

A CAREER IN Environmental Conservation



Conserving Scotland's landscapes, habitats and species, and promoting sustainable public access and recreation, has never been more important, especially with the wider impact of climate change and developments in land use.

There is a real need to conserve some of our more fragile landscapes and habitats in both rural and urban areas, and if you choose a career in environmental conservation and management you can make a real contribution to Scotland's natural heritage.

Being part of this exciting industry could see you working locally on planning and parks, nationally on nature reserves, public access and outstanding national scenic areas, or internationally on climate change issues.

If you are committed to protecting the environment, have a flair for science, like the sound of working outdoors or are interested in solutions to environmental changes, a career in this diverse and rewarding industry could be for you.

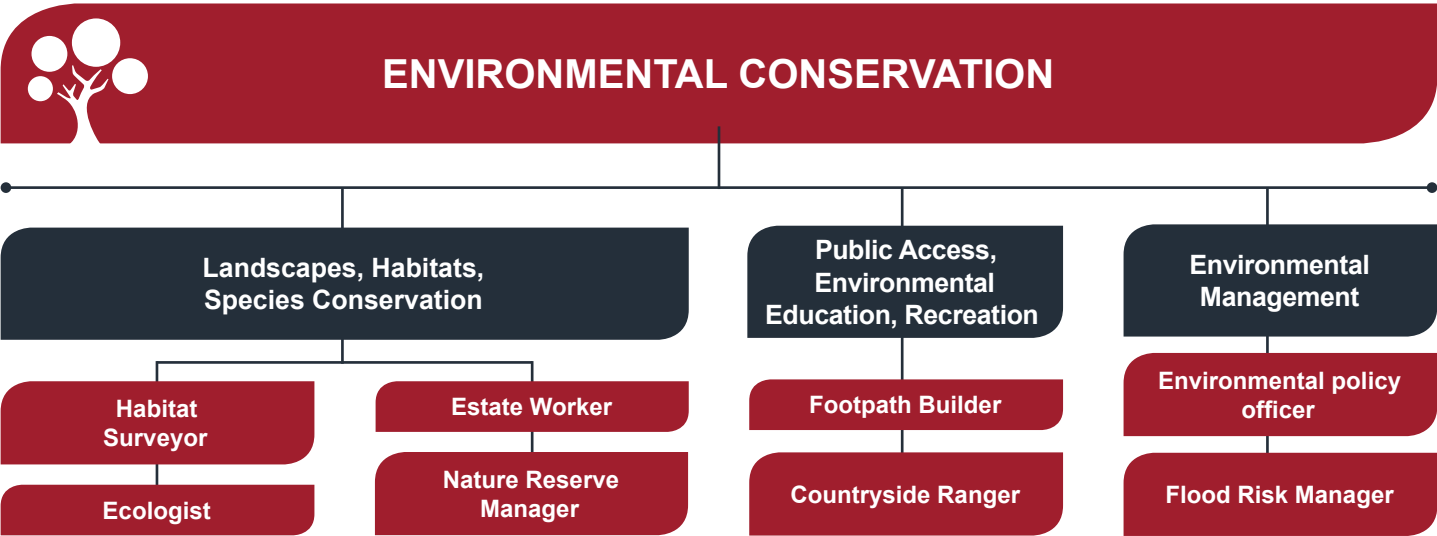
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Career Options

There is a demand for new entrants into the industry and a number of different pathways are available. Environmental conservation is evolving continually to meet the ever-changing needs of landscapes, legislation and scientific advances, so you need to be flexible too. You may start off as a volunteer warden with your local council and develop into a senior ecologist at the other side of the world, if you are prepared to work hard and develop your skills and knowledge. Take a look at the example jobs below for inspiration.





17.2 billion

Sustainable use of Scotland's environment is worth £17.2 billion a year to the economy and supports 1 in 7 of all full-time jobs



Scotland holds many important habitats including 50% of the world's blanket bogs, Machair grassland and Caledonian pinewoods



People's physical and mental health can be improved by living in a better environment – which helps them contribute more to their community and local economy

Routes into a career in Environmental Conservation

Depending on your current skills and experience, you could enter at different levels.

JOB LEVELS	WORK-BASED	SCQF LEVEL	SCHOOL, COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY
Director Level		12	Doctorate
		11	Masters
Managerial Roles	School Vocational Qualification Technical Apprenticeship in Rural Land Use and Management	10	Honours Degree
		9	Degree
		8	HND Environmental Management and Sustainability HND Countryside Management HND Green Technology HND Environmental Resource Management
Supervisory Roles	Scottish Vocational Qualification in Environmental Conservation	7	HNC Countryside and Environmental Management
	Modern Apprenticeship in Rural Skills Scottish Vocational Qualification in Estate Management	6	Higher NQ Countryside Skills and Deer Management for Conservation
Supervised Roles	Scottish Vocational Qualification in Environmental Conservation or Estate Maintenance Modern Apprenticeship in Rural Skills	5	NC Countryside Management National 5 NPA Rural Skills
Entry Level		4	NC Rural Skills National 4 Skills for Work: Rural Skills

USEFUL LINKS

Borders College
SRUC
UHI

www.borderscollege.ac.uk
www.sruc.ac.uk
www.uhi.ac.uk

West Highland College UHI www.whc.uhi.ac.uk
Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland:
www.outdooraccesstrustforscotland.org.uk
Rural Skills Scotland www.ruralskillscotland.com



Volunteering is an excellent way of enhancing your skills outwith work or study, and can help your career prospects



The National Park Authorities in Scotland play a vital role in enhancing and protecting landscapes, while also educating visitors and encouraging them to enjoy their surroundings



Landowners can reduce their environmental impact on soils, water and biodiversity by working in partnership with conservationists



Our Stories



Luke Taylor

Luke completed a Modern Apprenticeship in Environmental Conservation with West Lothian Council Ranger Service and now works for Historic Environment Scotland as an assistant ranger.

"I did an NC in Rural Skills to get a taster of different land-based jobs, but then decided that countryside management was the career path for me.

Being part of a Ranger Service is very rewarding, as we look after rural and urban wilderness across Scotland, from hillsides to seashores, to city centre green spaces, to enhance the public's understanding and enjoyment of the outdoors.

"My job is about people. We provide a service and the reward we get is seeing reaction from visitors. Being given increasing levels of responsibility as a ranger and being allowed to lead educational visits has given me the chance to share my passion with the next generation.

"My favourite part of the job is getting the younger generation outside enjoying the outdoors. Being a Ranger is an unforgettable life experience. It's the best "first job" I could ever have asked for."

Ryan Hamilton

After doing an SVQ in Environmental Conservation, Ryan went on to start his own company, Hamilton Environmental Limited, and now builds footpaths and improves access to national parks and other areas in rural Scotland.

"I'd always wanted to work outdoors, and environmental conservation ticks all the boxes for me. I get to explore our beautiful surroundings, and that to me is job satisfaction. Myself and my team take a lot of pride in what we do to improve access to the countryside and keep routes accessible for future visitors.

"We're often stopped by the public who thank us for the work we're doing, so we know that it encourages more people to get out and explore. Every day on the hills is different, and I honestly can't think of anything else that I'd rather be doing."



Find out more

If you would like more information on training or qualifications, email scotland@lantra.co.uk or call **01738 310164**.

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www.myworldofwork.co.uk

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