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CHLOE ATCHISON

WIND TURBINE APPRENTICE



WHICH APPRENTICESHIP ARE YOU DOING?

Wind Turbine Technician.

WHAT LEVEL IS YOUR APPRENTICESHIP?

Advanced (level 3).

WHAT DO YOU DO?

I am a Wind Turbine Technician apprentice for EDF Renewables. My apprenticeship consists of both academic learning in the classroom, as well as hands-on learning out in the field. At college I learn about electrical principles, maintenance activities, maths, and a whole range of subjects which helps me understand the theory of all aspects of the job role.

My assigned workplace is a service centre which covers large areas of the North East of England. While at the centre I mix my academic learning with hands-on training provided by my assigned mentors, climbing the wind turbines to undertake various maintenance activities. This is a physically demanding task as it involves the use of heavy safety harnesses, tools, and internal ladders. When at the top of the turbines, I maintain the generators, dismantling and repairing broken components, greasing the machines, oil samples and accumulators.



WHAT IS THE MOST EXCITING PROJECT YOU HAVE WORKED ON?

Aside from standing on top of the turbine, which is really exciting, I love working on all aspects of servicing. It seems like most days there's always a different challenge waiting at the top of the turbines. Climbing over gear boxes and generators, opening the top hatch and climbing out, maintaining the spoilers, climbing out of the roof and into the hub using a hatch where the blades meet, is both scary and exciting. Another of my favourite tasks is taking apart the machines, gear boxes and generators when in the hub. One of the tasks is ensuring the auto lube under the slow speed shaft is fully topped up. This is one of the dirtiest jobs!

WHAT IS YOUR PROUDEST APPRENTICESHIP MOMENT?

Being accepted onto the EDF Renewables apprenticeship scheme was a really proud moment for me. I applied for the apprenticeship while at school, and throughout the recruitment process I had to complete the application form, have a telephone interview, complete a presentation, undertake practical tasks, and attend a formal interview. I began the apprenticeship a week after receiving my GCSE results.

Throughout my time out in the field, I was proud to climb my first turbine on my first day, standing on top, looking down at the fields below. I was fully committed to all aspects of the role, not being afraid to jump in, take things apart, understand the issues and try to fix the problem. At the end of 2 months out in the field during the college summer holidays, I received excellent feedback on my commitment and determination.

WHICH FEMALE INSPIRES YOU AND WHY?

My School Engineering teacher, Miss Wareham, inspired me to take engineering seriously and study the subject at school. The stories relating to her background in engineering and previous jobs fascinated me. My English Teacher, Miss Grey, helped me understand things differently and gave me confidence to believe in myself.

"DON'T BE SCARED OF THE UNKNOWN, THERE'S NO SUCH WORD AS 'CAN'T'."

