



Case study 9

Alistair McNeill
Health, Safety & Environment Manager
Laing O'Rourke Infrastructure

Qualifications: HND (Mechanical Engineering), Postgraduate Diploma (Safety & Environmental Management), CMIOSH (Chartered Safety & Health Practitioner)

Employer: Laing O'Rourke Infrastructure, UK's largest privately owned construction/civil engineering company

Career: My first job was in shipbuilding, but I did not enjoy the volume of applied mathematics and design work so I moved to a job constructing modules for offshore oil and gas platforms. From there I moved to construction/civil engineering and have carried out a variety of roles in the 27 years I have been with my current employer; from a Site Engineer making sure bits of buildings went in the right place, a Planner making sure schedules were prepared to say what should happen when, a Quality Manager making sure we built what we were supposed to and more recently a safety and Environment Manager ensuring our operations do as little harm to people and the Environment as possible – and investigating any incidents where something unplanned or unintended has happened.



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Highlights: My career has taken me, and my family, around the World; I have worked in Dubai, Cairo, Germany and Hong Kong (where I am now for a 2nd



time), as well as all over the U.K. I have worked on jobs as small as a house (85,000 Pounds) to as big as Terminal 5 at Heathrow Airport (4.5 Billion Pounds) and a few things in between, such as Hospitals, schools, a Military Academy, high rise apartment blocks and a vault for storing nuclear waste.

Why do I recommend a career in Construction?

- Offers a wide range of possibilities, from trades persons (joiners, electricians, plant operators) to Engineers (design, site supervision, computer visualisation) and even support tasks (lawyers, commercial management, Human Resource management, Purchasing , etc).
- Many different education routes available; apprenticeships, day and block release, graduate training programmes, staff development programmes (how I got my Postgraduate Diploma).
- Friendly. I have walked into an office in Manchester and met somebody I worked with in Dubai 15 years previously.
- Pride. It's a great feeling to know you have played a part in creating a key piece of infrastructure and making somebody else's work or life better

The Construction/Civil Engineering Industry is about Change; Changing the built environment by delivering new infrastructure, Changing the way we deliver projects in order to reduce harm to the Environment and improve our efficiency, and I want to Change young persons' perception of what many have historically perceived to be a 'last resort' choice of employment. 1/12th of the UK's GDP is tied to Construction/Civil Engineering - we are hard to ignore!

