



Name: Tony Askins

Job title: Landscape Architect

Employer: Sheffield Wildlife Trust, <http://www.wildsheffield.com/>



**Sheffield &
Rotherham**

Starting your career

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

I work in Sheffield because I feel it is important to be able to travel to work on foot or by bike. I love Sheffield. It has a good balance between busy urban life and friendly, relaxed living; between the built environment and open green space, tree lined streets and the Peak District.

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

Through friends and the careers service.

How did you get your career started?

I completed an MA/diploma in Landscape Design at Sheffield University.

Your career path

How long have you been working in the industry?

Nearly three years.

What jobs have you done and how did you progress?

After leaving university I undertook several short freelance projects before joining the landscape team at Groundwork Ashfield and Mansfield, as a Landscape Architect. I was there for 18 months before taking up a post as a Research Assistant for the University of Sheffield Landscape Department. I was full time there for as year. For the last 2 months I have split my week evenly between Sheffield Wildlife Trust and the University.

Training and skills

What qualifications did you achieve before entering your career?

Ecology BSc
Landscape Design MA

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

Software: GIS training – MapInfo, AutoCAD/Keyscape
Learning through landscape conference – school grounds



What have you gained from your training and development?

Knowledge of software and issues relevant to the design and use of school grounds for educational and recreational purposes.

Your working day

What is a typical day for you?

Landscape Architecture: read emails. That's it for the typical bit. Project specific stuff for the rest of the day. Nearly always computer based (Office documents, AutoCAD, Adobe packages etc). Projects involve a lot of communication (emails, phone calls and meetings) with many different actors and stakeholders as well as site visits, contracts, hard design and planting design.

A present I am working on a GIS based survey project and designing layouts for its presentation.

What takes up most of your time?

Project management and administration

What is the best bit about your job?

Variety, people contact and use of computer packages. All three of these points are essential to me. Architecture provides a creative combination of all of them.

The future

What are your aspirations for your career?

To build a diverse and complimentary team of Landscape Architects and run my own practise.

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

Improve my project management and develop my people management skills. Become more confident in the use of my design skills. Find new ways to creatively combine the many skills that are developed in this profession.

Who has been an inspiration or influence on your career?

My previous practice principal, Fiona Clarke for drive, professionalism and style; colleague Laurence Pattacini for analytical thought and process and my fiancé for people skills and professionalism.