

Rand Watkins



**Lead Project Engineer/ Lead Tunnel Engineer
Transport for London**

What does your job involve?

I am fortunate enough to have two roles within Transport for London (TfL) firstly as a Lead Tunnel Engineer within the Deep Tube Tunnels team of the Civil Engineering group; the second as the Lead Project Engineer for the Holborn Station Upgrade Project. The former sees me contribute as a Discipline Engineer to the planning and delivery of new London Underground (LU) tunnels, maintaining standards and looking after our existing tunnel infrastructure. As the Lead Project engineer for Holborn Station Upgrade, I lead the LU technical input into the design development for this challenging, but fascinating station.

How did you get into Engineering?

I was actually sponsored by TfL through my degree in Civil Engineering (more years ago than I care to reveal here!) and so the career in tunnelling began.

What do you like about working in Engineering?

The variety and limitless opportunities! I have worked as Client, Consultant and Contractor across some of the most iconic projects in the world, including Heathrow Terminal 5, Channel Tunnel Rail Link and Singapore cable tunnels. I have been fortunate enough to travel with my career, working in Singapore, Dubai and Qatar. Above all is the pride I feel in contributing to our environment, and in my case at TfL, to the legacy of a city I love. My two boys have already been dragged round most Zone 1 stations, even though they are only four and two!

What are you most proud of?

Without a doubt, I am most proud of the graduates and students I have mentored and continue to support as a Supervising Civil Engineer and TfL Business Sponsor for the Civil Engineering Scheme. We have a gold star graduate scheme and these young people are phenomenal – I feel very honoured to have the opportunity to help them grow into the engineers of tomorrow.