



Ellie

Project Engagement Officer

Joined The Parks Trust: 2019

What do you do?

My job is all about developing ideas - I speak with colleagues, volunteers and the public, and turn their suggestions into Parks Trust projects. Most days I will meet with our teams to discuss their operational needs and then work on solutions to problems. My projects are very varied and could involve nature, heritage, community engagement or operations, and I work both in the office and out in the parks. There are some special parts of my job too, such as taking photos with our drone and leading guided walks.

What did you do when you left school?

I studied Archaeology with Forensic Science at Exeter university. My degree included a good amount of self-guided study, which has helped me to be proactive and independent in my work. My course also involved a lot of working outdoors, which has helped me to be prepared for all weathers.

Why did you want to work for The Parks Trust?

I was drawn to The Parks Trust because of its work caring for heritage in the parks. My current job is a great match for the skills I had learnt from working in both public-facing and project coordination roles.

Describe your career journey so far.

After graduating from university, I worked as an Archaeology Curator at my local museum before moving to Milton Keynes. Here, I joined The Parks Trust as Community Engagement Officer for a large heritage restoration project. In this role I organised events and encouraged community participation in the life of the park.

When this ended, I was appointed as Project Engagement Officer for the Trust more widely and I have spent the past year learning about different parklands and our team's diverse operations. My job is an excellent blend of indoor and outdoor working and I am developing new skills in project management.

What skills or qualities do you need to be successful in your role?

Organisation - I manage multiple projects at once, so it's important for me to manage my time effectively and to keep accurate records along the way to avoid confusion.

People skills - I work with many different people from different departments and with different interests and motivations, therefore it's important for me to be flexible to get the best out of everyone.

My words of wisdom...

Develop your interpersonal skills as much as you can whilst you're young. This means stepping outside of your comfort zone and talking to people of all different ages.

