

Name: Eloize Ridgeway (nee Shepherd)

Age: 25

Year graduated from Ousedale: 2012

### What qualifications did you gain at Ousedale?

GCSE		English Literature		A Level		History	
Biology	B	German	B	English Language	AS	Politics	D
Chemistry	B	History	A*	Sports	AS	General Studies	C
Physics	B	ICT	B	Photography	D		
English Language	A*	Maths	C				



### Did you pursue any Further or Higher education? College/Apprenticeship/University/study while working

After finishing my A Levels I decided university was not for me. I used the National Apprenticeship website to find my apprenticeship, which was Business Support Admin at Bletchley Park. I worked from 9-5 and had a salary of £10, 000. I completed this within 2 years.

### What was your career aspiration while you were at school, if your career path changed what your mind?

I never really knew what I wanted to do. I based my GCSE and A Level choices on subjects I enjoyed and hoped they would lead me organically to a job, which they did! I originally wanted to be a photographer, however this has actually been worked through every job I've had, so I haven't lost that part.

### What did you enjoy most about your school life at Ousedale?

I enjoyed the classes; especially PE as playing sports with your friends never gets old, but mostly the social aspect which really increased in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form. I'm still in touch with most of my friends from school, and they really do last.

### Current job title and description of your role?

I'm currently the Health, Safety and Accessibility Manager at Waddesdon Manor. I coordinate all aspects of H&S across the site. I get heavily involved in large scale events such as Christmas and feature films too which can be very exciting. Day to day, I check buildings for every day hazards, ensure all departments are up to date on risk assessments, provide advice and guidance and ensure action points from fire risk assessments are completed.

### How did you achieve this role?

I completed my apprenticeship at Bletchley Park and was promoted to Learning and Collections Assistant. This involved assisting the Curator in all aspects of exhibition design, managing the Estates team, photographing projects, managed the pest traps on site and also assisted the fundraising team. Since then I have done a variety of roles which include a receptionist at VW where I was exposed to the world of Health and Safety. I then worked at Elavation, a plant hire company where I obtained my IPAF qualification, which enables me to operate booms and scissor lifts. I went on to be promoted to Hire Controller and Service Assistant. Then my dream job was advertised at Waddesdon Manor for Health and Safety Coordinator. I applied, and after 2 interviews were told I was the successful candidate. My role is fairly flexible and very active, and I work with a great team of people here, but above all I'm my own boss, I don't have any reporting staff and I answer to the General Manager and HR, so I feel quite autonomous. I completed IOSH Directing Safely and my NEBOSH NGC in 2019 here. I've learnt here the necessity of confidentiality, and how to approach some of the less tasty parts of H&S with managers who may be resistant to it.

### What advice would you give our current students about the world of work?

If uni doesn't feel like the right choice for you, don't feel pressured into going. Not having a degree has never held me back, I don't have any student debt and have just bought a house. Most importantly, don't give up. All jobs give you experiences that translate to others, and sometimes the opportunities that arise are both unexpected and fantastic!