

## Focus on Finance - Catherine Ward



**A trip down the Wick Lane sewers**

### Before Thames Water

I studied Genetics at Manchester University before starting my finance career on the graduate scheme at PwC. After qualifying as an accountant and gaining experience in their Assurance and Business Advisory Team I took a year out to travel, volunteering in India and Thailand as well as working at the Audit Office for New South Wales in Sydney, Australia for five months. Following this I spent 18 months in internal audit in the NHS before joining Thames Water in 2011.



**Inside Beckton Sludge Powered Generator during refurbishment**

### Internal Audit

I spent my first 14 months in Internal Audit, where I enjoyed the opportunity to get out into the business, covering everything from customer complaints to metering and sludge strategy.



**Finance social**

### Operations Finance

Next I took on a variety of Project and Management Accounting roles in Operations. I worked closely with our IS Team to provide financial management when implementing a new work management system. Then I took on responsibility for validating and improving financial reporting for operating efficiency projects, such as reducing power usage at treatment sites. I played key roles in the Operations budget and forecast processes. Now I am more closely involved in the financial management of a business unit, looking after the sewer network and pumping stations, where I have been working to improve reporting processes and provide more meaningful information to enable business decisions.

### Next

Shortly I will be moving into the Financial Accounting team where I will work on a Hyperion upgrade, consolidation of management reporting and technical financial reporting.



**Distributing sludge as fertiliser**

### Why I Chose Thames Water

For me, the key advantage is the wide range of career paths available, with plenty of opportunities to gain experience in different teams. The people I work with are also a big highlight, both within and outside of Finance. There are always lots of team and charity events to get involved in. I organized the first Finance entry into the Thames Water raft race as part of the Finance Social Committee, and regularly take part in more informal social events.



**Thames Water Raft Race**

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