

# In her own words: Ruth Courtney

In celebration of #IWD2023, we check in with some incredible women at the NCC who share candid insights into their respective roles; what drives them to login in the morning; and the advice they would give their 16-year-old selves.

## Meet Ruth Courtney, Engineering Capability Lead

### Joining the NCC

After graduating from Loughborough University, Leicestershire with a degree in Design with Engineering Materials, I wanted to live in a city with good engineering opportunities. The NCC's graduate scheme was a great opportunity to try out different roles within composites engineering.

Composites felt like the natural evolution from the traditional materials I had studied and worked with previously. I enjoy the feeling of moving forwards provided by working in research and development (R&D) engineering, compared to the more observational and analytical roles I had taken elsewhere.



### What motivates my login

- The variety of work. There are different challenges week by week, and even more so since I have become a team lead.
- The opportunities for innovation and learning. R&D allows for imaginative problem solving, and I really enjoy working in this intersection between logical and creative work.
- The friendships and collaborative environment. There is such a broad skillset here, and people are keen to help each other and get involved.

### Advice to my 16-year-old self

“ Learn by making mistakes – no one expects you to know everything when you start out! Go for any opportunity that interests you and figure it out on the way.

Find out what you enjoy within a company or a role – the broad topic may not matter as much as you expect; factors like your team, your manager, and your day-to-day experience can make a huge difference to enjoyment. ”

Read more stories from our amazing women at [nccuk.com](https://www.nccuk.com)  
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