

In her own words: Ellie Payne

From what drives them to login every morning to advice they would give their 16-year-old selves, here are candid insights from some of the incredible women at the National Composites Centre (NCC) who help us build towards a brighter future.

Meet Ellie Payne

Research Engineer

Member, Women's Led Network

Joining the NCC

Coming from an automotive manufacturing and engineering background, I was looking for a side-step away from the familiar into new territory. The NCC offered varied research and development opportunities, including on-the-job training.

I am inspired by the engineers and scientists in history who have fought against prejudice to better our world – Alan Turing, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, Emily Roebling, etc. If they were able to achieve extraordinary things whilst also challenging societies views and laws, fighting for the rights of everyone in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), I am motivated to do their work justice and prove it was worth the fight.



What motivates my login

Every day is a chance to learn, problem solve and challenge myself. I enjoy the breadth of work, and the supportive nature of colleagues across all levels of seniority.

Allyship to me

It's supporting and advocating for under-represented groups; ensuring that everyone does their bit to make our work environment an inclusive place to be. This includes having empathy and understanding of their experiences in order to make progress in society.

Advice to my 16-year-old self

“ You are not stuck anywhere. If something doesn't feel right, move sideways, take random opportunities, do things that make you happy.

There will always be a another route to your goal.

Never do anything because you believe it is 'expected of you'.

Do it because you want to.



Making safety seen

Make safety a part of every conversation, so it is always on people's minds when planning activities. Question whether the safety precautions put in place are inclusive of all people who may be using them, and if not, examine how we can rethink them.