

# Lewis

## Senior Biodiversity Officer

Joined The Parks Trust: 2015 and 2022



### What do you do?

My Biodiversity role is incredibly varied day to day. Some days I will be out doing plant surveys, habitat assessments, or site visits to create new ponds and woodland. Other days I will be in the office writing up reports, doing important mapping of our species and habitats, or project planning for large and exciting habitat creation projects.

Providing biodiversity advice to support our Landscape Team is an important part of my role on a day to day basis, such as advising on protected species, like great crested newts, or plant species mixes for creating wildflower meadow. Over the longer term I have a lot of opportunity to build and guide how The Trust engages with biodiversity and the climate challenges through our Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).

### What did you do when you left school?

After I finished my A Levels I went on to study at the University of Hertfordshire for a BSc (Hons) Environmental Management. This gave me a good grounding in management of the environment, habitats and general ecology.

### Describe your career journey so far.

I initially joined The Parks Trust as a Community Ranger. This role allowed me to gain valuable experience with how people interact with the parkland landscape. I then moved away from The Trust before returning as a Biodiversity Officer. I was able to do this because while I was a Community Ranger The Trust was very supportive and let me work with the Biodiversity Officer at the time to help build my skill set.

I recently completed my MSc Applied Wildlife Conservation at Anglia Ruskin University. I enjoyed taking my Masters after a break from education as I went back to appreciating learning and studying. This qualification helped bring my knowledge up-to-date with current science in wildlife conservation and a renewed drive for evidence-based conservation using data and monitoring to inform decisions on how to manage and create habitats.

### Why did you want to work for The Parks Trust?

As I had worked for the Trust before, I knew they were a supportive employer. As a Milton Keynes local, making a difference to the biodiversity of the ever expanding city was also an important draw.



### My words of wisdom...

I wish I had known that it's ok to switch careers if something doesn't suit you and your job needs to work for you. Do something you are passionate about and it will always be a pleasure!

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

Excellent attention to detail and communication are important skills to have to carry out wildlife surveys, create projects, write reports, and communicate with colleagues and external partners.

Other than that, being flexible and creatively thinking for solutions to conflicts, problem-solving, and creating new habitats, is another beneficial skillset.