

Emily's Story

Tees-Swale Land Management
Facilitator.



Finding your own way

Emily's career path is perhaps different from what most young people might expect to be the norm. She studied for a BSc in Environmental Science, then had four years working as a waitress and in other customer service roles. Emily is not unique in taking time to find out what she really wanted to do, taking on job roles that would help her to build her confidence and get the skills she would need in her future career.

Emily has spent three years as an Administration Support Officer for the Farm Conservation team at the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. She then stepped up into her current role three months ago, on a temporary secondment, which gave her the opportunity to investigate a possible career path.

Apprenticeships and different models of work

Emily is seconded from YDNPA to carry out this role. She is seconded to a project where she works with farmers to conserve habitats such as upland hay meadows. She also helps to conserve ancient woodland.

People skills, particularly listening, are so important

The skills she learned through her customer service roles stand her in good stead.

Her job involves listening to farmers. She does not approach her job thinking that she knows all the answers, she listens, weighs up what people tell her and then makes the decision that will be most beneficial to the largest number of people.

She says that at first farmers may not want to talk to her but eventually, as she gets to know them, they share their knowledge. They know what's in the soil, on the soil, even in their neighbours' fields so they can provide so much information and knowledge, to help get the best for their farm.

Importance of supportive colleagues and willingness to learn

Emily learns from the team at YDNPA. She says they don't call themselves experts but she absorbs so much being around such knowledgeable people.

She loves that she is encouraged to learn and is supported.

Great place to live but you need to be proactive

Emily is from the area and wants more young people here but thinks maybe you have to be a bit more proactive to find out what's going on and to find jobs.