

A day in the life of an NEC accredited Project Manager



Matthew Cooper
Project Manager
Moreton Hayward Ltd

Please introduce yourself including your background, role and company.

My name is Matthew Cooper and I have worked in the utility industry for over 15 years undertaking various roles. Most notably as a Senior Quantity Surveyor for Moreton Hayward Ltd, providing commercial support for South East Water's capital investment programme. After four years in the role I made the transition to Project Management.

What does your role involve?

I am the Project Manager for both Strategic and Developer 'off site' water mains. I manage an approximately 10m. pa portfolio of schemes that vary from large diameter cross country main laying to smaller reinforcement schemes, both of which are essential to ensure South East Water's

customers are supplied with top quality drinking water.

What does a typical day look like to you?

My days are never the same as my role requires me to work from various sites and offices. I can be presenting to the board one day and on a site walk in the middle of a field the next. Every day I liaise with my team and our Contractor, manage change and where necessary, expectations. My main aim is to deliver my Projects on time and to budget.

What do you enjoy the most about your job?

My role as the Project Manager varies greatly with a combination of tasks and responsibilities. I can't put it down to a single aspect but its the variety that I enjoy the most.

“My days are never the same as my role requires me to work from various sites and offices. I can be presenting to the board one day and on a site walk in the middle of a field the next.**”**

“The Accepted Programme has been described as the beating heart of the NEC3: ECC Contracts. It is an integral tool for effective project management.**”**

How many NEC procured projects have you worked on?

I work on an NEC framework. Therefore, all the projects within the framework are delivered under NEC3. The projects are procured under NEC3: ECC Option A, C and E.

At what point in your career did you (or your organisation) decide to take the NEC accreditation course?

Moreton Hayward were early proponents of the NEC accreditation courses. Therefore those within a project management role undertook the course; I completed mine in 2016.

What was the one takeaway from the course that you are using every day?

The Accepted Programme has been described as the beating heart of the NEC3: ECC Contracts. It is an integral tool for effective project management.

What was the first NEC procured project that you worked on?

The first NEC procured project I worked on was at Gatwick Airport. I was a Quantity Surveyor and it was a framework for an M&E contractor.

What was the most memorable NEC procured project that you worked on and why?

Working on a framework, it is not a single project that is memorable, what really stands out is the opportunity to build a long term relationship with our Contractor based on mutual trust and co-operation.

What advice would you give somebody pursuing engineering as a career?

Engineering is a constantly evolving field, to be successful you must continue to develop and learn new skills. Never miss an opportunity to acquire more knowledge.

“Working on a framework, it is not a single project that is memorable, what really stands out is the opportunity to build a long term relationship with our Contractor based on mutual trust and co-operation.**”**