



ADRIAN GRAY CEng FIHIE

Adrian gained CEng in July 2008. He is a Principal Engineer with Hampshire County Council and Head of Traffic Signals, with responsibility for the oversight of all related projects, such as signal controlled roundabouts, and the urban traffic control system. A team of 10 engineers reports to him, all of whom have their own particular expertise, and Adrian works to achieve consistency in the delivery of work. As an acknowledged expert, Adrian is joint secretary to the CSS Traffic Signals Group and has often presented papers at the JCT symposium.

He is clear that his achieving registration as an IEng in 1996 was both a major step in opening up his career path, and a source of personal pride. The route to registration is necessarily challenging, and is a self imposed challenge for all who go along it. In this context, when Adrian first decided to apply, he searched for useful information about what steps he should take. He says that he found "IHIE tremendously helpful, and other organizations less so" and thinks that reflects the fact that IHIE focuses on supporting specialist incorporated engineers.

Now that IHIE offers a route to CEng, Adrian was one of the first members to go for Technical Report Route. He makes the point that CEng is a more generalist qualification, whereas IEng reflects detailed expertise across a narrower field, and that advertisements now rarely ask exclusively for CEng. IEng, in Adrian's opinion, is now rising steadily in value, not least as detailed technical competence is more and more necessary to meet the demands of legislation and civil society more generally.

In "encouraging anyone to think of becoming registered" he advises that it is essential to regard the process as a significant commitment of personal time and effort, and that to be successful it is helpful to have a personal plan, without which "you will never get going".

Importantly, take time to identify your knowledge and skills gaps, draw up a timetable, and get these gaps filled, before pressing on too fast and far. Adrian says he was fortunate in having support and advice from a local mentor, and this is – by the way – sometimes possible to arrange through the network of IHIE members, quite a few of whom give their time to advising aspirant colleagues.

Adrian's hobby is rock climbing, and he sees similarities between that and undertaking the steep road to CEng.