

# Electrifying Women: Source Packs

## Source type: Photographs

These three photographs are from the Women's Engineering Society (WES) [IET Archives reference: NAEST 92] and Caroline Haslett archives [IET Archives reference: NAEST 33] held at the [Institution of Engineering and Technology \(IET\)](#).

WES was founded in the UK in 1919 to further women's role in engineering. Find more information about the founding of WES [here](#). Caroline Haslett was the first secretary of WES and long-term member, who played an important role in its development.

What can these photographs tell us about women's place in engineering in the UK in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century?

[Turn over for photograph 1]

## Photograph 1

WES members touring a factory c. 1930s (IET Archives reference: NAEST 92/07/01/14).



Questions to consider:

1. What does this photograph show? Describe it in detail.
2. Why do you think it was taken and where? Do you think it was staged?
3. What kind of message does it send?

[Turn over for photograph 2]

## Photograph 2

[Left to right] Laura Annie Willson, Caroline Haslett and Margaret Partridge, 1927 (IET Archives reference: NAESt 92/07/01/12).



Questions to consider:

1. What do you think these women did professionally?
2. How do the women present themselves in the photograph? Comment on body language and facial expressions. Is it significant that they are not wearing hats?
3. Look them up on online and find out about their careers. Were your guesses from question one correct? Note down some interesting facts about them.

### Photograph 3

WES annual conference, 1929 (IET Archives reference: NAEST 33/01/03/02).



Questions to consider:

1. Describe the photograph in detail. What are the women wearing? What are their expressions? Do they look like engineers?
2. What do you think might be significant about this photograph?
3. What further sources might you use to find out more about the WES annual conference in 1929? Digitised copies of *The Woman Engineer* from this period can be found [here](#).