

Employee Spotlight

Wendi Barnes Head of People & Integration Joined NSG in 1999



Q. What was your impression of the nuclear industry before you started working in it?

A. I didn't know anything about nuclear. My first intro to it was as a teenage secretary for an engineering company in Bamber Bridge who were working on the THORP commissioning project at Sellafield. The highlight of which was visiting the site and thinking how enormous it was.

Q. Describe your career journey to this point.

A. Prior to joining NSG, I worked for Leyland Trucks for 15 years and have 38 years' experience working as a HR professional. A few weeks ago, I celebrated my 23rd anniversary at NSG. At the time I joined, we employed 20 people; we now employ 308 people across the business. I would say one of the highlights of my career was being given the responsibility for the sourcing, build and relocation of the then Leyland office to our current head office and purpose-built facility, Scientia House, in June 2007. This included working alongside a third-party project management company to manage all infrastructure requirements, office/space planning and relocation of staff. This was a £2.2m project which I am pleased to say was delivered to budget and timescale.

Q. What do you enjoy most about your role?

A. The people and the passion for the work they do. I have an amazing team behind me and they are all superstars in their own right. I love the variety that my job brings. No two days are the same and I am still learning. The last couple of years of Covid have demonstrated the resilience of people and how we can all adapt to change. I love to help people develop and I am very fortunate enough to have a great team around me who have all stepped up over that time. Each has extended their responsibilities to support the growth of the business and in turn grown themselves.

Q. What three words would you use to describe working at NSG?

A. Supportive, empowering and engaging. We want our people to be proud to work for NSG in roles that they find engaging, whilst supporting their development and empowering them to deliver our goals.

Q. Where do you see your career heading in the future?

A. Still working for NSG for the next couple of years, but handing over the reins as I start to wind down.

Q. What advice would you give someone looking to join the nuclear industry?

A. There are so many opportunities in all areas to consider. Nuclear is not just hands-on, engineering or scientific, there are many other career opportunities in support functions such as accountancy, admin, commercial, HR, health and safety, IT, procurement and more to explore. After all, these important support functions help our project teams to deliver.