TIM DE-KEYZER

Head of Natural & Historic Environment

DESCRIBE YOUR JOB IN FIVE WORDS...

Wide-ranging | Variety | Surprising | Meaningful | Exhausting

WHERE DO YOU WORK?

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

WHAT DO YOU GENERALLY WEAR TO WORK?

Smart casual to the office.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES

Keeping a positive outlook, not getting distracted from the important outcomes for the environment, supporting people to balance work and life, keeping a lot of 'plates spinning' (competing priorities).

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Working with a team of hugely knowledgeable and passionate people, finding new ways and opportunities to enable the council and others to have a positive impact on the natural and historic environment of Suffolk, seeing people and wildlife benefit from actions.

WHAT IS A TYPICAL DAY LIKE?

80-90% of my time is based in an office, working on IT systems, meeting with colleagues and other organisations online (and occasionally in person) dealing with a wide variety of subject matters, advising and coaching my staff, assimilating information and providing advice and analysis to lots of other people and organisations.

What is a general career route for this job?

My role combines a broad range of management skills with some fairly in depth subject knowledge and understanding. Both have resulted from a combination of learning and experience. A common route is through a more technical/ specialist qualification/ roles, incorporating more management aspects along the way, potentially consolidating with management qualifications, into a more management focused role but with a need still for technical/ specialist topic knowledge.

What skills and attributes did you need to get this job?

- Knowledge and understanding of natural and historic environment – specific and context.
- Ability to relate these and response to Suffolk – locality relevance.
- Interpersonal skills and values – communication, influencing, networking, people skills.

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

Don't try to map a specific pathway – be open to unforeseen opportunities to add experience/ skills along the way
Ask the 'why' question whenever considering a new opportunity – it needs to motivate you
Keep learning, exposing yourself to new experiences – you never know where they might lead…