Lifeboat stations are key parts of the RNLI infrastructure, providing a base to safely store boats, providing somewhere for the crew to change, operate and train from. My job as an Estates Engineer is to manage the design and construction of new buildings, slipways and berths when old stations reach the end of their lives, or to store new boats such as the Shannon Class. Despite being officially classed as a civil engineer, the majority of my time is spent managing projects involving architects, local councils, internal staff or volunteers within the RNLI, and a whole range of specialist engineers including structural, mechanical, electrical and marine. This means I am able to learn and use knowledge from all aspects of engineering and project management. One of the best parts of my role is the variety – for example one day I could be creating and reviewing designs for a new station with an Architect, travelling to oversee the installation of a new pontoon in Scotland, or investigating the best location to build a station on a clifftop in Wales.

It is rewarding knowing that the buildings designed by our team provide facilities that can stand up to any storm that our volunteers, staff or equipment have to face while saving lives at sea, and provide a base with everything they need to help make that happen.

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