



DEBBIE SWATMAN, IEng FIHIE

Debbie heads up a Team of four, working within 'Highways North Yorkshire' which brings together N Yorks CC, Jacobs (with whom she is a Project Manager) and Balfour Beatty. She finds Partnership working "an extremely effective way of getting things done". Her local government works are small scale, but are significant for the people they affect, and who often lobby for them.

Her current focus is regenerating Selby Town Centre, to make the old market town an attractive place to visit, and to work in. She consults widely, and then helps turn people's aspirations into reality. She "gets a buzz out of what I do – I feel I am achieving something of use".

Debbie began her career with Humberside County Council, gained an HNC in Civil Engineering, and moved to NE Lincs Council in 1996, working on traffic issues. In 2001 she broadened her skills by joining Mouchel, and saw the advantages of registration. In 2006 she transferred to Jacobs when they took over Partnership work with N Yorks CC, and believes that gaining her IEng was a great help in acquiring her current job.

Her message to anyone thinking of trying for registration is simply: "Do it!"

Registration opens doors, creates new opportunities, and gains a new respect from colleagues and employers. Perhaps even more importantly, "It gives you pride in yourself".

Indeed, she has become a Member of the Council of IHIE, and can play a part in its shaping its future, to help meet the needs of members, and the industry.

Debbie thinks that it is a shame that few women consider taking up a career in engineering while still at school, and wonders if the profession has still got too much of a muddy boots and brawn image. She believes many women are missing out on an interesting and satisfying career.