



PHILIP WALKER

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER

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My biggest hobby is property development. I am creative and I find it a great way to put this into practice. I was born in Barnstaple and I'm still here today. It's a great balance between rural countryside and town life. I've travelled enough to realise there's nowhere else I would rather be.



MY CAREER IN NORTH DEVON

When leaving school I started working for a local DIY store where I soon learnt this wasn't the lifestyle I wanted. I always knew I had engineering skills so I chose A-Levels in Product Design and ICT, earning myself a Diploma. I've never been the idle type and so I volunteered as a labourer for a local property developer, after which an engineering vacancy appeared in the local newspaper, and the rest is history.

My role is an interesting one, as Research and Development engineer I work alongside a team of engineers to solve certain design problems, and prototype and test the solutions. My interest in building what I want, rather than buying it was the original spark for me. It's a great way to see a product go through all the different stages, it's also a great mix of office and hands on work.

When joining SFL as an engineering apprentice they wanted me to continue at college and achieve a Foundation Degree. One thing I would say to those who are contemplating going to University is to do it part-time through an Apprenticeship. My degree was the most rewarding achievement I have ever had and it's something I'm very proud of.

"The company offered to fund a University position to complete my degree".

