



Nature | Conservation | Training

Content of 12-Week nature conservation experience training placement

The following list shows the subject areas we like to cover during our 12-Week nature conservation experience placement offer. We like to follow the interests of individual learners when we can and therefore the exact content may vary. There are 5 main areas of learning, grouped under the headings; UK biodiversity in context, UK wildlife surveys and habitat and species monitoring, applied conservation management, research projects and community work, education and widening participation. The learning pathways weave its way through these subject areas to deliver a quality unique and work focused experience.

A – UK biodiversity in context

A1. UK Conservation – resources, organisations and protection

- A1.1: Principal Devon habitats
- A1.2: UK designations and site protection
- A1.3: UK national parks
- A1.4: UK conservation organisations

A2. Protected species

- A2.1: Barn owls & barn owl conservation
- A2.2: Dormice
- A2.3: Cirl buntings

A3. Field trips

- A4.1: Dartmoor National Park & Wistman's Wood National Nature Reserve
- A4.2: Slapton Ley National Nature Reserve
- A4.3: East Devon/Axe Estuary Local Nature Reserve
- A4.4: Marine Biological Association/Devon Wildlife Trust Wembury Marine Centre

B – UK Wildlife surveys and habitat and species monitoring

B1. Botanical ID/other ID

- B1.1: Lower Sharpham Farm Bioblitz + Open University's iSpot recording website
- B1.2: Grassland plants
- B1.3: Woodland plants
- B1.4: Fern identification
- B1.5: Winter tree/shrub identification

B2. Habitat survey:

- B2.1: Habitat mapping: Phase 1 Habitat Survey & Quantum GIS
- B2.2: National Vegetation Classification



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B3. Protected Species Survey

- B3.1: Dormouse nest tube survey
- B3.2: Dormouse tracks and signs
- B3.3: Bat detecting & survey
- B3.4: Bat box monitoring
- B3.5: Barn owl radio tracking
- B3.6: Bird ringing/mist netting
- B3.7: River bird surveys
- B3.8: Farm bird surveys

C – Applied conservation management

C1. Management for biodiversity in the rural landscape

- C1.1: Environmental Stewardship agri-environment scheme
- C1.2: Pasture management approaches
- C1.3: Woodland management approaches
- C1.4: Organic Entry Level Stewardship
- C1.5: Farming under Higher Level Stewardship
- C1.6: Higher Level Stewardship grassland monitoring
- C1.7: Badger ecology and badgerTB vaccination

C2: Practical conservation skills

- C2.1: Tool use & tool care
- C2.2: Nest box, bat box & bug hotel building
- C2.3: Practical/traditional farmland management techniques for biodiversity
- C2.4: Practical woodland management techniques and assessments
- C2.5: Farm animal care
- C2.6: Designing and constructing Interpretation resources for public engagement

D - Research projects

- D1: Cirl Buntings
- D2: Pollinators
- D3: Badgers
- D4: Grazing & structural diversity

E – Community work, education and widening participation

- E1: Sustainability in the local community: Totnes walk and talk
- E2: The Transition Movement: Transition-town Totnes
- E3: BioBlitz: 24hour wildlife recording community event
- E4: Care farming



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F – Employability

E1: Written application skills

- E1.1: The UK job market
- E1.2: CV's - personal statement builder
- E1.3: Covering letters
- E1.4: Competency statements

E2: Job interview skills

- E2.1: Interview strategies and approaches
- E2.2: Mock interviews