



A great career in a fabulous location

Do you want to make the best of yourself in your career but still have a great life outside of work for you and your family?

If yes is the answer (and why wouldn't it be?) then working with Island Roads on the Isle of Wight is the perfect solution. You get to be part of a highly professional company in a role that makes a positive difference in a location that is ideal for achieving the perfect work-life balance.

The Island has an abundance of natural beauty, a strong sense of community and, led by the revival of the iconic Isle of Wight Festival, has undergone a cultural renaissance that makes it a truly vibrant entertainment hub.

The Island boasts a stunning coastline and countless beaches, dramatic downland and swathes of unspoiled countryside making it perfect for those seeing the thrill of outdoor activity or just the tranquillity of a rural idyl.

And with London only two hours away and the twin cities of Southampton and Portsmouth a short ferry ride across the Solent, you can enjoy the buzz of island life while remaining in easy reach of the mainland UK.



Join the team delivering UK-leading highways infrastructure

Island Roads has been improving and maintaining the Isle of Wight highways infrastructure since 2013.

That year, a 25-year Highways PFI came into force which has transformed the Island's roads network from one of the worst in the country to one of the best. The Island was one of just three UK areas – and the only rural one – to gain massive Government funding to undertake a comprehensive overhaul of its highways network.

Ten years on, what was the Island's largest ever engineering project has treated 90 per cent (567 kilometres) of the Island's A roads and 71 per cent of the overall 800km-plus network.

While great strides have already been made, Island Roads undertakes an active annual programme of improvement and maintenance work to ensure the network remains at this high standard. The island's geography presents additional challenges to this work – half of the county is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and there is a need to ensure work does not impinge on the critical tourism industry. In addition, the Island's unique geology which includes Europe's largest active landslip area provides further professional challenges not least for the award-winning structures team which is responsible for 199 bridges, culverts, viaducts, tunnels, subways and embankments as well as 568 retaining walls.

A busy operations and maintenance team delivers services keeping the network to the high standards required by the PFI contract. As such, Island Roads teams also:

- Cut 4,294,756 sqm of grass per year
- Clear 18,371 gullies per year.
- Sweep 21,806 km of roads per year
- Empty 11 283,623 litter bins each year
- Empty 77,563 dog bins every year
- Monitor the Island's CCTV network
- Provide a comprehensive winter maintenance service including gritting

With 200 staff working from two main bases near Newport, the company is also proud to be an active part of the local community, supporting it through our volunteer programme and through the Isle of Wight Foundation – made up of partners behind Island Roads – which has donated around three quarters of a million pounds to local good causes.



Island Roads – a local company with international connections

Though proud to be based on the Isle of Wight, Island Roads is part of a truly international business family. Operating as part of Ringway who look after over 50,000kms of the UK's highway network, our parent company is the UK-leading construction company Vinci Construction which in turn is owned by the global Vinci organisation. This means that not only can the company draw on world-renowned expertise and technology, it also is part of a network that offers fantastic career advancement opportunities in the UK and further afield.

But the essence of working with Island Roads is playing a key role in work to transform the Island's infrastructure. From the upgrading of the Island's street lighting stock to LED streetlamps that save energy and reduce light pollution, to introducing environmental features into many of its improvement schemes, Island Roads is a powerful force in the sustainable upgrade of the Isle of Wight's highway network.



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Isle of Wight fast facts

- The population is roughly 147,000 but this can double at the height of the tourist season.
- The Island is 26 miles wide and 14 miles deep at its longest points and has a total area of 147 sq miles.
- Newport is the county town but Ryde has the biggest population
- The whole of the Isle of Wight is A UNESCO Biosphere
- Half of the Isle of Wight is a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Around 60,000 people gather in Newport every June for the modern Isle of Wight Festival, which has attracted Blur, Pulp, The Rolling Stones, REM, Robbie Williams, David Guetta and Coldplay among other top names.
- Cowes Week is the highlight of the sailing season although the Round-the-Island Race in early summer is one of the world's biggest yacht races with on average around 1,000 boats taking part.
- Famous Islanders include Oscar-winning director Anthony Minghella, Level 42 bassist Mark King, award-winning band Wet Leg and actor Jeremy Irons. Among those famously choosing to spend time here throughout history are Queen Victoria, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Lewis Carrol, Winston Churchill and Karl Marx.

More on Island Life



Education

The Island has a two-tier system of Primary and Secondary schools and although there is no university, the IW post-16 education set-up includes a range of provision. For the little ones there are plenty of pre-school options.

Healthcare

Much of the Isle of Wight's healthcare system is on our doorstep here on the Island, with only specialist services requiring travel to the mainland.

If you do need hospital treatment, St Mary's Hospital is an integrated hospital in Newport with its own maternity and A and E units, as well as more than 200 beds.

Housing

House prices on the Isle of Wight are lower than the national average and considerably lower than the south east regional average. A number of locally owned and national chains of estate agents operate, with offices in all the larger towns.

Getting Around

Ferries

Transport to and from the Island is primarily via a number of ferry routes taking between ten minutes and an hour.

Wightlink car ferries operate from Lymington in the New Forest to Yarmouth on the West of the Island (40 mins); and from Portsmouth to Fishbourne, near Ryde (45 mins). Red Funnel car ferries travel between Southampton and East Cowes (1hr).

If you are travelling as a foot passenger, Red Funnel's Red Jet travels between Southampton and West Cowes (30 mins) while over at Ryde you can choose between Wightlink's FastCat from Portsmouth to Ryde (22 mins) or the Hovertravel hovercraft from Southsea to Ryde (10 mins).

Trains

The Isle of Wight does have its own rail line between Ryde Pier and Shanklin, with stations in Ryde town, Brading, Sandown and Lake in between. After significant recent investment in new trains and track upgrades, there is an hourly service for much of the day connecting with the Wightlink Fastcat.

Buses

Southern Vectis, the Island's bus operator, runs a comprehensive range of services around the Island with regular journeys between the main towns.



Green transport

EV Charge points

These are becoming more common, with the Isle of Wight Council investing in points around the Island.

Cycling

Not least because of the high standards of the road network, the Isle of Wight has a reputation as a top cycling destination. Against the backdrop of some stunning scenery, the Island has around 200 miles of cycle tracks, byways and bridleways. Whether you're a beginner or a regular cyclist, there are plenty of routes for you to try - including the full 65-mile Round the Island cycle route. And Island Roads works closely with the Isle of Wight Council to develop and maintain the Island's cycling network.

What our people say about us...



Jo Saunders, Island Roads Business Manager

‘I love to solve a problem and so this is a great career for me’...that is why Jo Saunders and Island Roads make the perfect match.

The people in Island Roads’ open-plan office make it a great place to work, Jo says. “I also love that my two-year old son is now showing an interest in bridges and I can tell him what we do to keep structures on the island safe,” she says.

“I remember driving along the Military Road once, on a beautiful winter morning when no-one else was around, and thinking how lucky I was to work in this role on this island.”

Jo has just been promoted to Business Manager at Island Roads, forming part of the senior management team. Although it’s a step away from her technical role as Structures Manager she is relishing the challenge of greater exposure to the wider business operation. Jo says managing the structures team over the past two years has definitely been her highlight.

So how have the Island Roads, Ringway and Eurovia companies supported Jo? She says: “I came through the Ringway graduate programme, firstly undertaking a couple of industrial placements at university and then moving around the business upon graduation.

“In the middle of all this I completed the Eurovia (parent company) leadership programme and gained my Level 5 qualification in Leadership & Management. As an engineer I never stop learning and am actively supported to maintain my continuous professional development. This could include attending formal training, webinars and industry events, as well as learning on the job from others.”



Jimmy Wells, Island Roads Network Manager

Working for a great company, giving it your all...but still being able to be on a beautiful beach by 5.30pm...these are the things that make an Isle of Wight career with Island Roads work for Jimmy.

Jimmy saw that the Island Roads PFI contract would bring tangible benefits to the Island community, so that's why he chose to work here. He quickly realised he was part of a very dedicated team that work in the direct community they live in.

Jimmy says: "They fully understand the impacts of the decisions they make and brings a wealth of knowledge you rarely find when employees don't live nearby."

He is now gaining more understanding of the PFI contract and looking at how his career can develop within Ringway and the wider group.

He says: "The joy of the job is one day I can be helping co-ordinate major schemes and the next managing a duck race!"

"Being accepted into a close knit community and sharing my experience and knowledge of different highway networks has been a great highlight of my time here so far."

Jimmy speaks highly of the support he has had from Island Roads Service Director Steve Ashman, enabling him to develop the Network Management function to reflect best working practices he had learnt from other organisations.