

JACK BROTHWELL – DEETU WORK EXPERIENCE – BWB CONSULTING

Monday 10th June 2019:

After a warm welcome into the office, I was introduced to the overall setup of the company in terms of its different branches and areas of work. Jon and Claire then presented me Deetu's own Locava platform as well as Explore, showing examples of city investment in Sheffield and Nottingham, this was impressive I thought. After completing the health and safety tutorials online, I listened to a briefing on a new project starting in the Manchester region, a new development plan for leisure activities.

The rest of the day was a mixture of learning/shadowing Claire's work in GIS and starting to digitise the site plans for the new project, where I created some new shapefiles from the site plans in GIS. I also had chance to chat to Freya in the Air quality team which was interesting. She gave a great overview of what this team carries out and an example of new site in Selby. I've only been aware of GIS for 6 months or so and so there is still a lot for me to learn but getting hands on experience of what work might be like in this sector excites me.

Tuesday 11th June 2019:

Today I started by working with Josh and carried on with digitising the Manchester project site plans. With Claire's detailed help on Skype, I learned how to put data from GIS into PostGres and then into Locava. I then started a new project, implementing data concerning the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework and finding out about investment in Manchester over the next 10/20 years. Moreover, today was great because I got to speak to the Air quality team again about my dissertation I will be starting soon. There could be an opportunity to share shapefiles so I can incorporate some secondary data, about air pollution, into my work over the coming year.

Wednesday 12th June 2019:

The first few hours of today were carrying on/focusing on the GMSF work I started the day previous. This was helpful in overall improving my digitising skills. I also got experience of styling different layers in Locava. In the afternoon, I got the chance to have a good chat with Dom in the structures department. He showed me the full detail that Revit shows and how CAD can be used by Deetu to transfer into Locava. This was good in showing how different branches within BWB are heavily linked together. The main project Dom and his team were working on was a student accommodation scheme. Seeing the detailed 3D representations in Revit and other platforms, as well as Explore, was fascinating.

Thursday 13th June 2019:

Today I started off by working on the GMSF work I have been working on and off with over the past 2 days. Jon was back in the office today and was chatting to him about CAF and BWB's work to commence in Sydney with Parramatta light rail which sounds interesting. Shortly after lunch I had a good half an hour chat with Keith from Water, presenting me what they do. I feel like I have a lot in common with this field of work because of my degree in Geography and studying rivers, so was exciting to discuss this with him. Freya also updated me with her work on a project in Selby, running some air quality models. The last hour or so of the day was centred around Jon showing me how to get some AutoCAD drawings into a shapefile format, I'll be learning how to implement these files in Locava in the morning! Another packed filled day, learning new 'stuff' constantly!

Friday 14th June 2019:

My final day today was centred around starting a new project in Locava (with the help of Jon and Claire), by putting the GMSF sites into Locava. I also managed to have another good chat with the acoustics team, which again, is right up my street.

James explained to me about how they go out to site a lot to carry out fieldwork and then carry out their models in the office to further consult. I can relate to this myself as I've taken part in lots of types of fieldwork in my degree and then coming back to the lab to statistically analyse our results.

Overall:

The chance to learn technical, valuable skills in a working environment and enhancing my skills within GIS based work, but also getting a great insight into the other environmental teams, has been great.

I especially found the air quality, acoustics and water teams the most fascinating, as this is where my strengths mostly lie through my degree in physical geography.

I worked in the Deetu team and massively improved my GIS and other digital software skills, to create representations on online platforms. This is likely to be a valuable skill for me.

Finally, more importantly, this work experience has made me think about what the first step in my career could be. Learning a unique skill that can be used to consult and help businesses sounds good to me, and it's thanks to the BWB team for making me think this way. This week has made me want to really pursue a career in this type of work and I hope one day I can work in a company like BWB.