

# Bioscience Careers Day

Speaker: Lowri Watkins



# About me

## Education

- BSc Zoology (2005-2008) – recession!
- MSc Ecology, Evolution & Conservation (2009-2010)
- LEMUR+ Ecological Surveys Trainee (2016) – L3 OCN in Biological Field Survey & Botanical ID

## Employment

- Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (2011-2015) – project work
- Short-term contract/part time volunteering – local Wildlife Trust/lots of job applications! (2015-2016)
- Gwent Wildlife Trust (2016 – present)

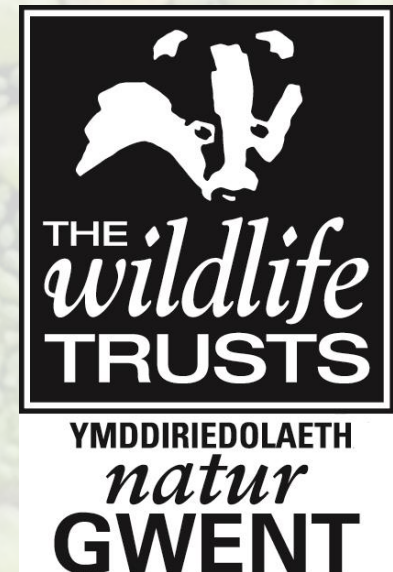
# Traineeship



- 9-months
- NLHF-funded
  - bursary
  - training allowance
  - Equipment allowance
- Based with organisation – Gwent Wildlife Trust
- Classroom & field-based training – botanical ID & survey skills - OCN
- QGIS & FSC grasses, sedges, rushes course
- Shadowing staff
- Get involved with everything

# Present

- Employer: **Gwent Wildlife Trust** – SE Wales conservation charity
- Roles:
  - **Assistant Conservation Project Officer** 2016-2017  
Magnificent Marshy Mammals Project (NLHF funded)
  - **Conservation Project Officer** 2017-2018  
Magnificent Marshy Mammals Project (NLHF funded)
  - **Conservation Monitoring Officer** 2018-present





# Conservation Monitoring Officer

- Plan and coordinate nature reserves monitoring (species + habitats)
- Train and support volunteers
- Protected species – water voles, hazel dormice
- Data management, analysis & report writing
- GIS mapping
- Support organisation with data needs
- Engagement – talks, walks and training
- Lots more!!

# Huge variety of jobs in conservation charity Sector

Our small charity of c.30 people has jobs like:

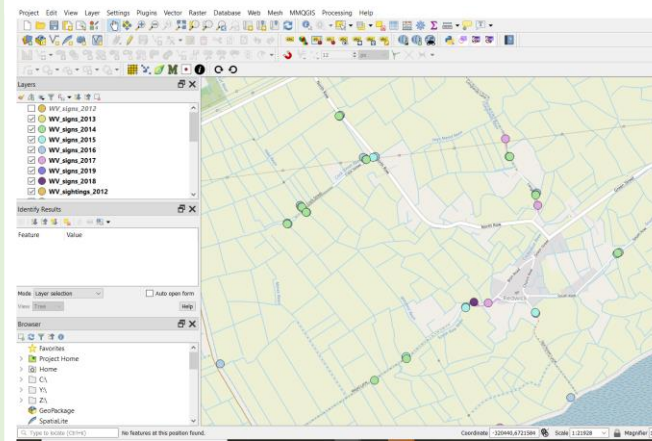
<b>Reserves Officer</b>	<b>CEO</b>
Volunteer Coordinator	Education Officer
Survey & Monitoring Officer/Ecologist	Project Development Officer
Project Officer (various)	IT Officer
Planning Officer	HR & Admin Officer
Landscape Manager	Finance Officer
Media & Communications Officer	Marketing & Membership Officer
Wild Health Officer	Fundraising Officer

# Well-known charities in the sector:



# Qualifications & experience required

- Specific licences
- Species ID/survey/ecology knowledge
- Relevant degree
- Project coordination - similar
- Volunteer coordination
- GIS software
- Driving licence





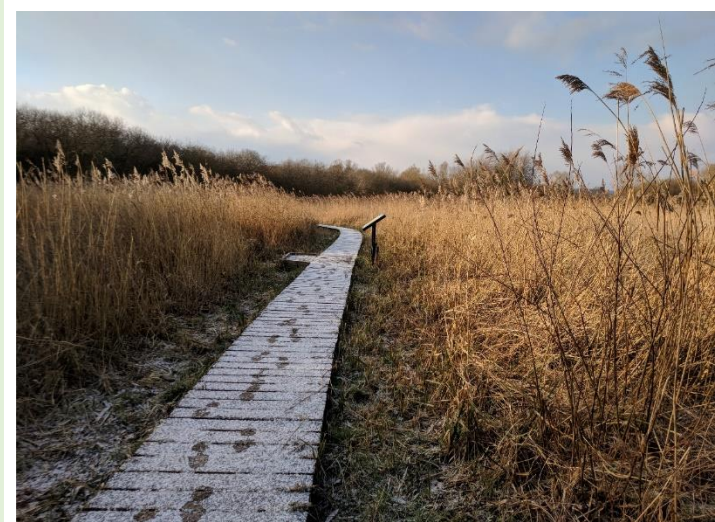


# What to expect from this career path

- Rewarding
- Passionate co-workers & strong sense of team
- Challenging
- Good training opportunities
- Learn on the job - room to grow skills
- Shorter career paths – slower progression
- Surrounded by all things wildlife
- Lower salaries
- Fewer employee benefits

# Working practices and conditions

- Outdoors - all weathers, challenging terrain
- Offices & equipment – fairly basic
- Some weekend/evening work
- Flexibility
- Autonomy
- Responsibility
- Strong cross team-working



# Career development opportunities

A wooden boardwalk path leads through a field towards a sunset. The path is made of wooden planks and is flanked by grass and trees. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The sky is a mix of orange and yellow, with some clouds. The trees are bare, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting.

- Small charities = fewer opportunities for promotion
- May only be one or two roles above
- Lots of learning on the job & encouragement
- Lots of training internal/external – annual personal training budget

## My experience:

- > trainee
- > assistant
- > officer
- > ???

# Skills required for a successful career

- Communication skills – wide range stakeholders, important messages
- Survey & identification skills
- Attention to detail
- Data handling & analysis
- GIS applications
- Report-writing
- Time-management
- Flexibility
- Team working

# Salaries (estimated!)

Range: £15,000 - £50,000

- Assistant level – £17k – £22k
- Officer Level- £22k - £26
- Senior/Manager level - £26+
- CEO - £40k+

This would vary across the 46 Wildlife Trusts of the UK and between different types of conservation charities

**Any questions?**

