

Our Stories

**National Careers
Week reflection**

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My career so far

I wanted to be an accountant or lawyer and was looking at a degree in Criminology. I was on a gap year working in a pub in Barrow when a regular mentioned Quantity Surveying. I looked into it, changed my plans, and went off to do a degree in Quantity Surveying and Commercial Management.

At first, I found it boring, but then I started to get into it. I did a sandwich year working for a small company in Barrow carrying out insurance repairs and finished the rest of my degree part time.

After a few years, I felt the job was more about managing works and low-level project management and I wasn't using what I'd learned at university. I spoke to someone I'd gone to university with who'd worked at Solomons. He said they were actively recruiting females, so I went for it.





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People have great pride in what they do and are always hungry to learn and deliver a better service for clients.

You feel part of a friendly and very supportive family.

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What I love about Quantity Surveying and Solomons

I often think back to that conversation in the pub and where I'd be if I hadn't chosen Quantity Surveying. It's proved to be a varied and robust career. I really enjoy being part of the construction industry. I would have been bored sat in an office just looking at numbers. While there's an element of that in any Quantity Surveying role, it's exciting to be part of buildings things, learning about new technologies and innovative methods.

There's also a lot of progression routes. I became a Director of Solomons in 2010 and love working here.



Advice to aspiring Quantity Surveyors

For me it's all about attitude, being minded and having an eye on bigger picture. Solomons recruits on basis. Yes, there are a lot of skills – professional and personal – that can transferred, the rest can be learned.

Acting with integrity is everything. Be kind, respectful helpful because you're dealing with other people's money.

Construction is a difficult and multi-faceted industry, so you to understand people, their motivations, and drivers. There's an element of psychology in there. If have all this, and love a challenge, can be a really rewarding career.