



Rob Warnes

Strategic Development Manager

Performance and Planning Director

Northern Trains

Planning and Programmes Director

Northern Trains

Performance and Planning Director

Northern Trains

Service Delivery Manager

Northern Trains

Operations Manager

Arriva Trains

Operations Interface Manager

Railtrack

Design and Construction Engineer

Railtrack

Resident Engineer

North West Re-signalling

Management Trainee

British Rail

Career Journey

After completing a degree in electrical engineering, Rob began his career in signal engineering as a British Rail Management Trainee.

After 9 years, Rob took his first operations role as Operations & Interface Manager for Railtrack. He wanted a role that would bring him closer to the passenger and the operational train service and in this job, he was taking on a big engineering upgrade project and aimed to deliver the project to a high standard.

Rob was approached by a train operating company who asked him if he was interested in working in pure ops, which he was, and he subsequently started to work as Operations Manager at Arriva Trains Northern. This was quite a challenge, as he was an engineer who understood how to run a railway, but not from a pure operating point of view. Rob considered this a great opportunity to work and learn with a great team.

Getting On in Operations

You need to have commitment, a passion about what you believe in and enjoy coming to work every day. With that passion and commitment, you then want to be able to show your skills, ability and desire to go and try something new. Believe in yourself and believe in the railway.

The industry offers so many broad opportunities and you will always find something that meets with what you can bring to the industry.

Creating a Career in Operations

There are various apprenticeships and graduate training programmes in the industry across the TOCs, Network Rail and engineering companies, which provide a good opportunity to gain a holistic view.

“You can achieve so much when you bring people together”