

Young Crossrail Career Profile

Hi I'm Mike de Silva and I'm a Planning, Environment, Traffic and Sustainability Manager

Joined Crossrail

August 2009

Role in Crossrail

I am responsible for a team of specialists delivering the consents and approvals required to construct Crossrail and deliver a sustainable project.

Company

Bechtel
(Crossrail Central)

What will I be doing in 2017

Who knows?

Before Crossrail

I have previously worked on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, for Transport for London and as a consultant for a major property services company, developing their sustainability consultancy offering.

Qualifications

I would consider myself an environmental scientist by training, having gained a BSc in Environmental Biology and a PhD in Environmental Chemistry.

First full-time job

Working in a small independent environmental consultancy.

Luckiest break

My university supervisor having more faith in me than I had in myself and offering me my first temporary job – this led to the opportunity for me to do my PhD.

Dream job at school

I was fascinated by programmes such as 'Barrier Reef' and documentaries with Jacques Cousteau so wanted to be a marine biologist.

Typical day

I attend lots of important meetings to make sure that what we are designing will work! I also chair workshops and review designs to ensure the sustainability of Crossrail - it is challenging but exciting and fulfilling!

Ambition

I set out to do my very best every day and make a valuable contribution to the success of whatever I am working on. For me that means being able to look back and know that I have helped shape the sustainability performance of that project.

Hobbies

Skiing, family activities and watching my son play sports. I also enjoy travelling, live music and reading.

Other major projects

Channel Tunnel Rail Link was by far the biggest.

Describe yourself in three words

- 1 Optimistic
- 2 Passionate
- 3 Convivial

