



ASAB Careers Case Study

Education Officer

Hannah Ricketts - The Woodlands Farm Trust



What are the main duties of your job? Providing environmental education activities for school children in the London Boroughs of Greenwich and Bexley. This is predominantly primary school children although also includes secondary and community groups.

What was your career path to get this job?

I did a BSC in Zoology followed by an MSC in Animal Behaviour. After this I volunteered with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Natural England in conservation management and environmental education. My first job was a seasonal position for 7 months with Doncaster County Council at their environmental education centre, I have also worked for the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust before working for The Woodlands Farm Trust. The qualifications were important however having the voluntary experience working with children was also crucial in getting the roles.

My friends think I... Play outside!

My family thinks I... do a job I really enjoy which is a positive thing as so often people don't know I teach local children about farming.

What are the best bits of your job?

Being outside every day and getting to wear shorts to work in the summer! Also introducing London children to farm animals they have never seen before as well as wildlife they would not normally experience in an urban environment.

I actually... Teach local children about farming both traditional and modern. Teach children about habitats and the animals associated with these habitats, and also do cookery activities too! Run a series of wildlife surveys throughout the year to monitor the wildlife which is on the farm and submit this data to local wildlife organisations as well as GIGL (Greenspace Information for Greater London). And manage a team of volunteers and the farm office!

Average salary
for this role
£24,000

What kind of progression opportunities are there?

Often when you start the only positions you can get are seasonal roles or fixed term contracts. The progression would then be to a full time role and then managing the education programme at a centre providing environmental education. Some organisations have a head of education if they have multiple centres, but then you may not actually get to do the teaching, just the management!

Where do you see yourself career-wise in ten years? Probably in the same place! I am now managing education at the farm and as the higher positions don't come up very often once people have one they tend to stay in the same place.

What is your dream job? Probably in it! I love being outside and working with children. Otherwise maybe a blue peter presenter!

What was your best single day at work? Not sure really, you normally remember the worst! Most days are good, if the children have had a good trip to the farm and the activities all went to plan that is pretty good. Although one of my fav was when I worked at the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and I was doing an evening bat walk with a residential school group and a barn owl flew out right in front of us – that was pretty great!

Describe in three words the kind of person that would suit this job?

**Adaptable,
Friendly,
Organised**

When you tell people what you do for a living, they usually say ... that is interesting or I wish I could do something like that. I don't think many people realise it is an actual job!