

Region Newsletter

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Introduction and Welcome



Welcome to the latest CIHT North East & Cumbria Region newsletter. Since I became Chair in May, we've had a busy six month programme of seminars, membership and social events, all of which culminated in our successful Dinner & Awards, at the Assembly Rooms in October.

We kicked off the 2016/17 session with our AGM at the Royal Station Hotel, where our new regional committee for the year was also confirmed. This was followed by an insightful talk from Alex Hynes, Managing Director of Northern, who set out the ambitious plans for the rail franchise over the next decade.

Our CPD programme has continued apace over the late summer and autumn. In September, David Bartlett from Nexus talked about how smart ticketing is transforming users relationship with public transport in the north east and further afield. In October, the subject was the devastating impact of the December 2015 storms in Cumbria, with Northumbria University hosting an excellent presentation from David Pluse, who managed the rebuild of the A591, a key route through the central Lake District, in just four months.

With ICE, our sister organisation, we held seminars on the A1 Coal House to Metrocentre scheme, and in Teesside, on the progress of the Queensferry Crossing over the River Forth, due to open in spring 2017. Most recently, we were privileged to host the inaugural TRICS Learning and Development Forum in Newcastle, attended by over 50 delegates.

On the social front, in July we held our annual golf competition at Prudhoe Golf Club, and in September, enjoyed an afternoon's racing with a cycle track day at Cramlington. Our bowling competition at Lane 7, jointly run with the Transport Planning Society, has rapidly become a firm favourite, and this year's event in October did not disappoint.

The Region's Young Professional Group (YPG) continues to grow and support those in the early stages of their career. Along with the social and networking events mentioned, the first pan-northern YPG forum took place in October at York Railway Museum. Over forty delegates from across North East & Cumbria, Yorkshire & Humber and North West Regions gathered to hear presentations and workshops led by key figures in highways and transport in the north of England.

Of course, I cannot sign off without mentioning our Dinner & Awards, at the Assembly Rooms, Newcastle, in October. A truly memorable evening, where 180 guests celebrated the best of our Region, alongside the winners of our three awards categories. I'm also proud to say we raised over £1,100 for our Chairman's Charity, St Oswald's Children's Hospice. Thanks once again for your outstanding support.

But it's time to look forward to an equally busy 2017. One of our key events, the Colas Regional Awards, is now open for submissions, and I encourage all younger professionals to participate. We also have our ever popular annual Quiz in February, further seminars and membership events, and some exciting full and half-day conferences on the horizon.

It's a great time to be working in our industry, so please do get involved. Whether it's on the Regional Committee, YPG, or in a mentoring capacity, you can help shape our future direction, network with colleagues and make firm friends along the way.

With best wishes for a prosperous 2017,

Anthony Robinson

Email: anthony.robinson2@aecom.com

NE&C Committee Update

We welcomed a number of new members onto our Regional Committee, at the AGM in May.

Darran Kitchener, who heads up the north of England office at Milestone Transport Planning, is our Vice Chair for 2016-17. Working predominantly with the private sector, he brings across a number of key contacts with contractor and development clients, which has already helped us to broaden our representation across the industry in our Region.

Jonathan Barlow, a specialist transport planner, joins us as our Communications and Website Officer. After a spell working in the south of England, Jonathan has moved back to his native north east, and we welcome his experience from previous CIHT roles elsewhere in the UK.

Our other new Committee members are Jennifer Searle, based at AECOM Newcastle; Trevor Male, from South Tyneside Council, and Rob Minton, at Jacobs, Newcastle.

Visit our website [here](#) to see our full Committee for 2016/17.

Contacts

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Branch Website: www.ciht.org.uk/neandc

LinkedIn: search for "CIHT North East and Cumbria Region"

Follow CIHT on Twitter: @CIHTUK



@CIHTUK

Your CIHT: News and Upcoming Events

Local Mentoring Service

The CIHT North East and Cumbria region is offering a Mentor service to help candidates prepare for their **Professional Reviews**. Support is available across each of the following qualification routes:

- Transport Planning Professional (TPP);
- Chartered Engineer (CEng);
- Incorporated Engineer (IEng); or
- Engineering Technician (EngTech).

To find out more about working with a Mentor, please either register at www.CIHT.MentorMatch.Me or send us an email at northeastandcumbria@ciht.org.uk.

We will soon be arranging a Mentee drop in session where Professional Review candidates can come along to have their portfolio reviewed, ask questions or simply find out more about the Review process. Details for the drop-in session will be announced shortly via our regular Regional Mailshots.

For those that have completed the CIHT's Mentor Training, you can register as a mentor at www.CIHT.MentorMatch.Me

For those that would like to undertake CIHT's Mentor Training, please contact us at northeastandcumbria@ciht.org.uk for dates of the next available training sessions.

A review of Local Mentoring



Jonathan Barlow,
Website and Communications
Officer, CIHT (North East &
Cumbria Region)

"Having recently moved from the south of England and with no local TPP accredited individuals within my Company, I needed way to continually pursue and ensure the portfolio I've created would not be wasted.

After logging on, I could search for a mentor who had a similar background and was based locally.

Because of this service, the help of my Mentor and through continued perseverance I'm aiming to achieve TPP accreditation by the end of 2017."

Teesside and Cumbria Liaison Groups

We are a big Region, and with that brings some challenges. In our last newsletter we reported our ambition to establish liaison groups in Cumbria and Teesside, to widen our visibility across the membership in those areas. We are pleased to report we are making steady progress in their development.

In Teesside, we already award the CIHT Prize to the an outstanding postgraduate student at Middlesbrough University, and host technical seminars in conjunction with ICE North East. In 2017 however, we hope to go further, with committee members Trevor Platt and Nicola Hill, both based in the area, supporting our membership activities in the south of the Region. With their local knowledge, we'll provide a more focussed service to members here, in terms of relevant CPD events and professional mentoring.

In April 2017, the Region will also hold its first full committee meeting in Teesside and we are planning a number of activities around this. Further details will be announced early in the new year.

Our engagement in Cumbria has taken a little longer to develop, given its geography and the dispersion of members in the county. Our efforts though are starting to bear fruit, and through work-based client relationships, we have established an ongoing dialogue with members based in Cumbria County Council. In 2017 we aim to hold a CPD event and surgery in Carlisle, and develop our links with Cumbria members still further. Please see our website and look out for further announcements in due course.

We want CIHT to work for all of our members in Teesside and Cumbria, but to do that, we also need to hear from you. If you want to get involved in our liaison groups, or simply have an idea or query you want to share, please get in touch by emailing us at northeastandcumbria@ciht.org.uk

Apprentice Grade

Why choose to do an apprenticeship?

Earn – Learn – Develop – Progress

Why join CIHT?

- Apprentice membership is **FREE**
- Get involved and meet other members in your Region
- Online access to CIHT's magazine Transportation Professional
- Register with the Engineering Council onto the Engineering Technician (EngTech) qualification
- Advice and mentoring for your professional development

Further Information and Application Form

Further information about the CIHT Apprentice Grade, and how it can work for you individually, or as an employer, can be found on the main CIHT website.

You can also apply using the online application form [here](#).

Your CIHT: News and Upcoming Events

Council Update

June, September and November Meetings

Anthony Robinson (Regional Representative to Council)

CIHT Council is made up of elected ordinary members and regional representatives. They act as the decision making bodies for the CIHT, delivering the strategy, business plans and outputs on behalf of the membership. Council generally meets four times per year.

In June, Council held its Annual General Meeting at CIHT headquarters in Britannia Walk, London. A key element of this was a presentation and subsequent debate from a leading security advisor to the DfT. This looked at the issues affecting the security of current and future national infrastructure, and personal data protection, e.g. when using social media.

Following the AGM, the new President of CIHT for 2016/17, Steve Rowsell, was inaugurated, and paid a warm tribute to his immediate predecessor, Sue Sharland, for the outstanding work done during her year in office.

In September, Council members were given a preview of the new CIHT Strategy for 2016-21, prior to its official launch a few weeks later. The Strategy updates the values and goals for the Institution over the next five years, with ambitious targets to not only grow our membership, but to reflect the growing diversity of people working in our industry.

The meeting included a presentation and debate on 'Human Factors in Highways & Transportation: Taking a user centric approach', by speakers from Environmental Resources Management. The key questions asked were: should the industry use human factors more; if yes, in what areas; what are the implications for the industry, and how CIHT help to develop this area?

In November, Council sat on the same day as the Autumn Statement. Given that, it was no small achievement to welcome Graham Pendlebury, Director of Local Transport, at the DfT, to talk about his work in coordinating the United Kingdom Liaison Group. This brings together many of the key players, in both central and local government, and the private sector, to discuss how to best deliver nationally important pieces of transport infrastructure. Graham also came in very useful to pick apart some of the key transport announcements made that very afternoon.

This session also saw our annual strategic planning day, where the direction of CIHT is mapped out for the coming year, and beyond. With the publication of the new five-year Strategy, the next step is to produce an effective Business Plan to deliver it. We held workshops to analyse the Institution's strengths and weaknesses, ensuring our opportunities and objectives were clear going forward. Later in the session, different groups looked at specific themes such as setting our KPIs, identifying who are key stakeholders are, and how we can better engage with both our Corporate Partners and the Regions across the UK.



Jonathan Barlow

The Colas CIHT Presentation Awards is a competition designed to recognise young professionals of CIHT and to encourage them to develop their communication and presentation skills. The ability to make an effective presentation and field questions from industry professionals is recognised as a key skill for those working in highways and transportation.

The competition for the North East and Cumbria will be held on the 22nd March 2017, with entrants invited to prepare a 10-minute presentation on a subject relevant to the profession. The presentation will be followed by questions from a panel of judges, who will then decide the overall winner.

The winner will receive a prize and be given a chance to represent the Region at the National competition in London later in 2017, with the chance to win an all-expenses paid trip to Paris.

The Award is a great opportunity to give young professionals a chance to gain practice in presentation skills by providing them with the opportunity to put together a presentation to a professional audience.

To take part, you need to send an outline (of no more than 250 words) of your intended subject to us by the **6th February 2017**. Shortlisted candidates will then be invited to present their topic at the Regional event on 22nd March.

Please visit our website for further information, or contact us at northeastandcumbria@ciht.org.uk



Michael Dodds, 2016 winner, with former CIHT President Sue Sharland, and NE&C Chairman, Phil Freestone.

Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony

October proved to be one of our busiest months, with a number of CPD events, socials and a site visit, held across the Region. This culminated in our flagship event of the year, the Annual Dinner & Awards.

Held at the prestigious Assembly Rooms in Newcastle, 180 guests from all sectors of the industry, joined our Guests of Honour, including CIHT President Steve Rowsell and Chief Executive Sue Percy, to celebrate the people working in highways and transportation in the North East & Cumbria, and they work they deliver that shapes our daily lives. In his address, Steve applauded how the Region has bounced back from the recession, whilst recalling his time in the north east working on schemes such as the A69 bypasses.

This year the Dinner hosted the inaugural Chairman's Charity, St Oswald's Children's Hospice, who brought in a Great North Snowdog, as part of their campaign during the autumn. The Snowdog Trail inspired people of all ages across the Region, and it certainly did no harm promoting active travel in the area! On the night, with everyone's kind generosity, we raised over £1,100 for this worthwhile cause.

Chairman Anthony Robinson said *"The Dinner was a resounding success, thanks to the hard work of our Committee, and to our Guests who made the evening such a memorable one. I hope we carry the positive momentum into the new year and already look forward to an even better 2017 Dinner & Awards"*.

In addition to the Dinner was the presentation of the three Annual Awards, for which we received a tremendous response from across the Region. The quality and diversity of nominations was of an exceptionally high standard, and a tribute to the talented people working to improve transport infrastructure and connectivity in the North East and Cumbria. Our three winners in each Award for 2016 were:

Sustainable Project Award, sponsored by Jacobs

See More Cumbria and the Lake District – Cumbria County Council

Young Professional Award, sponsored by Milestone Transport Planning

David Auld – Transport Consultant, Jacobs

Project of the Year Award, sponsored by Carillion

West of M6 Strategic Connectivity Study – WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff

The Region would like to place its thanks on record to our Dinner and Awards sponsors, Awards winners and nominees and, of course to all of our Guests. It was a terrific evening and we hope you can all attend again next year, for which planning is already underway!



Assembly Rooms
Newcastle upon Tyne
20th October 2016



NORTHUMBRIAN ROADS LTD



JACOBS



MILESTONE
TRANSPORT PLANNING



carillion

CIHT Bulletin: Reviews of Recent Events

New Wear Crossing Site Visit, 20th October 2016

Jonathan Barlow/Karen Westcott

Prior to the Annual Dinner, CIHT President Steve Rowsell and Chief Executive Sue Percy joined CIHT members for an inside look at the North East's biggest construction programme, the £117m New Wear Crossing, that forms a key part of the Sunderland Strategic Transport Corridor (SSTC).



Representatives from Sunderland City Council and the CIHT - Cllr Michael Morday, CIHT President Steve Rowsell Stephen McCaffrey and CIHT Chief Executive Sue Percy.

With 2.8km of new road and the development of a two-span cable stayed bridge, built with 7,000 tonnes of steel and concrete, the New Wear Crossing is part of the SSTC plans, which will improve links between the A19 and Sunderland City Centre and the Port of Sunderland.

With the first section of bridge deck launched out over the River Wear, the team is now busy assembling the second section of deck ready for the arrival of the bridge's main A-frame pylon in the New Year, which will be the centrepiece of the new bridge. The pylon has been fabricated off-site and will be transported along the River Wear before being lifted into place ahead of the launch of the second and final section of bridge deck

Stephen McCaffrey, the Project Director of Farrans Construction and Victor Buyck Steel Construction Joint Venture, which is delivering the bridge on behalf of Sunderland City Council, said the benefits would be reduced journey time for motorists, the unlocking of land for regeneration along the river, increased investment into Sunderland, and a boost to the local – and broader north east – economy. Local companies were awarded 55% of the contracts to deliver the scheme.

Chairman Anthony Robinson remarked: *"This was a rare opportunity to visit one of the North East and Cumbria's largest and most prestigious construction sites. The benefits that this scheme delivers will be felt over the next several decades and I'm pleased that our colleagues from CIHT HQ at Britannia Walk were able to see it take shape."*

Cllr Paul Watson, Leader of Sunderland City Council, said: *"It was a pleasure to have members of the CIHT on the site of the New Wear Crossing."*

"The people of Sunderland have waited a long time for this, so it's wonderful to finally see the bridge unfolding and our ambitions become a reality. It's a complex project, but we have the right skills and expertise in place to ensure it is delivered on time and to the highest standards."

"The new crossing is going to attract investment into Sunderland, help to regenerate key areas along the river, reduce journey times for motorists, and inject a great sense of pride into the community. There are no doubts in my mind that it will have a profound impact on the future of this great city."

The Region thanks Sunderland City Council and the Farrans project team on-site. We look forward to seeing this scheme come to fruition during the Spring of 2018.



Visitors from the CIHT (North East and Cumbria) branch and Representatives from the New Wear Crossing.

CIHT Bulletin: Reviews of Recent Events

Cycle Speedway Social, 4th September 2016

Jonathan Barlow/Richard Smith

Professionals from the field of transport swapped the highway for the raceway on Sunday thanks to Northumbria Vikings Cycle Speedway club, as CIHT North East and Cumbria members headed to the Cramlington Sporting Club track on Sunday to try the exciting cycle sport.

Cycle Speedway, like it's motorised cousin invites riders to compete around a track either as individuals or as a team. However instead of motorbikes, riders use pedals power and steady nerves to gain points ahead of their rivals on bikes with no brakes or gears.

After a training session, the rookie riders watched the home side defeat Northern League opponents Heckmondwike 90-38. This victory inspired the rookies to race in their own challenge match. The best newcomer title was eventually awarded to Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists' J.P. Colback following an impressive four straight wins.

The rookies returned to the Sporting Club to celebrate their achievements with some planning to join the regular training sessions on Tuesday nights.

Northumbria Vikings Head Coach and fellow CIHT member Richard Smith said *"It was a great afternoon with riders of all ages and abilities taking part in Cycle Speedway. We look forward to welcoming more new riders to our track"*.

Northumbria Vikings hold regularly weekly training sessions on Tuesday nights 5.30pm Juniors 6.30pm Seniors, which new riders are welcome to attend.

For more information on the Club please visit their website; <http://www.northumbriacsc.org/>



CIHT North East and Cumbria Regional Golf Competition, 1st July 2016

John Jeffrey

A pretty grim weather forecast and other commitments, particularly a wedding, reduced the numbers this year to seven. In the event, the forecast rain had little effect and we only needed wet weather gear for about 2 holes – Nick Clennett had a magic coat as it stopped raining each time he put it on!

John Atkinson won the first nearest the pin on the 11th hole with a distance of 13ft 2ins or 4.01m. Allan Short won the second nearest the pin on the 15th hole with a distance of 18ft 8ins or 5.69m – the fact that he was the only person to hit the green shows how very tricky the conditions were.

John Atkinson had the best score on the day and won the Guest Trophy with 37 points (off a 12 handicap) only beating Paul Bennisson with a better score on the back nine. Nick Clennett won the Member's Trophy with a creditable 34 points.



Smart Ticketing Initiatives, 15th September 2016

Jonathan Barlow

Hosted by David Bartlett, HR Director and Smart Ticketing Programme Manager of Nexus a presentation was delivered summarising the efforts of Nexus and their partners to successfully roll out an integrated smart card system across the Region. This included a summary of the smart card network and the challenges that were overcome during the projects lifetime. Following the presentation David kindly answered a range of questions for the attendees on data collection and the future of the project in the context of Transport for the North.

Anthony Robinson, Chair of the CIHT and in attendance during the seminar said *"this was a unique event with an engaging speaker and an enthused audience. I was particularly interested to hear how Nexus is taking a proactive role in delivering alternative payment methods beyond smart cards. and look forward to hearing more about their developments as technology and public access improves."*

Thanks to David and Nexus for their hospitality.

CIHT Bulletin: Reviews of Recent Events

Rebuilding the A591 Seminar, 6th October 2016

Jonathan Barlow

On the evening of Thursday 6th October, members and guests of the CIHT were treated to an insightful seminar about the rebuilding of the A591 in Cumbria.

Guest speaker, David Pluse of WSP|PB talked at length about the efforts that Highways England, in partnership with the County Council and HM Government did to reopen the road following the devastation caused by the winter storms and in particular Storm Desmond. The efforts of the entire team, from the Operatives to Designers were described and proved what can be accomplished to repair and enhance the local highway network, despite an almost 1 in 1,300-year weather event.

Not just a rebuild, the underneath wearing course of the road and nearby infrastructure was enhanced and future proofed to minimise the effects of future averse weather conditions.

The Region is grateful to Mr. Pluse, the ICE and Northumbria University for this well attended and extremely insightful seminar. We look forward to holding more joint Seminars with them in the coming months.



David Pluse (WSP|PB) presenting what was undertaken during the rebuilding of the A591, Northumbria University.

TRICS Training & Development Forum, 30th November 2016

Jonathan Barlow/Nick Rabbets

In November, the Region welcomed the first TRICS Training and Development Forum to Newcastle, held at the North of England Institute of Mining & Mechanical Engineers and organised by the TRICS Consortium.

Following an introductory presentation by the Chair of TRICS and CIHT representative Vinny Holden, conference delegates were introduced to the software, its main functions and its recent updates.

This Forum was particularly unique and differed from previous TRICS events; whilst it could be used by individuals experienced in the software's use, it was also aimed at professionals new to the software and its uses within the transportation and development industry. Because of this, the Forum boasted a large turnout, with over 60 delegates in attendance throughout the course of the day.

Managing Director of TRICS, Nick Rabbets commented "we were extremely impressed by the reception that we received from individuals, TRICS is a system that constantly develops with user feedback and we were pleased to demonstrate that today with your CIHT colleague Vinny Holden. It goes without saying that we will continue to work with the North East and Cumbria to promote the system and its benefits to industry.

The next TRICS Training and Development Forum will be held in London, in June 2017.



Representatives of TRICS and the CIHT – (left to right) Phil Freestone (WSP|PB), Ian Coles (TRICS), Mike Green (Surrey County Council), Nick Rabbets, Owen Edwards (both TRICS), Vinny Holden (WSP|PB)

Young Professionals Group Update

First YPG Forum, 27th October 2016
Vincent Muller/Ed Downer

Over 40 delegates from across the northern regions of CIHT (North East & Cumbria, Yorkshire & Humber, North West) met in the National Railway Museum in York for the first pan-northern Young Professionals Forum, sponsored by SoRSA. The event showcased opportunities for young professionals to accelerate their careers in the North of England through engaging with CIHT and embracing innovation.



Delegates at the Young Professionals Forum.

Amy Harhoff, Head of Policy and Strategy at Transport for the North (TfN) opened the event with a keynote speech on "Opportunities in the North of England", outlining TfN's development objectives and plans for the future.

Andrew Hugill, Director of Policy and Technical Affairs at CIHT then summarised the benefits of CIHT membership and how the institution has changed over the past 30 years. This was followed by a session from Sally Herbert of Newcastle City Council, underlining the importance of engaging with CIHT and how this has enabled her to progress her career.

Following a lunch session that allowed attendees to explore the museum for themselves, current CIHT Young Professional of the Year Ed Downer offered some guidance on achieving "project excellence" and seeing beyond the everyday requirements of project management. The event concluded with an interactive road safety demonstration from Eric Hill, winner of the CIHT John Smart Road Safety Award.

One of the highlights of the event was the mid-afternoon Q&A session, where a panel of experts took questions from the audience on "The Future of Transport in the North".

The forum painted an optimistic picture for industry professionals in the north and demonstrated an appetite for similar events to be repeated across the country in future.



Representatives from the three northern regions - Ed Downer, Helen James, Vincent Müller & the Mallard High Speed Train, National Railway Museum, York.

Dates for the Diary

Below are some of the events that are happening in the coming months. For more information please visit our website.

2016/17 YPG / Recruiting / Socials / Networking / Qualifications

- Jan (TBC) YPG drop in session & winter Social – membership/qualifications surgery (TBC)
- Jan (TBC) Northumbria University CIHT recruitment event
- Feb 2nd Access event, Newcastle University
- Feb 15th Annual Quiz, Tyneside Irish Centre, Gallowgate, Newcastle
- Mar 22nd North East & Cumbria Colas Awards, Northern Stage
- Apr (TBC) YPG Spring Social, with TPS North East
- May 18th AGM + speaker (TBC)

Young Professionals Group Update and Upcoming Events

YPG Bowling Night, 13th October 2016

Jonathan Barlow

Thursday 13th October saw the Region's annual bowling competition take place, organised by our Young Persons Group, at Lane 7 in Newcastle.

With a decent turnout from those working locally, and a number of students from nearby Newcastle University, it was a competitive but light hearted affair; after all as one of the seminal events in the social calendar, gutter balls in particular don't help an individual's high score or social standing!

The overall high score of the night was hard fought by Rob Minton of Jacobs, who saw off some stiff competition to take the title of YPG Bowling Champion 2016, walking away with a £20 gift voucher for his efforts, and the satisfaction of being the best bowler on the night.

This event will run again during 2017, but can Rob hold onto the coveted title for a further year?



Relaxing after a competitive bowling session.

CIHT North East and Cumbria Annual Quiz, Tyneside Irish Centre, 15th February 2017

Jonathan Barlow

Join us at the Tyneside Irish Centre for one of our most popular events on the Region's social calendar. Get a team of up to six together to battle it out on quiz and picture rounds, and the famous dingbats.

It's also a great chance for some friendly rivalry and networking. Price of admission is £5 per person, which includes a buffet supper.

For more information on this please visit the website and to book your place please contact the Committee at northeastandcumbria@ciht.org.uk



Tyneside Irish Centre – where highways and transportation quiz dreams are made.

Membership

Our membership is always growing and the table on the right shows the latest membership figures.

Whilst the majority of the membership is based in Northumberland, Tyne & Wear, and Durham, there is a healthy spread of members right across the North East and Cumbria Region.

The 'other' category includes members based outside our region but who are attached to the North East and Cumbria Region.

Area	Members	Member %
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Durham	476	68%
Teeside and Darlington	97	14%
Cumbria	110	16%
Other	14	2%
Total	697	100%

A Day in the Life of...

Nicola Hill

Senior Transport Planner, Arup



Role on the Committee

Member of the Teesside Liaison Group and link to the Transport Planning Society (TPS). I was previously a TPS Director and Board Secretary and I'm the representative for the North East TPS Branch.

Terms of reference

My work is primarily focused on development planning projects which involves providing transport and logistics advice to design teams and producing transport documents for planning submissions. I also provide support to transport policy projects and have extensive GIS and accessibility planning experience.

Suitability for the job

I studied a Masters in Geography at the University of Leeds where, in my final year, I focussed on GIS and worked closely with the Institute for Transport Studies. Since graduating I have completed a Post Graduate Certificate in GI Systems and Science and in 2015 I achieved the Transport Planning Professional (TPP) Qualification.

Where based

Arup's office in Stockton on Tees. The office forms part of the Scotland and North East Region so I also spend time in Arup's Newcastle and Edinburgh office.

Transport to work

By car if travelling to the Stockton office or by train when working in Newcastle.

Top of In-tray

Usually requests from architects or other members of a design team requiring advice on one of the developments I'm working on. More often than not the top of the in-tray is related to a large masterplan development in west London.

Best aspects of the job

Seeing things that I've worked on come to fruition; it's rewarding to see design suggestions that I've put forward being implemented. I also like the variety of work that comes with working on different projects and the different experiences this brings.

Worst aspect

Related to the above, the worst aspect is when projects I have worked on are not implemented – it's disappointing when something I have worked on and believe can deliver benefits is not taken forward.

What is the most important transport issue today

There are many different issues and one of the challenges of being a transport planner is the inability to please everyone as we all have different transport needs. In relation to the work I do in development planning one of the biggest issues is trying to connect new housing developments into the transport system, particularly those located outside of urban centres. There seems to be a current focus on making it easier for people to travel further when I think we should be trying to achieve better local integration to enable people to travel shorter distances sustainably.

How do you relax

I have a young daughter that takes up most of my 'free' time whether it be trips to the park, swimming or soft play. I'm the Membership Co-ordinator for the NCT Teesside Branch so I attend regular catch ups with other parents. I was a dancer in my younger years and still enjoy taking classes and try and get to the theatre as often as I can. I'm also a Boro supporter and have a season ticket so it's nice to be watching Premier League football again this year!

Ambition

To see more of my projects be completed, help mentor others towards professional qualification, and to continue to travel and visit places I haven't managed to reach yet.