

Dawn Adams

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What do you do?

I am a town planner. I assess land for its potential to get planning consent for development, advise on risks to this (planning is never straightforward and there are risks to every site) and then take the site through the planning system to (hopefully) gaining a planning permission.

How did you get into it?

At university I did a few courses on urban planning and then in the summer did an internship with a planning consultancy. I really enjoyed this, went back every year during university and then completed a masters in planning.

What do you love about your job?

My current role largely involves residential sites of between 50-250 homes. I enjoy the prospect of shaping the evolution of towns and villages and feel a social responsibility in creating much needed homes for people during a housing crisis.

There is a whole generation of young people who will be unable to afford a new home without intervention and I embrace the role we play in resolving that by finding sites that can deliver those homes whilst delivering wider community benefits.

As planning is such a political area, this is constantly changing so we are certainly kept on our toes.

Top tips for anyone considering a career in the industry:

The planning system is very complex and there are loads of different areas whether its private sector, local authority or policy. Within that there is minerals and mining, residential, retail or large-scale infrastructure for instance.

I would recommend work experience to get an idea of the different areas.



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