



**Name:** Jon Lewney

**Job title:** Senior Project Officer

**Employer:** BTCV <http://www2.btcv.org.uk/>



## **Starting your career**

### **What attracted you to a career working in Sheffield's environment?**

The large amount of green space and its access to the Peak district

### **How did you find out about the career opportunities that were available?**

Countryside Jobs Service online and networking

### **How did you get your career started?**

Degree followed by volunteering

## **Your career path**

### **How long have you been working in the industry?**

3 years

### **What jobs have you done and how did you progress?**

6 months volunteering on Flatholm Island, learning practical habitat management and farming techniques. 10 months volunteering with National Trust at Killerton House, Exeter, gaining tool skills and improving ability. Short look at working in the private sector as a management trainee with Glendale Countryside. Worked as tree surgeon, learned arboriculture and basic techniques. In August 2006 I started work for BTCV in Sheffield as a Project Officer.

## **Training and skills**

### **What qualifications did you achieve before entering your career?**

2.1 BSc (Hons) Environmental Science

### **What job-specific skills training and development have you undertaken since starting your career?**

NPTC Chainsaw certificates, CS 30/31, 38, 39. Planting AO1, Pesticides PA1 PA6, Utility Arboriculture UA1  
Lantra certificates: chipper, brushcutter, tractor, front loader, tractor mounted winch.  
Midas Minibus Certificate, First Aid at Work, fire safety, health and safety, team leader, Personal Track Safety, Certificate in Arboriculture.



### **What have you gained from your training and development?**

Employability as well as focus on the bits of my job I love, it has helped me develop my career.

### **Your working day**

#### **What is a typical day for you?**

Working days vary a lot, mornings are usually spent organising whatever is going on for the rest of the day, I spend my time 60% in the office and 40% outdoors with various groups. My role includes recruiting volunteers, finding sites and assessing work, pricing jobs, invoicing, training in a variety of aspects from tool use, to global change. A lot of time is spent talking to local groups, bodies and land owners

#### **What takes up most of your time?**

Planning, sorting work for groups to do on a week to week basis to ensure the project is self perpetuating.

#### **What is the best bit about your job?**

Getting Stuck In. It's rare that I get to be really involved as a lot of my outdoor time is spent training or supervising, but I love to come home covered in mud and aching. The variety is great too.

### **The future**

#### **What are your aspirations for your career?**

In 5 years I hope to have Sheffield BTCV running like clockwork, so land owners and volunteers know what they can expect from BTCV locally. In 10 years I hope to be managing a gaggle of project officers (yes gaggle is the collective noun for a group of BTCV personnel!). I would like to be working towards improvements in BTCV as a whole. In 20 years I hope to have my own small holding maybe in Mozambique. Be doing similar work in a completely different environment.

#### **How would you like to develop your skills further in the future?**

I'd like to develop some good management skills, I'd also like to improve my social skills to keep volunteers

#### **Who has been an inspiration or influence on your career?**

Ed Nicholson Head Warden at Killerton House for the National Trust, and Guy Manning a Warden on Flatholm both have a very strong work ethic, this was very inspiring. My dad influenced me greatly, I knew I wanted to be involved with tools as he seemed to be able to do just about anything.

#### **If you had to "sell" a career in Sheffield's environment in one sentence, what would you say?**

Sheffield is one of the best cities for forward thinking environmentalists to build a career, Sheffield is a bubbling city. There are very exciting things happening socially, financially and environmentally in the city making it an ideal time to catch the wave. The city has a holistic approach to the environment, starting with the city council, business and voluntary sector.

The city has a massive variety of friends of groups, community groups, volunteer organisations and employers.