



Liz Green
Part of the
Recruitment team

Liz Green is part of the Recruitment team, making sure we attract the best talent. She moved to Natural England after working for the Ministry of Justice for a year where she worked at the local County Court. She tells us about her work there. “The variety of work was interesting and very fast moving. It was quite a stressful job, but that fast-paced environment has helped me in my role here at Natural England. I understand deadlines as I’m used to balancing workload and timeframes.” She continues, “Being able to work and deal with different types of people has also been really useful in this role”. Although she knew she wanted a new start in working for the environment, Liz had some insecurities about getting the role. “Coming to my mid 50s, it’s really hard to start somewhere new. I didn’t think I’d get the role, but the recruitment process is blind which means when applications are screened all those details that shouldn’t matter are hidden, so you’re purely judged on your skills, experience and talent. And that’s great. You can start afresh at any point in your life if you want to change direction. It was one of my fears because of my age but it worked out well.”

So what inspired her to make the move? “Personally, I really wanted to work for an environmental organisation and Natural England had everything I wanted. I wanted to be a Public Servant, and this role allowed me to make a difference to the environment.” Being part of the Defra group, Natural England provides access to the wider civil service and opportunities. She describes the process. “I didn’t know what post I was going for, I just knew the grade and the office, but I didn’t know where I would end up in terms of work area”. Her story is proof that the unexpected can sometimes be far greater than the expected. “It’s not the role I thought I’d end up in, but I really like my job so it turned out brilliantly. I enjoy the fast-paced aspect and that I get to talk to different people every day. The best part is, everyone here is friendly and approachable”. That’s no huge surprise as here at Natural England, we’re passionate about building meaningful and supportive relationships. What might be surprising though, is that although we help protect and support nature, you don’t have to be an expert to work here. Liz tells us “Not everyone is a nature specialist, including myself. I love nature and the outdoors, but I’m not an expert so it’s nice to be around people who are. When I talk to local managers around the country, they might be an expert in mushrooms or something else natural and fascinating. It’s so interesting to be surrounded by people like that, but it’s not a prerequisite for my job.” That said, since joining she has received training to learn more about the environment.

“I received training around recruitment and computer systems. I also volunteered to do a course on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), purely because I was interested in it. Natural England encourages all types of learning and training. So, although it wasn’t necessary for my role, it was useful for me to know about what our people are doing and the work they carry out.”

So, what’s the best thing about working for Natural England? “You get buildings called Dragonfly House – how lovely is that? We all care about nature, and I feel more in touch with the environment.”