

Females of the Future: International Women's Day

Meet Liz...



Liz Garlinge
Director, Strategic Customer Projects

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

I would have liked to have been a doctor, or a writer. But I also liked acting and computers; this is way before everyone used one!

What education path did you take?

I was good at languages but loved science. So, I ended up with GCSEs, A Levels, then two degrees, one in languages, one in computing.

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

So much! I loved tech, so I did a GCSE in computing and although I didn't enjoy the course, it really helped me understand more about the topic. Having that knowledge has made me more confident – and it helps me explain things to other people. It also set me up for my early career in IT project management.

I still use the basic skills that I learned in Maths every day of my working week. Whether it's looking at costs of projects to check we aren't overspent, working out budgets for new projects or checking my payslip is right, it's made me so glad I learned it!

What does your job involve?

On a day-to-day basis, I lead teams to deliver changes, whether that's a new IT system, an improvement to a bit of road or most recently to improve electric vehicle charging on the motorway.

So that means helping those teams solve problems, by talking them through, chairing meetings to check how projects are progressing or thinking up new ways to make things easier. I spend a lot of time in meetings, which is great for me because I enjoy working with people.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love helping other people do a great job. To see someone do something that they didn't think they were able to.

I also love the moment after the project is delivered and the team can look round and say, "I did that!"

What career advice would you give your younger self?

Give things a go! You won't know what sort of job might suit you until you try. Make sure you always enjoy work; you spend too much of your life doing it to be unhappy there.