

Helen Burton

nearwildhelen@gmail.com

Recent postgraduate in conservation ecology, with 10 years of experience working in conservation in the UK and Africa. I am currently expanding my portfolio as a conservation photographer.

Key Skills

Field research skills

- Designed and conducted field research into the diet of cape grey mongooses in the Namibian Nama-Karoo.
- Led field team sampling methane gas from soil, water and vegetation in Mpologoma swamp, Uganda, including preparation, leading sample collection, and managing trip finances.

Project management

- Initiated a pilot community tree planting and environmental education project in Bubugo, Uganda, arranging two presentations on the importance of wildlife for farming, and organised the planting of 20 fruit trees in the local trading centre.
- Coordinated a two year engagement project with London Wildlife Trust, with aspects in education, community, and volunteer management, exceeding all targets within budget parameters.

Creative engagement

- Published articles and photography on field work experiences in online magazines and
- Written articles for Amateur Entomologist Society 'Bug Club' magazine, illustrated with my photography. I will also serve on their council to help develop new ways to engage members online.

Education

Oxford Brookes University

09/19 to 09/20

MSc Conservation Ecology: Distinction

- A comprehensive Masters course with modules in ecology, research design, environmental education, and population genetics, culminating in a thesis on digital public engagement.

Achievements

- Won first prize in postgraduate category in the Oxford Brookes GetPublished conference 2020 for my research poster on mongoose ecology.
- Received a grade of 96% for an engagement video assignment on parasitic wasps.

Relevant work experience

Interim Senior Manager- Bubugo Conservation Trust **02/22 to 05/22**
Maternity cover for managing director of BCT, a small community organisation based in Jinja, Uganda. Role includes supervising two project managers, reporting to funders, and applying for funding for new projects.

Photographer in residence **03/21 to 02/22**
Commissioned photographer for Naturehood, a community project seeking to reverse wildlife decline through positive action.

Lead field assistant with MOYA project **11/18 to 07/19**
Led the field team of five in sampling methane gas from soil, water and vegetation in Mpologoma swamp, Uganda.

Key successes:

- Co-ordinated the set-up of a new field site when the original was unexpectedly burned.
- Trained other field assistants in field methodology to expand data collection capacity for information which could shape knowledge of the role of swamps in climate change mitigation.
- While not in the field, I planned and conducted biodiversity surveys at two other sites in order to record baseline data for subsequent research.

Project Officer- London Wildlife Trust, London **05/11 to 12/13**
Project officer for 'Do You Dig It? An education and community project focused on wildlife friendly gardening and engaging people with nature at Camley Street Natural Park, an internationally recognised urban nature reserve.

Key successes:

- Co-ordinated the design and creation of a major resource at the Park- a Floating Forest Garden.
- Led the design and administration of a comprehensive education and outreach programme, reaching more than 5500 school children and 20 community groups over the two years
- Led teams of volunteers in both long term and short term projects, including planning and preparation of field work.

Further training

Wildlife Campus- certificated online courses **05/16 to 08/19**
Animal Tracks and Signs of Africa (92.35%)
Behaviour Guide to African Herbivores (86.48%)
Behaviour Guide to African Carnivores (91.97%)
Game Lodge Management (93.03%)
Marine Biology for Guides, Divers and Enthusiasts (87.82%)
Trails Guide (90.63%)
Wilderness Navigation (74.55%)

Woodlife Trails
Forest tracker level 1, 2 and 3 (uncertified) **10/16 to 05/16**

African Nature Training, Pretoria, South Africa
Nature correspondence course: Theory: Pass with distinction. Practical: Pass **09/14 to 04/16**
FGASA level one: Theory: 93% Practical: Pass. **26/10/2015**