



Careers information sheet

Environmental Conservationists

What do Environmental Conservationists do?

Increasing public concern about green issues such as climate change, major changes to agriculture and the popularity of eco-tourism have all contributed to the growth of environmental careers.

Environmental conservation involves making the best use of science to provide a sustainable environment. This wide ranging industry covers the protection of rural and urban landscapes, flora and fauna, countryside recreation and interpretation to promote an understanding of the environment and its enjoyment. Countryside managers are involved in conserving habitats, managing land use and ensuring the sustainability of the countryside.

Environmental conservation skills - both technical and practical - are increasingly in demand and are now required by many who work in other land based industries.

(Source: Lantra)

There are several different pathways to become a qualified Environmental Conservationist.

- ROUTE 1 - Work based learning
- ROUTE 2 - Vocational learning
- ROUTE 3 - Traditional

Go to the Key Routes web pages for interactive versions of these routes – <http://www.keyroutes.org.uk/careas/lanenv/opt-envcons.aspx>

Adults without formal qualifications can usually move into the industry. You will need to demonstrate your enthusiasm and understanding of ecology, perhaps through volunteering.

What else should I be doing?

It would help your Environmental career to:

- choose work experience where you will work outdoors
- find part time work where you will meet the public and use your communications skills
- develop your decision making and problem solving skills
- develop your negotiation and analytical skills
- become a Student Member of the British Ecological Society

- volunteer for practical conservation work, for example through your local Wildlife Trust
[http:// www.wildlifetrusts.org](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org) or <http://www2.btcv.org.uk>
- develop your knowledge and understanding of ecosystems and the landscape
- develop your plant and animal identification skills through fieldwork
<http://www.field-studies-council.org>
- find out about traditional rural crafts such as coppicing and hedge laying

Useful links

The Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management is the professional body for ecology and environmental management.

<http://www.ieem.org.uk>

The British Ecological Society is the professional body for ecology and environmental management.

<http://www.britishecologicalsociety.org>

Lantra is the professional body for ecology and environmental management.

<http://www.lantra.co.uk/>

The Environment Agency

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk> publishes a free quarterly magazine

Natural England

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk>