

# Abbie Redhead – Technical Trainee

## Electrical and ICA Apprenticeship



### Why did you choose to apply for a Thames Water apprenticeship?

Honestly, I just stumbled across this apprenticeship on Facebook whilst job searching during the Coronavirus pandemic. I had been searching for a job that was hands-on as I don't enjoy office work and I'm not really a fan of sitting down all day (kudos to those who do though). I knew I wanted to start an apprenticeship as I wanted to find a career for myself, and knew that apprenticeships are a great way for people to find their feet in their jobs. I loved the idea of being an apprentice as I enjoy learning, and I can get a job that I don't have the qualifications for outright, but find interesting and can learn as I work. I knew studying alongside working wouldn't pose a problem to me, as I'm always looking to improve my skills in one way or another, so an apprenticeship seemed like a perfect fit for me.

I chose to apply for Thames Water because I knew it was a reliable company, and one of the largest. Before I applied, I'd never really considered working in electrical with Thames, as I didn't realise they offer apprenticeship schemes, but knew I wanted the role once I stumbled across it. I researched Thames Water and started to learn more about the company as a whole as well as my job role as an electrical ICA. I struggled to find information specifically about my job role but the information I found from current employees was positive and seemed to tick all the boxes for what I wanted out of a career. I couldn't find much information about being an ICA but that just peaked my interest more and gave me plenty of questions to ask in my interview.

### Can you tell me about your life and career journey?

During school I was adamant I wanted to be a firefighter, and that's how I left sixth form, still wanting to find a way to become one. I studied ICT, Business Studies and Finance level 3 at sixth form and knew I wasn't going to use any of them in any future job role as I hated the idea of having an office job day in and day out. After sixth form, I started working in electricals, building and testing light fittings. I really enjoyed the job, and most of the people there I got along with, however I knew I was meant to do more with my life and didn't want to work in a factory permanently. By this point I'd decided against becoming a firefighter, even after having had work experience as a firefighter in an airport but knew I enjoyed electrical work and wiring. I decided to experiment for a few years trying to find a job I enjoyed, jumping around from electrical work, to being a nursery practitioner (never again), back to electrical work, then covid hit just as I tried to change jobs to becoming a dog walker. After being unemployed for a few months I got the dog walking job and decided it wasn't for me, so I tried to get any job that would see me through covid, which led me to a factory making paper food packaging. It was long, boring work, but it got me through lockdowns. This job lasted until I found my feet as I didn't want to jump around jobs too much, as I know some people think that looks bad on a CV. I applied for different jobs in electrical, mechanical, and this one. Luckily I got this one as the others were just back ups.



If you're interested in doing an apprenticeship yourself, please contact: [joinourfamily@thameswater.co.uk](mailto:joinourfamily@thameswater.co.uk)