

OUR STORY

WOMEN IN POWERED ACCESS

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APPRENTICE MEWP ENGINEERS, UK

IPAF's Women in Powered Access initiative invites women of all ages in a variety of professional roles to share their inspiring stories, to help showcase and celebrate the opportunities our industry offers.

How did you come into this industry and what attracted you to it? **MC:** Since leaving school I knew I wanted to be in a practical role in engineering. I started a mechatronics apprenticeship as a school-leaver, but found I enjoyed the mechanical side more and wanted to pursue it further. I then found an apprenticeship in powered access with Summit Platforms, through which I attend NWSL college. What initially attracted me to the industry was the opportunities and progression that can be achieved, as well as the importance of the role in the workshop to keep the customer's machine safe to use.
CM: What attracted me to this industry initially was that it sounded like a challenge – and I like a challenge!

What do you find inspiring about your role? **MC:** Every day I come to work I'm one step closer to qualifying as a service engineer. The harder I work the more opportunities I can create within the industry.
CM: There is so much opportunity out there and I feel that I can amount to anything – the opportunities within the powered access industry really are endless.

Where do you see yourself in five years and what do you want to achieve? **MC:** I'd like to have finished my apprenticeship and gained valuable on-site experience and hopefully see more like-minded women in this industry. You never know... over the next five years I could become the first female senior engineer in the industry in the UK! I aspire to continue to be an ambassador for women in the powered access industry.
CM: I would like to achieve the best possible result in my apprenticeship, just like anybody else would. In five years my goal is to be a competent, qualified engineer, working in a job I enjoy.



What advice would you give to other women in/thinking of entering the industry?

MC: Follow what you desire and don't let anything stand in your way. The training I have received so far has been fantastic. Being the only woman on the course, I have held my own and enjoyed it thoroughly. In a nutshell, do what you feel is right! Getting your hands dirty by putting overalls on each day to learn a trade that will be around for many years... it's the route to take and I'm proof it can be done.
CM: You can do anything if you stay focused and work hard. Mainly I'd say try and enjoy it!

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