctor

What education path did you take?

- Chose GCSE options History, RE, French and Food Technology
- A Levels were Maths, Human Biology and Psychology
- I did BSc Management at the University of Manchester
- I've since completed an Advanced Apprenticeship in Management – Business Skills in work.

What did you learn at school that you have transferred into your job?

I use my maths skills all the time in my role. We do something called Quantitative Risk Analysis and to be able to interpret the results, I need to understand histograms, distribution curves, probabilities, and what makes for a statistically significant result.