CASSIE CHANIN

Brecks Rivers Landscape Advisor

DESCRIBE YOUR JOB IN FIVE WORDS...

Engagement | Outdoors | Nature | Organising | Collaboration

WHERE DO YOU WORK?

NORFOLK RIVERS TRUST

WHAT IS A TYPICAL DAY LIKE?

No two days are the same, but typically I will spend some time doing admin either at the office or at home, including emails, writing reports, application forms/project proposals, mapping, organising events, online meetings and webinars.

When I am visiting a landowner, we will typically go for a walk over their site and discuss opportunities for woodland creation, meadow restoration or farming interventions to improve soil and water management. Start 8.00/9.00am and finish around 5.00pm but working flexibly.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

Juggling multiple projects at busy times of year when it feels like everything needs to happen all at the same time.
Managing expectations – my own, landowners, and other stakeholders/project partners.

WHAT DO YOU GENERALLY WEAR TO WORK?

Smart outdoor trousers for site visits with walking boots or wellies and a logo top or fleece.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

I enjoy meeting landowners and discussing opportunities with them and developing a project. Seeing a project being delivered on the ground is the most satisfying!

I also enjoy working with volunteers to deliver a task for a project, such as scrub clearance or sowing seed.

What is a general career route for this job?

Environmental degree or diploma -> project assistant -> farm advisor -> senior farm advisor.

What qualifications did you need to get the job?

Minimum HND/BSc in Ecology, Environmental Sciences, Geography or Land Management related subject.

Experience and Knowledge

Experience in working in the field of ecology, water, Catchment management or river restoration

Personal Skills & Qualities

Good communication skills
Ability to build and maintain relationships
Excellent organisational and reporting skills

What advice would you give someone interested in this type of job or career?

This role is about people and bringing lots of different disciplines together for a common cause. If possible, try to get a wide range of experience across different heritage disciplines through volunteering, and think about developing your project management skills. I'm not a specialist in any particular heritage field, (our partners provide that expertise), and I think this is an advantage in doing my job.