

# Woodland Manager

Harriet is employed at  
**Buxton Civic Association**

**GREEN CAREERS  
IN THE PEAK DISTRICT  
2025/001**

## Overview

Woodland Manager is a specialised ranger. Rangers carry out practical duties, provide visitor management, community engagement, practical conservation, site maintenance and monitoring. Work is outdoors in different weather conditions, providing information to the public, organising educational activities and managing volunteers. Rangers work in different settings, including national parks, nature reserves and country parks.

Different roles allow for the development of specialisms, such as a focus on engagement, practical conservation or woodlands.



**Expected Salary - £33,680 pa**

## Qualifications

Routes into the job of a ranger are varied, there are rangers with degrees in varied subjects, and rangers with no degree at all.

**The Countryside Managers Accreditation scheme** is a great way to see the skills that you need to develop.

- GCSE's - including Science, Geography.
- Post-16 - A levels – Geography, Biology – T-levels – Agriculture, Land Management and Production.
- Degree - Countryside Management, Environmental Science/Management, Geography.
- Apprenticeships - Countryside Worker Level 2, Forest Craftsperson Level 3, Countryside Ranger Level 4.
- Post graduate courses - Masters in Environmental Management or Countryside Management.



## A Typical Day...

I work Monday to Friday, about 2 days in the office, 3 outside, but it varies a lot. Work includes patrolling, looking for anything out of the ordinary, trees with disease, paths that need fixing. Some tasks I delegate to the volunteers, some I do with my assistant, others need specialist contractors. We also give advice to the general public, making sure neighbours know you are around. This requires lots of diplomacy.

Office-based tasks include meetings, following up issues noticed on the patrols like fly tipping, neighbours' concerns, managing contractors for tree felling. We liaise with partners and the local community to create a bigger, better-connected landscape.



## What is most rewarding in your role?

It is great to be part of an organisation that surrounds a community. Especially as more people are realising the importance of woodlands for wildlife and personal wellbeing.

I am part of a team, that really makes a difference and positively influences a local landscape. I enjoy working with partner organisations, it is inspiring to work with other professions who are passionate about the place. I have a great network of support to call on.

I love that every day is a learning day, with opportunities to solve problems, usually with very limited resources.

## What do you wish you knew at the beginning?

I didn't understand the variety of roles out there, just so many. Most skill sets are transferable in the sector so you can easily move around roles.

How important networking is, make those connections across organisations and different teams. Then take the opportunities these provide, even if they are not what you normally would have looked for.



Harriet



**Caring About Buxton**



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## Further Information

Visit: **Countryside Management Association - CMA**

For specialised woodland work:

**Arboricultural Association - Qualifications**



CMA LINK



AA LINK



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# GIS Assistant

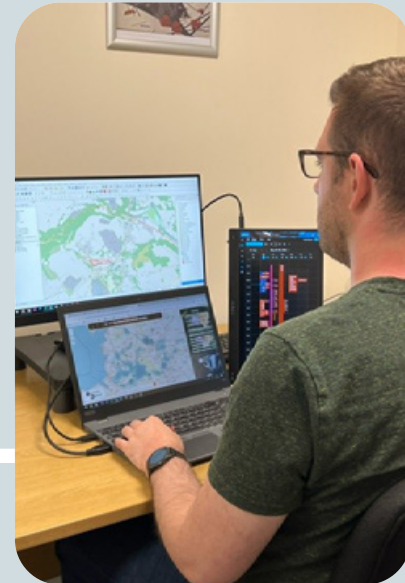
Owain is employed at  
**Derbyshire Wildlife Trust**

**GREEN CAREERS  
IN THE PEAK DISTRICT  
2025/002**

## Overview

A GIS (Geographic Information System) assistant uses specialist computer software to collect, analyse and present geographical information. Data comes in different formats, such as photographs, satellite imagery, maps and spreadsheets. This is taken and presented as a map.

The data is often used to make decisions about long term planning in infrastructure, conservation and habitat plans, so it is important that the GIS specialist is analytical, organised, and has great attention to detail.



**Expected Salary - £28,700 pa**

## A Typical Day...

I work normal office hours, one day a week in the office and the rest from home. While I work on my own I have lots of online meetings to support my work, so I never feel lonely. The work is a mixture of data management and visualising spatial data. I spend a lot of time creating maps, using special computer software. These maps have different layers showing for example different habitats, boundaries, trees and buildings.

I really enjoy teaching people how to use these maps, I run a weekly drop in session for other staff, so they understand how to use the maps and the geographical information they illustrate.



## Qualifications

Learning how to become a GIS specialist requires a range of different skills alongside specialist training, qualifications, work experience and knowledge of the industry you're working in. Not all employers require a specific degree, some accept candidates with significant work experience in a related field.

- GCSE's & A Levels - Maths, English, Sciences, Geography.
- Degree - geographical information systems, completing a course in a relevant topic such as computer science, geography, maths, software engineering or urban planning.
- A specialised postgraduate degree is useful if you eventually want to enter a management position at some point in your career.

## Further Information

If you're looking for an introduction to the subject, you might also consider completing a course run by the **Association for Geographic Information (AGI)**, one of the official bodies within the sector.



AGI LINK

## What impacts are you having on the environment?

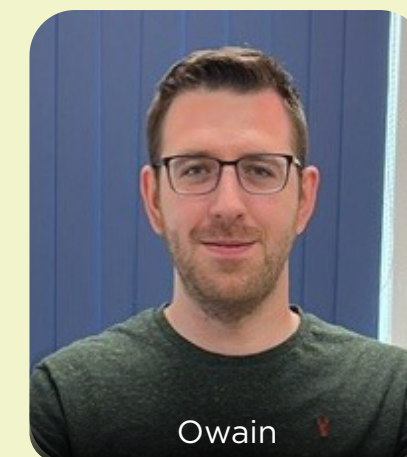
My work doesn't have a direct impact on the environment, but it does support many projects that do. The information maps contain can really help plan for projects focused on conserving wildlife. I have recently been involved in working with the local councils, identify good sites to improve biodiversity or where biodiversity net gain could be very valuable. Assessing factors such as whether woodland or wetland habitat could be more beneficial for the particular site.

## What is most rewarding in your role?

Working to help increase biodiversity will have a great benefit and affect lots of people all over the county. Many of the sites I have worked on are in and around urban areas, so will be places people use on a daily basis. I love my job as I work with other passionate people who love what they do.

## What advice would you give someone starting out on a GIS career?

GIS is big in many sectors, so if you are interested in technology and mapping there is probably a role for you to get started in, then transfer into the environmental sector.



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# Assistant Planner

Hannah is employed at  
**Peak District National Park**

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IN THE PEAK DISTRICT  
2025/003**

## Overview

Planners organise, design and make decisions on where new homes, roads, schools, shops and all the other things we need to live and work should be built. Working to ensure towns, cities and the countryside are attractive, safe, sustainable and environment friendly. They are at the heart of discussions with local communities, businesses and politicians.

Working in a Protected Landscape they have to guide and manage development in a way that respects characteristics of the protected area but meets the needs of its communities and businesses.



**Expected Salary - from £28,700pa**

## Qualifications

While many people come into planning after doing a degree, a growing number now enter the profession by other routes such as apprenticeships.

- A levels and GCSE - including Geography & Maths.
- Degree - could be in planning or related subject such as Geography.
- Masters - a masters in planning would be beneficial, particularly if your degree is not a Royal Town Planning Institute RTPI accredited course.
- Apprenticeships - several available from level 3 to level 7.
- On the job study to lead to professional qualifications see **RTPI website**.



## Further Information

Royal Town Planning Institute **RTPI website** is the professional organisation for planners. They have student membership if you are on an RTPI accredited course, and have a lot of information on their website.



**RTPI LINK**

## A Typical Day...

I work normal office hours with one day a week on site visits. The nicest part of the job is spending time in the National Park, assessing what a development might look like from different perspectives in the landscape. I have to walk on footpaths to consider the impact from different viewpoints.

I work in the north area team that runs from the top of the National Park in Kirkleees to just north of Bakewell, so I may travel over an hour for some site visits. We can use electric pool cars for work travel.

I work on my own quite a bit, but have the rest of the team and a line manager to support me. I also work with consultees, conservation officers for listed buildings, Environment Agency to assess flood risk and ecologists to assess biodiversity impacts.



## What do you enjoy most about the job?

I have a varied and interesting caseload of planning applications, from new agricultural buildings, to buildings in Conservation Areas. Each day is different! It's great to be part of an experienced team and learn so much about the National Park. One of the real perks is being able to spend time out and about as part of my job.

## How does your role protect and enhance the natural environment?

Assessing planning applications includes considering the potential impacts of development on the ecology, landscape, trees, flood risk and many other factors. Where potential harm is identified, planning permission will not usually be granted, unless it is possible to secure mitigation to protect the natural environment. This could include directing development to areas of lower flood risk, introducing new planting to filter views of development in the landscape, or controlling external lighting to minimise disturbance to bats and reduce visibility at night.

## ASSISTANT PLANNER VIDEO DIARY



Hannah



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# Volunteering and Communities Ranger

Matty is employed at  
**Peak District National Park**

**GREEN CAREERS  
IN THE PEAK DISTRICT  
2025/004**

## Overview

Rangers carry out practical duties, visitor management, community engagement, practical conservation, site maintenance and monitoring. Work is often outdoors, providing information to the public, organising educational activities and managing volunteers. Rangers work in different settings, including national parks, nature reserves and country parks.

Different roles allow for the development of specialisms, such as a focus on engagement or practical conservation. Rangers may go on to manage a specific area, reserve or team.



**Expected Salary - £24,850 pa**

## Qualifications

There are many ways to become a ranger, there are rangers with degrees, and rangers with no degree at all.

**The Countryside Management Association - CMA** Accreditation scheme is a great way to see the skills that you need to develop. If you think this is the role for you get some experience; volunteering, work experience, or as a trainee.

- GCSE's and A Levels- Maths, English, Sciences, Geography
- Degree- Countryside Management, Environmental Science, Geography
- Apprenticeships: Countryside Worker Level 2, Countryside Ranger Level 4 Higher Apprenticeship
- Post graduate courses- Masters in Environmental Science or Countryside Management



## A Typical Day...

I usually have one day in the office and 4 days out on site, working every other weekend. We deliver conservation projects, teaching practical skills such as building wicket gates, hedge laying and walling. Working with groups that come out on a regular basis, or our large number of regular volunteers. One day is often with a corporate group, we charge them to come out and use the funds to support our work.

I work across all of the national park. We have a 10-seater mini bus, to take small groups and tools to site, and an off-road truck. I do work on my own visiting sites and preparing projects for the different groups, but often work with one of our team of 15 volunteer supervisors.



## What impacts are you having on the environment sector?

We are looking after the national park, improving it, making a better experience for visitors, with people who have volunteered. For the volunteers spending time in the natural world, doing something to give back can have a big impact on their wellbeing.

We are also offering a valuable route into the sector. One student, after completing a degree in Environmental Science came and volunteered with us then moved on to a full-time job.

## What advice would you give someone starting on a green career?

It's okay to have imposter syndrome, everyone has it. You don't need to know everything, people will help you learn. It doesn't matter if you don't have loads of qualifications and degrees, you will bring your own skills and experience to the job.

## What do you enjoy most about your role?

Working with volunteers is amazing, people who volunteer time for free are fantastic. Every day there is a different project with an amazing sense of achievement.

*Who doesn't want to look after the countryside every day!*



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## Further Information

The **Countryside Management Association - CMA** supports the development of staff, students and volunteers involved in the management of green space.

They offer networking, training and continuing professional development, and an Accreditation scheme.



CMA LINK



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# Farm Advisor

Joe is employed at  
**Peak District National Park**

**GREEN CAREERS  
IN THE PEAK DISTRICT  
2025/005**

## Overview

Farm Advisors provide advice on using and managing agricultural land. They help landowners to earn an income from their land-based businesses. Advisors working in protected landscapes also work to encourage and support farmers, and land managers to carry out positive conservation, recreation and sustainable management of their land.

The work might include creating a conservation land management programme, including agreements and grant applications. Sometimes working with different organisations in combined programmes of work.



**Expected Salary - from £22,500 pa**

## Qualifications

The routes into the role of farm advisor are varied and you do not always need a degree.

You will need an understanding of both agriculture and conservation to work in protected landscapes.

Advisors often go on to specialise in a particular niche, forestry consultancy, environmental consultancy and pollution control.

- GCSE's and A Levels - Maths, English, Sciences, Geography.
- Degree - Agriculture, or other relevant subject such as environmental management, geography, ecology.
- Apprenticeships such as Countryside worker, Farm Worker, Assistant Farm Manger, would stand out in application forms.



## A Typical Day...

There is no typical week! I spend around 2 days per week general admin, writing up surveys, grant applications. The rest of the week is spent looking at land with the owners, or walking and looking at land on my own, maybe mapping features in the landscape. I might also attend farm events, either online or in person drop-ins, for example at agricultural centres, agricultural shows, or running zoom information meetings.

Most of the work is normal office hours, with the occasional weekends for agricultural shows or events where specialist advice is asked for. Occasionally I work in the evening as farmers are busy in the day and many have other jobs too. There are pool cars available for us to use but you do sometime use own vehicle.



## What is most rewarding in your role?

Standing in front of a tree that is 4/500 years old, a veteran that has seen the passage of time. Or finding something no one else knew about. I have found 100 healthy Elms in one valley. I love telling the owners they have this, it is very exciting for them.

It is also rewarding working with people.

Moving from a first enquiry, learning about the landowner and their land, taking them through adjustments in how they think and manage it.

## What advice would you give someone starting out on a green career?

Environmental work is not a profession where there is a clear career path, building a patchwork quilt over a number of years worked well for me.

A traineeship turbo charged my career, and volunteering to get experience can help get you a job. Sometimes it might be worth finding a way to finance this to boost your career.



Joe



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## Further Information

The British Institute of Agricultural Consultants **About BIAC - The British Institute of Agricultural Consultants** has more information about roles that provide advice to farmers and land managers.



BIAC LINK



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# Outdoor Activity Instructor Apprenticeship

Hannah, Bethan & Tais's apprenticeships are through **White Hall Outdoor Centre**

**GREEN CAREERS  
IN THE PEAK DISTRICT  
2025/006**

## Overview

Careers in outdoor education tend to focus on environmental education or adventurous activities, often these are combined. You can turn a personal interest into developing and delivering inclusive education and adventurous programmes that motivate and challenge young people and adults.

You may work within a specific setting, such as in schools or nature reserves, work within communities to inform and promote environmental awareness and connection with talks, presentations, guided walks and workshops. Training volunteers and community groups involved in environmental work such as conservation projects.



## A Typical Day...

There is no such thing as a typical day. We work Monday to Friday and do an overnight duty once every 3 to 4 weeks. We have one day a week for coursework and admin tasks, the rest of the time is working with groups.

Days start with a team meeting to sort staffing and last-minute details about the groups. We work with school groups, small groups and individuals from the virtual schools, offering a variety of activities such as climbing, caving, low ropes course and pond dipping.

Mostly we work on site here at White Hall or further in the Peak District. Canoeing is local on reservoirs, and we travel to various caves and mines and crags for climbing.



## Expected Salary

The minimum apprentice wage is **£6.40 ph**, but this varies according to your age and the type of apprenticeship. For more information visit: **Are you an Apprentice? - Check Your Pay**

LINK



## Qualifications

There are a variety of routes into delivering outdoor education. You do not need a degree, see below for other routes.

- GCSE's and A Levels - Maths, English, Sciences, Geography.
- Degree - Countryside Management, Environmental Science, Geography.
- Apprenticeships - Level 3 Outdoor Activity Instructor, Level 5 Outdoor Learning Specialist
- Governing and Awarding body qualifications in the outdoor sports and **Mountain Training (mountain-training.org)** qualifications such as Hill and Moorland Walk Leader. The more you have of these the better!



## What advice would you give someone starting out on a green career?

At school all the pressure was on going to University, other options like apprenticeships were not explained clearly. There are many routes into work so do look for these.

## What is most rewarding in your role?

Can't beat going home and knowing you have made a difference to a young person, had a positive influence. Some kids come with little confidence, struggling with friendships, listening and focusing. They come here, a very different place and space, and experience success.

## What impacts are you having environment/sector?

We have a responsibility to encourage a passion to care, understand and respect the environment. It is hard to have compassion for the environment if you haven't been in it and understand it. When we are out in the National Park we talk about the ecology and the conservation work that goes on, like moorland restoration. This is why we are a Peak District National Park Ambassador Centre.

I love showing people how accessible it is, that this is something you can just do. You don't need to come to White Hall.



Hannah



Bethan



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## Further Information

The Institute of Outdoor Learning is the professional body for organisations and individuals who use the outdoors to make a positive difference to others. Their website has lots of information on careers in this sector and a great jobs section **Working in Outdoor Learning (outdoor-learning.org)**



IOL LINK



MT LINK



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