



# 6 months as a CFP Intern

Jack Travers Intern diary







## My internship in numbers...

**Interviewed 27  
people about  
elm trees!**

**20 days of  
fieldwork across  
3 GB case studies**

**10+ seminars  
and workshops  
attended**

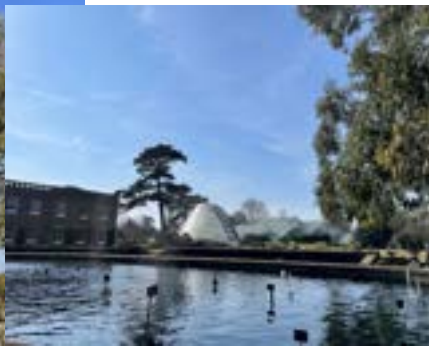
**Attended 2  
conferences  
and delivered 1  
webinar on my  
project**

**48  
interviews  
transcribed  
(100+ hours!)**

**8 visits to FR  
and Kew Gardens  
sites (including  
Wakehurst and  
MSB!)**

## Why did I want to do the internship?

After finishing my Geography undergrad at the University of St Andrews, a social sciences internship looking at the connection between people and 'lost' tree species and restoration came up and was the perfect next step for me. The CFP Internship allowed me to carry on in a similar area to my dissertation, whilst working in my old department! The project spoke to me as a really important area of research, with understanding and developing the connection between people and nature crucial for the future of forest health and environmental restoration efforts across the UK.





## What skills have I learned?

Being part of a social science project, my work has been centred on working with and talking with people from a variety of backgrounds, from researchers and policy makers to land managers and wood workers, about their experiences of tree species loss. Throughout fieldwork, in Brighton, Assynt and the Wye Valley, as well as through online meetings, webinars and conferences, I developed my communication and networking skills, building close relationships with participants and colleagues. Seeing areas of the project through from design to analysis has grown my confidence in all aspects of research. My internship has been a well rounded 6-months, and I feel well equipped for my next steps.

## What have I enjoyed most?

I've really enjoyed diving deep into elm, its uses, its history and how its 'loss' has impacted communities – I can see why people love elm! Travelling for field work and getting to see lots of amazing places and their trees across the UK was definitely one of the highlights of the internship. Meeting so many amazing people along the way has to be what I have enjoyed the most, everyone has been so generous and open, showing the extent to which people care about the future of the UK's trees.





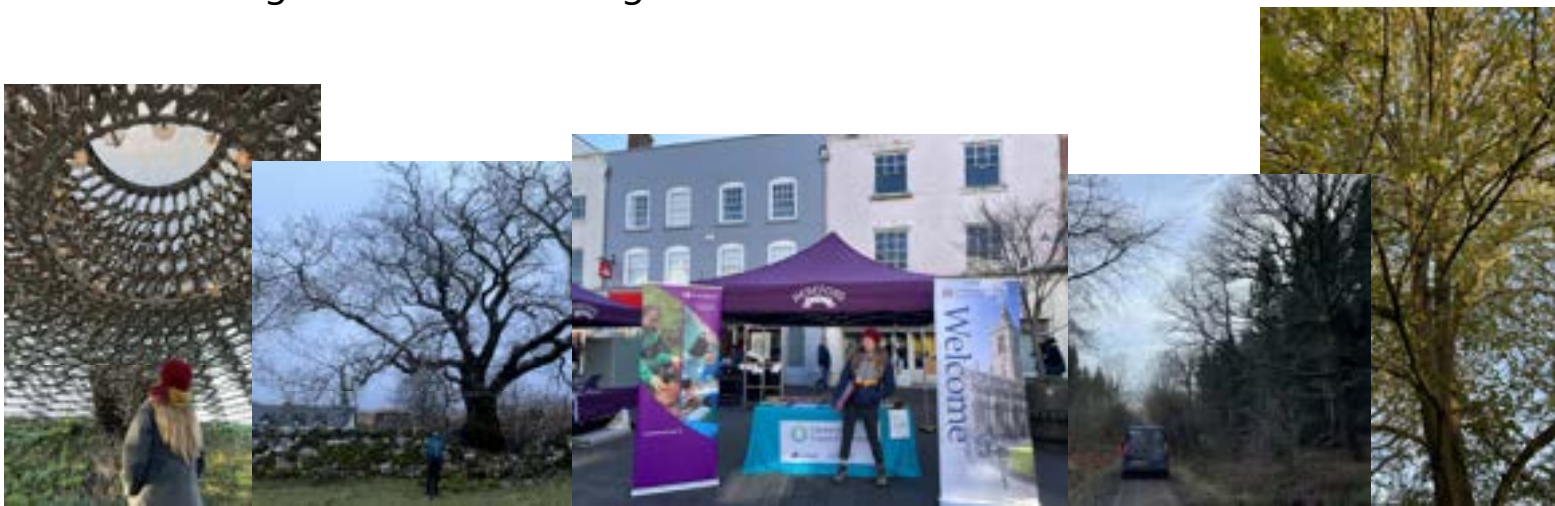


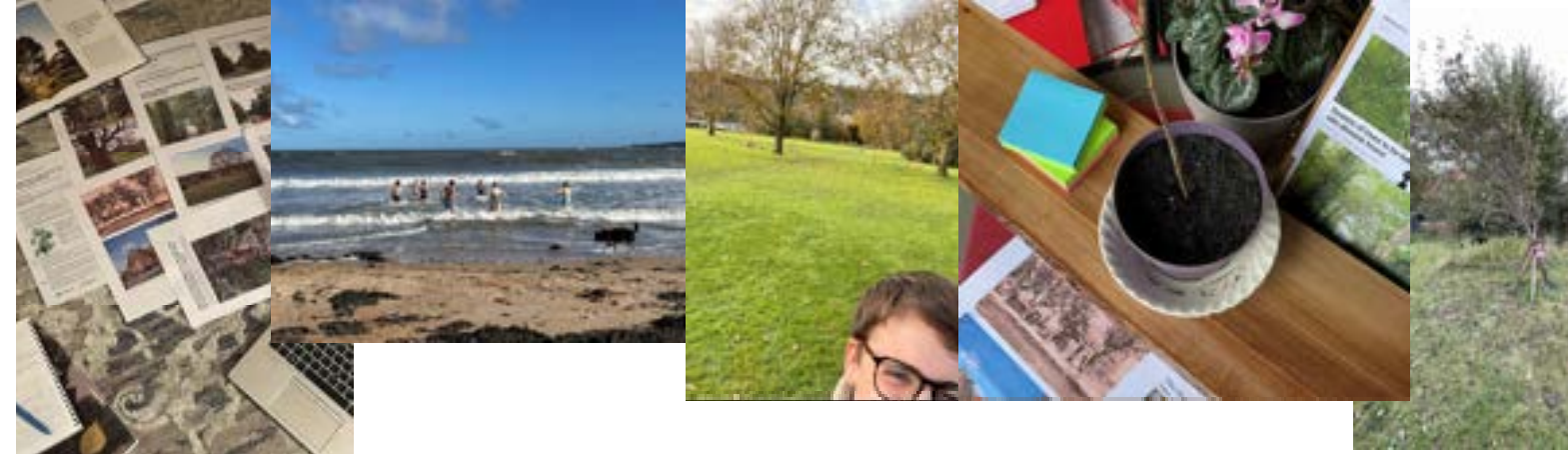
### **How has the internship benefitted me?**

I can't stop seeing elm trees! It's been great getting to know the ins and outs of elms, both ecologically and socially, and the community that has formed around protecting them for the future. I've made some amazing friendships and connections during my internship, both within FR, Kew and at the University, but also beyond within the land management and conservation communities. It has set me up with a well-rounded understanding of project organisation, management, and budgeting, useful for planning and being involved with future environmental projects. Most importantly it has given me a strong sense of where I want to go next, using the experience of the past six months in a more practical way, and putting it to use by working with rural groups to manage landscapes for people and nature in a sustainable and reciprocal way.

### **What do I hope to do next?**

After my internship ends, I'll be trading the desk for the hills and heading off to Glencoe for six months, working with the National Trust for Scotland as a Volunteer Ranger, getting back into conservation, land management, and public engagement, as well as having a much-needed leg stretch!





### **Some more highlights:**

Emergency First Aid at Work + Forestry training course  
 Visiting Edinburgh Botanic Gardens, seeing their Wych Elm Project and Ash  
 Rise Exhibition  
 Attending the Forest Research Tree Health Conference in York  
 Coffee Break Seminars and University workshops  
 Visiting Kew Gardens and meeting the Kew Interns  
 Going to Christmas at Kew  
 Pressing leaves and making 'wishing trees' for fieldwork  
 Brighton fieldwork and workshop  
 Assynt fieldwork and charcoal burning workshop, making lots of dough  
 sticks and soup (and Lochinver Pies!)  
 Lots of chilly sea swims!  
 Visiting Sycamore Gap on the journey down to the Wye Valley  
 Wye Valley fieldwork  
 Running a Green Careers Stall for the CFP  
 Planting trees  
 Visiting Wakehurst and the Millenium Seed Bank with the other interns (and  
 seeing what remains of the elm hedge!)  
 CFP Webinar Series  
 Attending the UHI Integrated Land Use Conference

