

# A CAREER IN Environmental Conservation



## Introduction to Environmental Conservation

Conserving Scotland's landscapes, habitats and species, and promoting substantial 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.

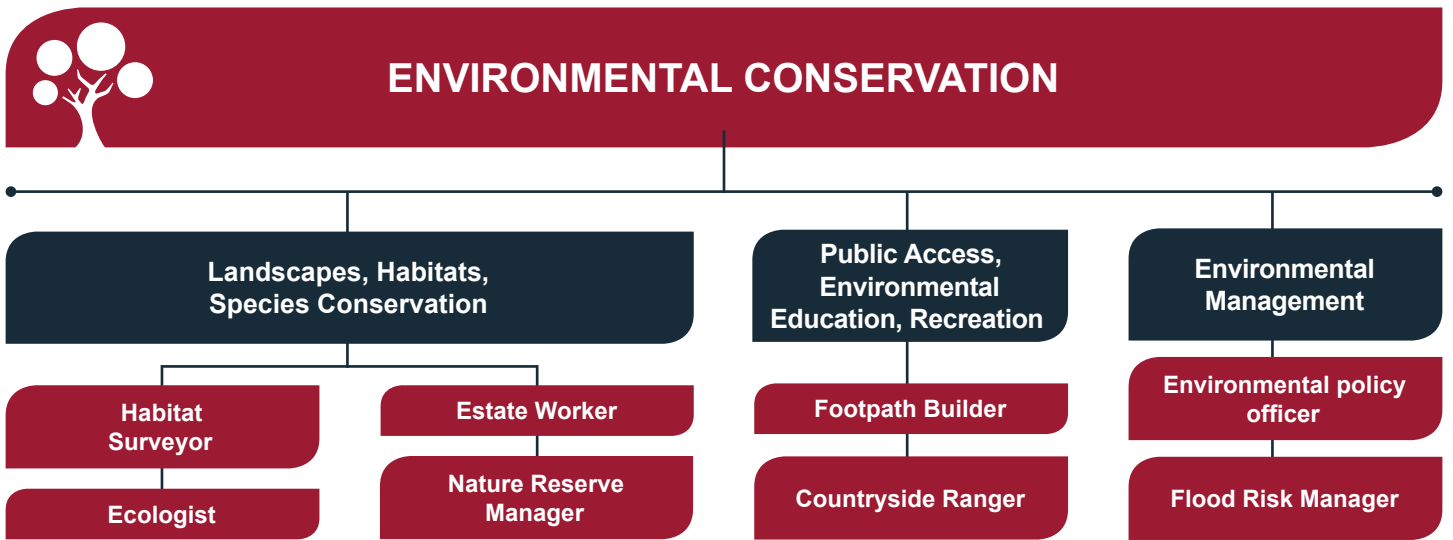
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# Career Options

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	VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS	SCQF LEVEL	ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS
Director Level		12	Doctorate
		11	Masters
Managerial Roles	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
Supervisory Roles	Scottish Vocational Qualification in Environmental Conservation Modern Apprenticeship in Rural Skills	7	HNC Countryside and Environmental Management
		6	
Supervised Roles	Scottish Vocational Qualification in Environmental Conservation or Estate Maintenance Modern Apprenticeship in Rural Skills	5	NC Countryside Management National 5
		4	NC Rural Skills National 4
Entry Level	Skills for Work: Rural Skills	4	NC Rural Skills National 4

### USEFUL LINKS

Borders College [www.borderscollege.ac.uk](http://www.borderscollege.ac.uk)  
 SRUC [www.sruc.ac.uk](http://www.sruc.ac.uk)  
 UHI [www.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.uhi.ac.uk)



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



### Jamie Gemmell

Jamie has been doing an SVQ in Environmental Conservation while working as a trainee upland path worker with the Mountains and the People project. He was runner-up for environmental conservation in our learner of the year awards.

*"When I decided to change career, it seemed a natural step to seek out opportunities in the mountains of Scotland, as I've always been a very keen hillwalker. Our wild places are free from the hustle and bustle of the city and learning about the fragile landscapes where I spend as much of my free time as possible is really satisfying. It's also very rewarding being part of a team of like-minded people who are equally passionate about Scotland's wild places."*

### Chris Bailey

Chris works as the Advisory Manager for RSPB Scotland, providing land management advice to farmers, crofters, foresters and other land managers. He has a degree in science and environment.

*"There are many opportunities for those wishing to work within the conservation sector, ranging from active management on reserves through to advising government, farmers and landowners or talking to the public about wildlife. I particularly enjoy my job because I get to work with so many skilled colleagues who are passionate about sharing their experiences with others. I also get to work with iconic species such as black grouse, capercaillie and curlew in project areas across Scotland."*



## Find out more

If you would like more information on training or qualifications, email [scotland@lantra.co.uk](mailto:scotland@lantra.co.uk) or call **01738 310164**.

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