

# Oliver Lewis – Politics and Government; Biodiversity Net Gain business

I was at Tomlinscote from 2000 to 2007, where I was very fortunate to have some exceptional teachers who gave me a real passion for History and Biology. They also taught me key skills about how to think and how to be an independent learner. After leaving Tomlinscote, I was lucky enough to be offered a place to study History at Trinity College, Oxford. There, the skills I had learned about teaching myself and how to study were invaluable. My time there also allowed me to pursue my other interests, including politics and public speaking.



After finishing university, I started my career in politics and government, working first on education policy and then the UK's relationship with the European Union. In June 2019, I was asked by the then Prime Minister to take a senior position inside No.10 to help prepare the country for its departure from the European Union - letting me work with a huge range of organisations and companies as well as the military and various Government bodies. In 2020, I was appointed Deputy Chief Negotiator in the trade negotiations with the EU, giving me the opportunity to live in Brussels, work with both British diplomats and senior figures in the European Commission, and meet various world leaders. During that year, I was also tasked by the Cabinet with setting up and running the "shielding" scheme, working with some exceptionally talented civil servants and officials in the NHS to make sure clinically extremely vulnerable people across the UK had access to food and supplies during the first wave of the COVID pandemic.

At the end of the negotiations, HM The Queen appointed me a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) for my work. I have since been working on setting up a new company—[Joe's Blooms](#)—which will help small builders across England comply with the new Biodiversity Net Gain rules and create tens of thousands of hectares of habitat to help protect endangered species.



I am very lucky that my career has allowed me to pursue both of my interests in history and biology over the last fifteen years. But I owe it to Tomlinscote and the superb teachers who encouraged me and taught me so much for giving me such a brilliant head start!