An interview with
Honor Goodsite
What is your job?
I am a Structural Engineer, which means I work alongside architects to design buildings and other large structures to ensure they will be safe and strong.

Next time you cross a bridge, sit in your school hall or visit the shops, each of these structures would have been designed by a Structural Engineer.

What does this involve?
Structural Engineers use Maths and Science to design structures and solve problems. The role of a Structural Engineer is very important because an unsafe structure or building could collapse. I also examine existing buildings and structures to test if they are still safe for use.

Why did you want to get into construction?
I was inspired by my uncle Ivor Goodsite. When I was a little girl, Uncle Ivor showed me around one of his building projects. I was amazed by all the work which goes into construction. I really enjoyed Maths and Science at school and it was Uncle Ivor who helped me with my studies and encouraged me to do well in my exams.

How did you get into the construction industry?
I took my uncle’s advice and worked hard at school to achieve really good grades in my GCSEs and A-Levels. I then went to Liverpool University and achieved a degree in Civil and Structural Engineering.

Once I had my degree, I completed a work placement at Goodsite Construction during the summer before taking up a role with Goodsite Engineering, which is the Civil Engineering section of Goodsite Construction. I have now been working here for five years and have loved every moment.

What do you like about your job?
The thing I like most about my job is that there is so much variety and so many unique and exciting challenges to face. It’s a great feeling when a structure you have designed springs to life.

Being a Structural Engineer is my dream job as I love working things out and solving problems. I also enjoy working as part of a team and building good relationships with other members of the design team.

Anything you dislike about your job?
Nothing at all – I like everything about it! However, it would be good to see more women taking up construction jobs as only 11% of the current construction workforce are women. I hope to inspire more young women with an interest in construction to follow their dreams!

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I love running and have completed two marathons – the London Marathon in 2013 and the Paris Marathon in 2016, both of which helped me to raise lots of money for charity. I also like hiking up mountains and rock climbing. When I am relaxing at home I love reading and listening to music.

What is your proudest achievement?
My proudest moment was the completion of the first project I worked on, which was a brand new prefabricated building for a school in my local town. The whole team worked so hard to make it the amazing building it is today. Now when I see children going into the school, I feel so much pride for what I helped to achieve.

What are your future ambitions?
I would like to continue working for Goodsite Engineering and help the company grow and develop as a considerate company. I would also like to continue promoting the industry to women to increase their interest in construction.

What is your favourite game on the Ivor Goodsite website?
I enjoy all of the games, but my favourite part of the website is the downloadable activities, especially the printable colouring pages as you can be really creative. I’d recommend that you visit the website to take a look at the games and activities available.

Finally, what is your favourite film?
This is a hard question as there are so many different types of films that I enjoy watching, such as romantic comedies, fantasy and animation. Some of my favourite films are Finding Nemo, The Wizard of Oz and Harry Potter. However the film I love the most is Despicable Me as it has me laughing from start to finish.

Thanks Honor, it’s been great speaking with you.
Do you have a final thought to share with us?
It’s been a pleasure talking to you too and I hope I have inspired some children to consider a career in construction! It really is such a fun and interesting place to work and you get to meet lots of interesting people and visit lots of amazing places.

Honor Goodsite
Don’t forget to read my interview on the Ivor Goodsite Website!

To view the full range of games and activities, please visit www.ivorgoodsite.org.uk