Blake Clough
CONSULTING

My Journey from Female Engineer to CEO

Anna Ferguson

Blake Clough Consulting

- **Specialist energy consultancy – focus on Electricity Networks**
- **Our mission: To accelerate the decarbonisation of the energy networks to help slow climate change, whilst optimising the costs and benefits to the end user**
- **Capabilities/ sectors**
  - Power systems studies
  - Grid Consulting (due diligence, curtailment, CP2030 etc)
  - Network Innovation
  - Regulation/ price control
  - Electrical Design (substation and cable)

Ripon Grammar School: 1989 - 2006

Year 7 Prize Winners

- **A Levels: Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Further Maths, General Studies**
- **Encouraging of females studying Maths/ Sciences/ Engineering**

“Year In Industry”, Hartlepool Power Station – 1996 - 1997

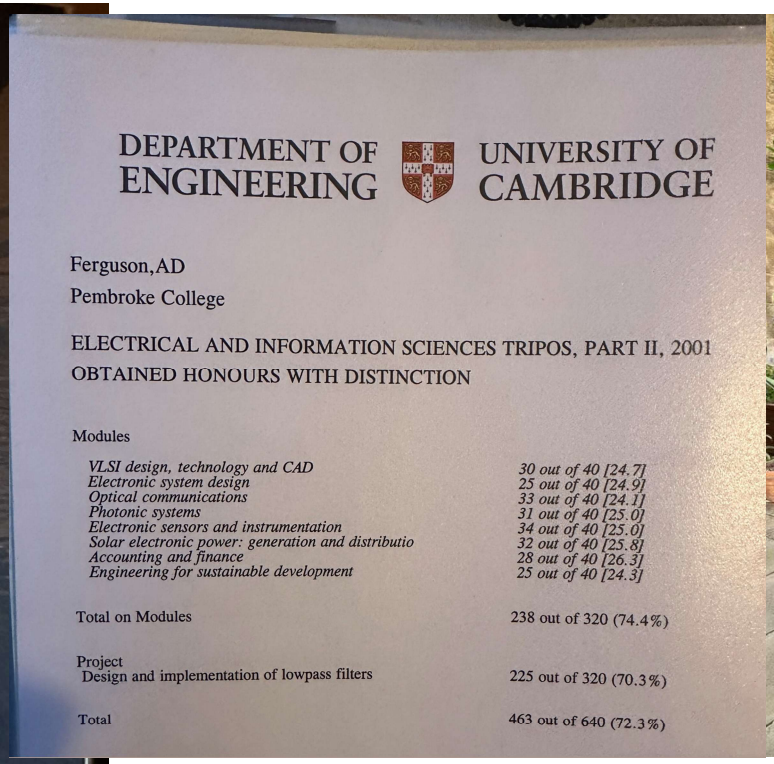
Year in Industry student engineer (E&C Systems) Anna Ferguson assists in the shut down of the reactor to begin the outage

- Great experience – fun and very supportive environment
- “Year In Industry” is a great scheme – now “EDT Placements”
- Won various awards for project: WISE Prize, winner of Northern competition, runner up in National competition
- Played for Lingdale Brass Band near Saltburn

10 Maltravers Street, London WC2R 3LK

University of Cambridge, Engineering/ Electrical and Information Sciences - 1997 – 2001 (from 2:2 to Distinction…)

- 2 years' General Engineering
- 2 years' Electrical and Information Sciences
- Played cornet for City of Cambridge Brass Band
- Played trumpet in many University Ensembles



DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING — UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Ferguson, AD
Pembroke College

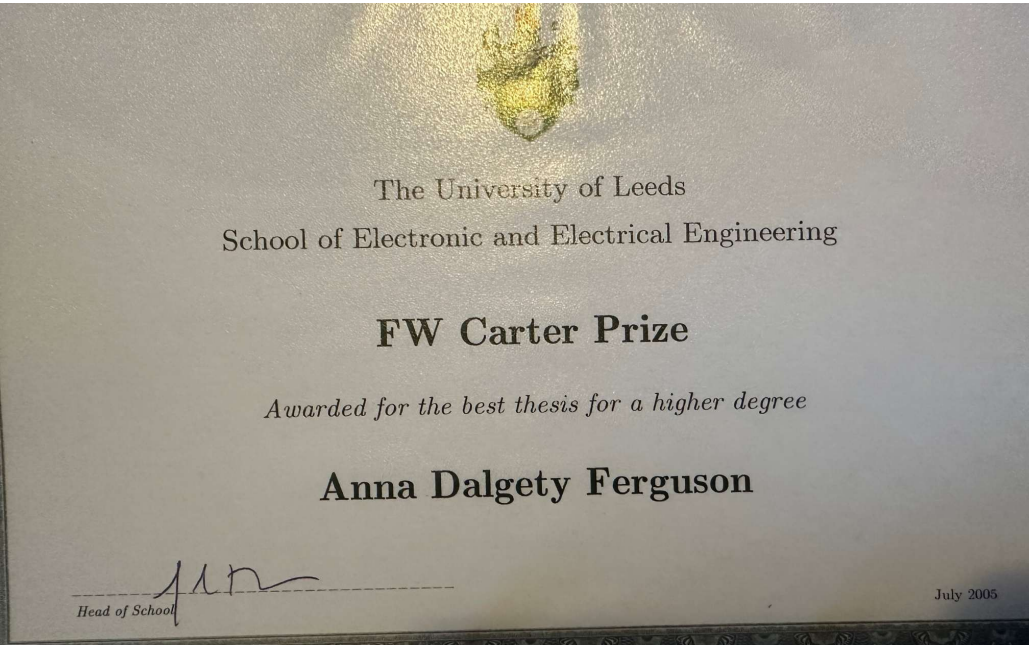
ELECTRICAL AND INFORMATION SCIENCES TRIPOS, PART II, 2001
OBTAINED HONOURS WITH DISTINCTION

Modules

VLSI design, technology and CAD	*30 out of 40 [24.7]*
Electronic system design	*25 out of 40 [24.9]*
Optical communications	*33 out of 40 [24.1]*
Photonic systems	*31 out of 40 [25.0]*
Electronic sensors and instrumentation	*34 out of 40 [25.0]*
Solar electronic power: generation and distributio	*32 out of 40 [25.8]*
Accounting and finance	*28 out of 40 [26.3]*
Engineering for sustainable development	*25 out of 40 [24.3]*
Total on Modules	238 out of 320 (74.4%)
Project Design and implementation of lowpass filters	225 out of 320 (70.3%)
Total	463 out of 640 (72.3%)

University of Leeds, PhD in Electronic Engineering – 2001 - 2004

- Electro-optic modulator design
- Partially based at GaAs plant in Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, sponsored by Filtronic
- Played for Rothwell Temperance Brass Band (Leeds)


The University of Leeds
School of Electronic and Electrical Engineering

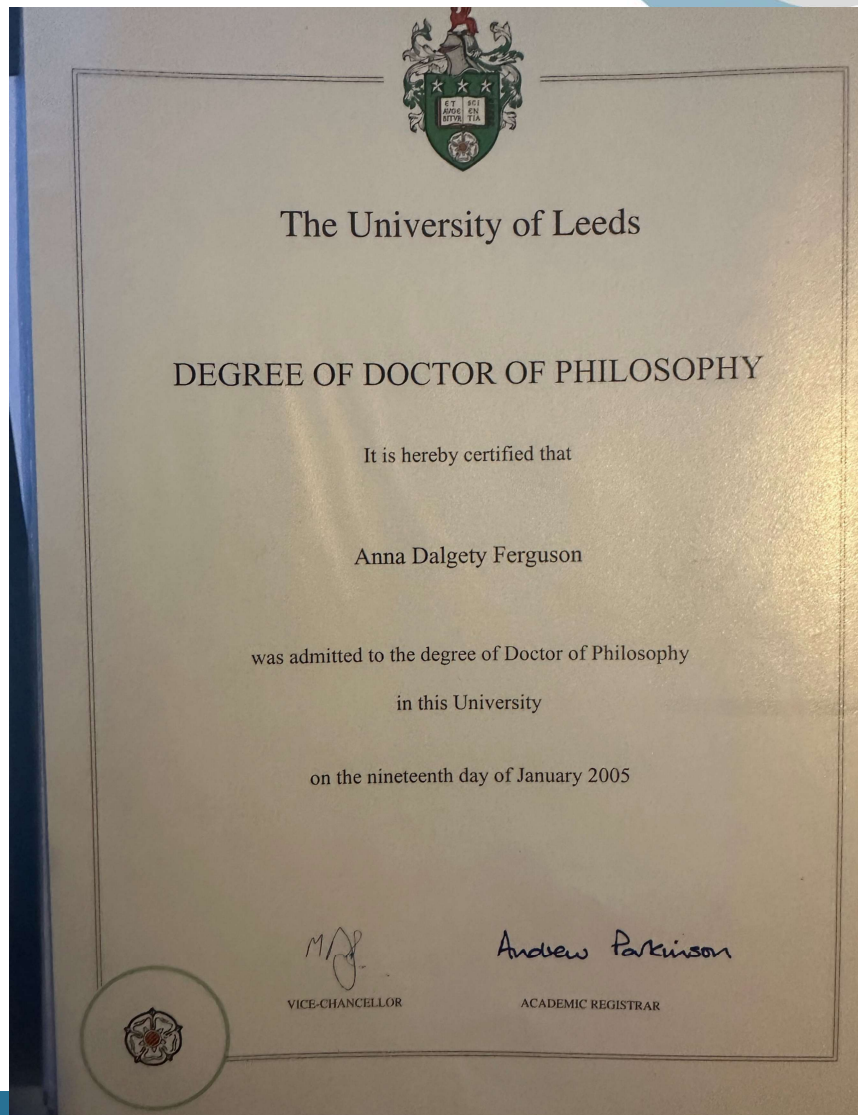
FW Carter Prize

Awarded for the best thesis for a higher degree

Anna Dalgety Ferguson

Head of School

July 2005


The University of Leeds

DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

It is hereby certified that

Anna Dalgety Ferguson

was admitted to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

in this University

on the nineteenth day of January 2005

VICE-CHANCELLOR

Andrew Parkinson

ACADEMIC REGISTRAR

London Career – 2004 - 2007

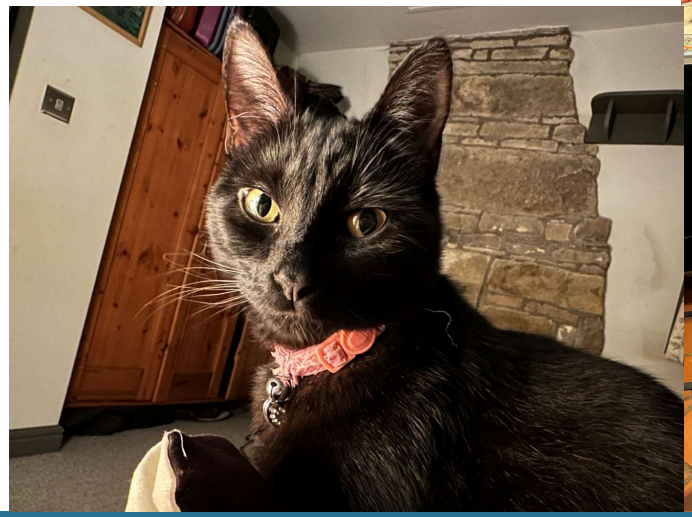
- **Analyst, Goldman Sachs – 2004-2005 (Market Risk Technology)**
- **Senior Associate Consultant, Mars & Co – 2005-2007**
    - ***Very long hours – limited opportunity for hobbies!***
    - ***Learn useful skills***
    - ***High quality of people in teams***
    - ***Interesting projects***

The North East (County Durham) – 2007 - 2012

- Moved for personal reasons and to escape London!
- Various jobs, retrained in Power Systems (MSc in Electrical Power Systems, Bath Uni) and found my future career:
  - Senior Consultant, Waterstons (2007-2008) – IT Consulting
  - Executive Search Consultant ("Headhunter"), NRG (2008)
  - Grad/ Senior Electrical Engineer, Narec (2009-2011)
  - Senior Electrical Engineer, Atkins (2011-2012)

Slaithwaite, West Yorkshire, 2012 - 2025

- Moved for personal reasons and career development
- TNEI, back to Atkins and WSP
- 2 children (now 11 and 7)
- Established Blake Clough Consulting in 2021



Director Level – 2016 - 2021

- **Head of Networks, Atkins, 2016-2017**
- **Strategy Director, TNEI, 2017-2018**
- **Power Systems Director, WSP, 2018-2021**

Establishment of Blake Clough Consulting, Sept 2021

Anna Ferguson

Managing Director

Anthony Donoghue

Managing Director

Andy Holmes

Operations Director

Blake Clough Consulting – 2021 – Present – Success!!

Blake Clough Success

- Highly motivated team
- Provide flexibility and normal working hours, but team is driven and efficient
- Great socials!
- Very customer focussed and responsive
- Everything is scripted
- Strong technical leadership/ high quality

Balancing personal and professional life

- Use as much help as possible (paid and unpaid)
- Develop a local support network
- Delegate as much as possible – e.g. recruit a high performing team ☺
- Write to-do lists and prioritise
- Work flexibly where possible
- Many of my female University friends (with children) have successful careers, but they are generally secondary to their husbands' careers
- Ultimately, being highly successful in every area of life is challenging! Businesses continuing to offer flexibility and reward achievement (rather than hours spent) is key