

create *Your* future

Careers with Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

Career cards and individual stories



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park

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.

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.

Hannah's Story

Cultural Heritage Officer, Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership.



Hannah is qualified to degree level but applied for the apprenticeship to get work experience

Hannah studied History at Durham University. She applied for the historic environment apprenticeship at YDNPA and that has led her to work as a Cultural Heritage Officer on the Westmorland Dales Partnership scheme.

What is a Cultural Heritage?

Hannah works in cultural and landscape heritage. She has only just started working in this role. It involves archaeology, surveying buildings and working with volunteers. She's now learning about working with contractors who work in the heritage sector e.g. archaeologists, surveyors. She is also contributing to the historic environment record, where information is recorded to help future decisions.

Training is important

Hannah is also studying for an MA and YDNPA's flexible approach supported her to do this. Her MA is looking at the history of Long Barns and the potential link between mining and farming. She loves learning about history of the landscape she grew up in.

An apprenticeship is a good way to start her career but she needed financial support

Working as an apprentice has given her the work experience to start her career, but it's unlikely she would have been able to afford it without the support of her parents, allowing her to live at home.

Being a young person working with older people

Hannah sits on a panel for her work on the Westmorland Dales Partnership and is the youngest member by quite some distance. She believes she is listened to and her contributions valued.

Isaac's Story

Apprentice Ranger.



Apprenticeship opportunity straight from school

Isaac came to YDNPA straight from school at 16 with an interest in the outdoors. He grew up in a farming family and is very practical.

Love of the outdoors

Isaac loves the outdoors. He says he's never been one for Xboxes as there's so many better things to do out in the countryside. His best day is a crisp winter's morning.

Self-starter with initiative

He loves his job. He says to be a ranger you have to have to be able to use your initiative. Standing around wondering what to do won't get the job done.

The service YDNPA provides to local farmers

He enjoys the work which is maintaining bridleways, footpaths, stiles etc. The service is provided free to farmers, they just have to provide access to their land.

He loves making a difference to the area and the satisfaction of seeing a job done.

Great social life

Isaac believes that living in the Yorkshire Dales can provide a great work life balance and he has a good social life through the Young Farmers.

James' Story

Access Ranger (Upper Wensleydale).



James is an access ranger and his role is maintaining paths, stiles and tracks across the area. On the day of filming, he was working at the top of Cam Hill, on the Pennine Way repairing a track.

Growing up James didn't know what he wanted to do. He went along with what he thought he should be doing and studied art. He attended a course at art college, but quickly decided it wasn't for him. This choice made him realise he loved the area he grew up in and that he actually wanted to work outdoors.

Now he loves his work, the views and the countryside.

He enjoys being outside and looking after the environment.

James trained as an artist and is in a band

James still enjoys the arts. He is in a band but thinks there's not an awful lot in the Hawes/Leyburn area for young people. He believes the area needs more facilities like The Hub at Barnard Castle <https://www.tcrhub.co.uk/about-us/>

Pragmatic approach

James believes young people should do what they want to do. There are jobs and great opportunities in the Dales but he suggests young people may have to work a bit harder to find them.

James is an advocate of going away and coming back, if it means you find what it is you really want to do, and appreciate the area more as a result.

Katy's Story

Part Time Communications Apprentice & Tourism Support Officer.



Katy is qualified to degree level in countryside management but applied for an apprenticeship in digital marketing.

Katy studied countryside management at Harper Adams University. While at University she took part in an internship programme, and secured a place with the National Trust. This was a great opportunity which she thoroughly enjoyed but she also realised that although she loved working outdoors, she wanted to do something different. She saw the Digital Marketing Apprenticeship with Yorkshire Dales National Park and currently has two roles, working on communications and as a Tourism Support Officer. Katy loves the countryside and the apprenticeship role combined with Tourism Officer role has given her the opportunity to explore different career choices.

Comms and creatives

Working in communications/social media means Katy is developing transferrable skills. Katy works with other creatives such as film makers and photographers who generally have other roles within YDNPA too.

Tourism Officer who works with businesses

Katy's role as a Tourism Officer is probably different from what people might imagine. As a Tourism Officer her focus is on supporting businesses to increase their business in the area. YDNPA provides toolkits for rural businesses to help them grow.

Katy loves living in the countryside, but gets to travel all over the world

Katy loves her work. She has travelled all over the world for conferences to hear about good practice to inform what she does.