

An Interview with Turfsoil's Bushy Park Contract Manager

by work experience student Chloe Collins, April 2016



I learnt a lot about office life at Turfsoil while doing work experience with them; including what it's like to do pay roll and invoicing among other things. However I didn't know much about what it's like to work on site until the fourth day when I was given the opportunity to talk with Mark Holman, the Contract Manager for Bushy Park (the second largest of London's Royal Parks) and ask him a few questions.

I asked him ten questions ranging from 'What is the first thing you do when you get on site?' to 'What attracted you to the role?'

On a general day Mark will leave for work at 6am in order to arrive on site at 7:30am. The first thing he will do when he arrives on site will be to check his emails in order to see whether there is anything important that he will need to attend to as soon as possible. Throughout the day Mark will busy himself with a multitude of different tasks. After checking his emails and completing any important tasks he will take a tour of the site before visiting the client's office, talking with them and discussing whether there is any new work that needs to be done. He will then return to the Pheasantry Yard in order to check for any other emails and to price up any new works and materials. Afterwards he will check on staff and make sure that all machinery and vehicles are safe. If he has any time he will do some manual work out on the site or some litter picking before finishing work at 4pm.

I then asked him what his favourite and least favourite things are about his job. His favourite things about his job are working at Bushy Park and the staff that work there. His least favourite thing is tackling the motorway so early every morning.

To, 'What attracted you to the role?' he replied that he'd worked for Turfsoil before and leapt at the chance to come back and for the chance to work in a Royal Park. We then talked

about the biggest challenges that Mark has gone through, he again mentioned driving on the M25 but then also added that producing quotes, finding suppliers and building relationships are other challenges that he faces. Mark said that the biggest perk to his job is simply being able to work in Bushy Park as the opportunity to work in a Royal Park doesn't come along often.

The final question I asked Mark was 'What do you feel you bring to the job as opposed to others?' To this he replied that he believes that he brings an all round perspective and a balanced view to the job due to having started from the bottom and worked his way to the position that he is in today.