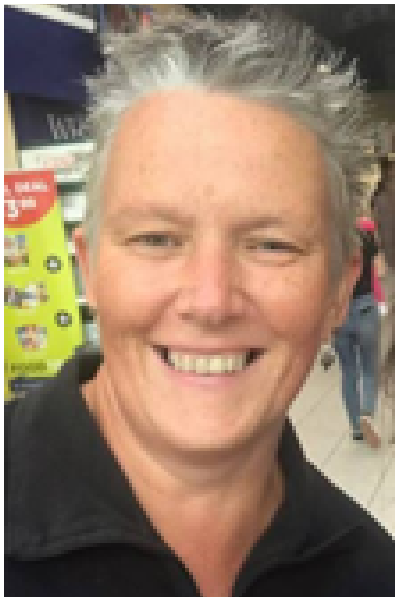

LOU MAYER

Environment Programme Manager

DESCRIBE YOUR JOB IN FIVE WORDS...

Environment | Inspiring | Enabling | Partnerships | Supporting

WORTH GETTING OUT OF BED FOR!

WHAT DO YOU GENERALLY WEAR TO WORK?

Tend to be smart casual but it all depends on what I am doing that day.

WHERE DO YOU WORK?

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY – I WORK ACROSS EAST ANGLIAN FROM THE GREAT OUSE RIVER CATCHMENT TO ESSEX, NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK COAST.

WHAT IS A TYPICAL DAY LIKE?

My day can be a variety of meetings, internally and externally, in the office or out on site. I also get to look at lots of spreadsheets used for planning the programme and business case when projects get started.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Before I started my current role I was a project manager delivering environmental projects. As programme manager I support a network of project managers to secure funding for their projects. I miss the hands-on delivery but I get to celebrate the success of many completed partnership projects that deliver environmental improvements.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

We can't fund everything.

What is a general career route for this job?

The Environment Agency offers a range of different jobs and actively supports progression within the organisation. I started as a Catchment Co-ordinator and have progressed to Environment Programme Manager

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

When I started, I did a lot of volunteering. This involved leading and working on practical projects, tree planting fencing, hedge laying. I still go out volunteering when I can – being able to see what you can do to make a difference in one day is fantastic, even better when you go back in 5 /6 years and think I helped to do that!