



About me

I served for 9 years as a senior rating in the Royal Navy as a Weapon Engineer on HM Submarines. My specialism was in Communication and Radar engineering.

My route in

When serving my notice I had no intention of joining the energy industry - in fact I had no real appreciation about RES generation. The easiest and most sensible option was to find a job either building the type 45's on the Clyde or working as a civvy in Faslane.

After getting a role as a weapon system integration engineer I quickly realised that the grass wasn't always greener! I then went back to the drawing board and decided to either go self employed (and chase the £) or try to find an alternative role. I went back to the recruiter to see if they had anything else and they said that "a wind farm developer is looking for someone in a new role who has either ATC experience or radar engineering experience". I decided to apply for it with no idea about wind farms or what the issues were. After 2 interviews (talking a lot about submarines!!!) I was offered the position based totally on my experience and attitude - no additional courses required!

As I was the first person working in such a role across the industry I was able to shape it myself, quickly becoming very independent and accountable. What people hadn't realised - whilst the issue was technical the challenge was building trust and relationships in order to get parties who were stopping the deployment of wind farms, to actually promote the deployment of them! I quickly became recognised across industry and have been offered 2 more positions since. One in Project Management and now in Business Development.

My advice to anyone looking to enter the industry is to make as many contacts as you can and learn as much as you can during your notice period. You'll make some bad choices and the civilian mindset is very different but things have a way of working out. I also didn't use the Enhanced Learning Credits and I'd recommend that people utilise these and even promote them as they are attractive to a prospective employer.



My current role

My current job is a Senior Business Development Manager within our wind business. I'm responsible for finding growth opportunities within new markets.

I couldn't sit at a desk everyday and in this role I have total autonomy within my markets. I spend a lot of time out working with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders to make positive change.



Relationship building and trust is key and this is a principle that comes from the military. Leadership style as a civilian is very different but the principles are aligned. Also, as an engineer by background, I see every challenge in the same way as I saw any defect - you break it down into its independent components and work through it step by step to enable resolution.