

Jo Smith



Role

Committee Member for England, Midlands & East

Following both a degree in Biological Sciences from Durham University and a PHD, Jo spent a few years working in academia, undertaking research and lecturing in both the UK and USA.

Jo then moved to the environment sector, with the aim to inspire people to care about the natural world. Since, Jo has worked for Norfolk County Council as well as a number of different NGOs, including Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, the Field Studies Council and Sustrans.

Jo took on the role of Chief Executive for Derbyshire Wildlife Trust in May 2014. Under Jo's leadership, the Trust has led on several successful large scale partnership programmes, as well as some high profile campaigns. Recent highlights have included initiatives to reintroduce beavers to the Trent Valley, and establishing an exciting rewilding initiative in our uplands.

The Trust has worked hard to increase its reach and influence through a number of initiatives, such as charity shops on the high street, a music festival and paid non-graduate entry level work schemes. The Trust also runs an innovative wellbeing programme in partnership with the YMCA, Women's work and the NHS.

Jo sits on The Wildlife Trusts England Committee and leads nationally on Protected Landscapes for The Wildlife Trusts.