

Females of the Future: International Women's Day

Meet Kate...

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

When I was little, I wanted to be a secretary, like my Mum. As I got older, I wanted to be an archivist and work with old books and documents.

What education path did you take?

I completed my GCSEs and A-Levels in a variety of subjects. At University I achieved a degree in Ancient History and a Masters in Medieval and Renaissance Culture.

Why did you decide to do the job you are doing?

I spent 9 years in my previous role in the logistics sector, but I needed something that was challenging, interesting and something I could see myself doing long-term. I'd completed some ad-hoc projects in my role which I quite enjoyed as I was able to do research on the topic and do everything myself. I saw an advert for a Project Support Officer at National Highways and decided to go for it.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I really like the variety of tasks and being able to challenge myself. The aspect I like about my role the most is being able to make a difference – with our road projects and people I work with.



Kate James
Assistant Project Manager in Major Projects

What career advice would you give your younger self?

To take as many opportunities as you can and not let lack of confidence or shyness get in the way. I've had lots of opportunities at NH to get involved in things that I'm interested in and develop my career which helped me push myself and get myself out there.

I've achieved things I never thought possible (presenting a workshop to lots of people is a good example!) and my younger self would be so impressed.

I would also tell my younger self that failure isn't the end of the world – it's the First Attempt In Learning (FAIL). For example, at college I had to retake a different set of A-Levels - it meant that I tried something new and found out I was really good at something!

What does your job involve?

Project Managers are responsible for delivering a project on time, on budget and to a high standard. As an Assistant Project Manager, I support the Project Manager with the day to day running of the project. This exposes you to lots of different areas and no day is the same. I'm also in charge of workstreams that feed into the project like risk, legacy, and governance.

