

Stella Gardiner



**Environmental Advisor
Transport for London**

How did you get into transport?

I was straight out of Polytechnic with an engineering degree and saw a job advert for electrical engineers at London Underground (LU). I applied, got the job and started out as a signals development engineer in 1988.

What do you like about working in transport?

I've always felt I was doing something to benefit society at large, especially as for me, the Underground really is the heart and soul of London. It also offers very varied work – I've had about six roles during my time here.

What are you most proud of?

I'm proud my team has made such a difference within Transport for London and I love that I have been involved in work to protect and increase the variety of wildlife that lives alongside our railway. I'm also very proud of the role LU plays in the daily life of London and proud of being a part of that for 25 years.

What would your advice be to someone interested in your role?

Take as much interest in environmental issues as you can! Do voluntary work, get up to speed with the latest laws and good practice, understand the issues, and show keenness.

Why should people join our industry?

You can have pretty much any career you want in transport. Most people I meet assume I'm a train driver or a station assistant because those are the roles they see. We need to raise awareness of the diversity of roles we have in our industry!

Tell us something about yourself

I've always been interested in politics, but since transitioning my self confidence has really taken off. I'm getting more involved with my community now and am using my experience to help trans people nervous about coming out, or not sure how to go about transitioning. I've also decided to stand for parliament as I don't believe there are enough women in politics. My new motto is, "be the change you want to see!"