

Exploring Careers Through Technical Routes

Environmental Conservation



The Industry

Environmental conservation encompasses landscapes, habitat, trees, ponds and wildlife areas. Protecting the natural environment involves talking to and educating those interested in wildlife who want information and advice on how to behave in and protect conservation areas. You may work with landowners or businesses to gain support for conservation activities or with others as part of community conservation projects. Much conservation work is funded by government agencies or charitable organisations and therefore full and accurate records of spending and benefits gained are important.

Flexible working involves evening and weekend work and longer hours when visitors are expected. You will work both inside (management and recording keeping) and outside (on conservation related projects) irrespective of the weather.

RSPB www.rspb.org.uk
 The Wildlife Trusts www.wildlifetrusts.org
 Discover Conservation www.discoverconservation.org
 The Conservation Volunteers www.tcv.org.uk/jobs
 Naturenet www.naturenet.net/orgs/

Skills and Requirements

Conservation is a wide field that requires skills in many areas.

You will need to:

- Be a clear communicator as you will often be talking to others and sometimes giving instructions
- Show keen interest in your surroundings and nature
- Manage tasks effectively with good time management
- Be persistent and diligent to complete tasks accurately
- Learn about animal and plant life to improve your understanding of environmental issues
- Be reliable, adaptable and flexible
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of relevant policies and procedures on health and safety
- Deliver effective customer service to both visitors and stakeholders
- Work independently or co-operate as part of a team
- Have the ability to use IT and social media
- Be able to use statistics and handle large sets of data
- Love the outdoors and protecting the environment.

'There are currently over 3,000 environmental conservation organisations in the UK with approximately 200,000 volunteers. 90% of the workforce is qualified at Level 2 or above, with more than 75% qualified to degree level.'

Source: Lantra

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Working and Learning in Environmental Conservation



Job Roles & Progression

Volunteering for organisations is one of the best ways to get experience.

Join your conservation volunteer group and try for relevant and quality work experience.

Study Programme

Level 2

Environmental Conservation.

Level 3

Countryside Management.



Further Study

FdSc

Wildlife Conservation.

Zoological Conservation.

BSc (Hons)

Conservation Biology.

Environmental Conservation.

Environmental Management and Sustainability or with Business.

Ecology and Conservation.



Apprenticeships

Intermediate and Advanced

Environmental Conservation.



Career roles

Nature Conservation Officer.

Managerial roles within charitable or government agencies.

Specific roles e.g. in forestry or an ornithologist.

Calculation including problem solving

Tasks

1. Measure the height of trees in a specialist forestry area.
2. Order boundary fencing for an enclosure (boundary has been measured in yards, and fencing is sold in metric lengths).
3. Plot a graph of rainfall in a certain place over time to show visitors the importance of rain to a particular habitat or species.
4. Calculate populations of plants or species over a given area.
5. Work out the probability of a migratory species returning to a given area on an annual basis.

Links to GCSE Maths

1. **Geometry and measure** (trigonometry - angles of elevation and depression).
2. **Number** (whole numbers - multiplication, division).
Geometry and measure (units of measure - changing between units of measure).
3. **Algebra** (graphs - co-ordinates, drawing straight line graphs).
4. **Ratio, proportion and rates of change** (ratio in context - simplifying ratio; percentages - finding a percentage).
5. **Probability** (probability - finding probability).

Communication, all forms

Tasks

1. Provide information and advice to visitors and members of the public.
2. Write a report to satisfy funding bodies of the impact of the conservation work.
3. Listen to, understand and respond to health and safety requirements of operating a piece of machinery.
4. Deliver a presentation to an educational group on your work.
5. Keep up to date knowledge through social media of worldwide projects relating to your own work.

Links to GCSE English Language

1. **Spoken language** (speaking and listening - audience and purpose; personal presence - body language, eye contact; voice - enunciation).
2. **Writing** (non-fiction - a report; context, audience and purpose; organising information and ideas - paragraphs; literary techniques - informative language).
3. **Spoken language** (speaking and listening - audience and purpose, discussion skills).
4. **Spoken language** (speaking and listening - audience and purpose, individual presentation).
5. **Analysing non-fiction** (non-fiction text types - information; context - examples of context).