

# Claire's Story

Planning Assistant at Yorkshire Dales National Park. (former Planning Apprentice).



Claire works in the Development Management team, who deal with planning applications in the National Park (e.g. barn conversions, houses, camping pods or farm buildings).

## Apprenticeship, leading to career path

Claire originally studied art and design at FE college and then became pregnant. This meant she had to end her education earlier than planned. She had a few seasonal temporary jobs waitressing to fit around looking after her daughter.

Then an apprenticeship opportunity with YDNPA gave her the potential to develop a career where she could make a difference.

## Issues facing young people

Claire is particularly interested in work around affordable housing/infrastructure in the area that can help young people and young families wishing to live in the area.

## Working practices that support young people

YDNPA offers flexible working which means Claire can look after her daughter. Flexi-time means that staff can start and end their days when they choose as long as they meet the specified core hours.

It also offers flexible working arrangements in some circumstances to help individuals fit work around their family requirements.

YDNPA supports continued professional development allowing young people to train to learn more while working.

Claire studied business administration which had been a help to her career.

## Work life balance and flexibility

Flexible hours allow Claire to run her cake decorating business too so there is flexibility to allow Claire to have the work life balance that she needs when raising a young child.

Claire lives in the area. She lives two minutes from the office so can walk her dog at lunchtime.