

Matt, City of York Council Apprentice Flooding and Drainage Engineer (Level 4/5)

Training Provider: Leeds College of Building

After completing A-Levels, I went on to university and gained a 2:1 BSc (hons) in Biology, focussing on Ecology and Climate Change.

I needed to find a job and found myself working in retail. I remained with the same employer for 10 years, working my way up to Deputy Manager level. After 8 years however I knew it wasn't the career for me, so started to look at other opportunities.

I wanted to retrain in an industry which was interesting and fulfilling as a career, while being paid so I can pay my mortgage. I decided to look at apprenticeships and found my position advertised in October 2018. I applied and was successful at interview and started in February 2019.

My job involves working on flood defences, flooding investigations, highway maintenance and repairs and organising gully cleaning.

My apprenticeship has given me a much broader view of the whole civil engineering sector and is giving me new academic and practical knowledge.

I have regained some of the confidence I lost since leaving university and I am remembering that I am good at leading work, organising and talking to people.



It can be difficult to find a well-paid rewarding job. Even finding a lower paid job with good prospects for progression is tough. So if you can get an apprenticeship in an organisation that wants to train and invest in you, then that could be the start of a very good career. It is my plan to remain at the council for a number of years, hopefully progressing to Engineering Technician and then Engineer. Although an apprentice wage can sometimes be lower initially, the prospects at the end are very good. My employer has a genuine interest in succession planning and seeing me in the department for years to come which is a very reassuring thing.