



Name: Shaun Taylor

Job title: National Nature Reserve – Reserves Officer

Employer: Natural England <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk>



Starting your career

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

I wanted to live in a city close to the Peak District

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

The internet, student advisors

How did you get your career started?

Two years of volunteering for BTCV South Lakes

Your career path

How long have you been working in the industry?

6 Years

What jobs have you done and how did you progress?

Volunteer Officer - BTCV South Lakes
Project Officer - BTCV South Lakes
Dry stone waller – freelance, South Lakes
Estate Supervisor - private land owner
Winter Estate Worker - English Nature
Reserves Officer - English Nature, now Natural England

Training and skills

What qualifications did you achieve before entering your career?

Apprenticeship in Electrical Engineering
A-levels: Law, Sociology, English Language
BA Philosophy
MA Values and Environment (I studied for this part time whilst working)

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

Professional Licences: chainsaw, pesticide, off road vehicles, quad bike, use of winches.
First Aid at work
NVQ 3 Advanced volunteer management



What have you gained from your training and development?

Skills, knowledge, confidence

Your working day

What is a typical day for you?

In winter: working with a colleague and a volunteer/s on the National Nature Reserve cutting scrub on steep dale side. We access the site by 4x4 and then walk in.

Important aspects of day: knowing what percentage of scrub to cut, what scrub is the best habitat to leave, ensuring the volunteer/s know what they are doing and why, with an emphasis on safety.

Use chainsaw or clearing saw to cut scrub, drag scrub to fire site and burn safely (in an area that doesn't have important species on it)

What takes up most of your time?

Practical work

What is the best bit about your job?

Jacket potatoes on the fire in the winter and working with enthusiastic volunteers

The future

What are your aspirations for your career?

Hopefully not still doing heavy manual work...all the time.

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

To improve my botanical knowledge

Who has been an inspiration or influence on your career?

A grumpy old dry-stone waller called Jerry

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

Would you rather be working in an office?