



Life on the Edge Conservation Trainee

LEVEL: SCP 03

ACCOUNTABLE TO: Life on the Edge Project Manager, South Devon National Landscape

SALARY: £12.85/hr - £24,796 per annum, pro rata (National Pay Award Pending)

LOCATION: Totnes

CONTRACT: 0.5FTE (18.5hrs/week) on 1yr Fixed term Contract till Oct 2027

Job Purpose

Life on the Edge (LotE) is a multi-partner project, led by South Devon National Landscape, with their main partner, Buglife, along with South West Coast Path Association, National Trust and Doorstep Arts. With support from National Lottery Heritage Fund, LotE aims to restore viable populations of some of the UK's rarest insects living along the South Devon coast between Berry Head and Wembury.

Involving people in the conservation of these special species is core to the project, with a programme of upskilling, empowering and training through the 'Learning with LotE' workstream. LotE is committed to engaging people to make a difference for nature and the trainee roles assists in forming that important link between communities and conserving species along the south devon coast.

The LotE Conservation Trainee will assist with events, specialist invertebrate ecological surveying and practical tasks involving volunteers and interacting with the public explaining the importance of the project target species and promoting the project. Trainees will also assist in meeting with farmers and landowners to develop landscape enhancements plans, which will involve bespoke conservation interventions to benefit project species. There is significant overlap between the conservation and communities workstreams, involving people in all areas of project activity. The Conservation Trainee can expect to be involved in works which will complement the community engagement programme.

LotE trainees must be willing to work outdoors, in sometimes challenging conditions, in a variety of locations along the South Devon Coast, some of which may be remote areas. Trainees will be able to learn from project staff and will have opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge as well as work under their own initiative with support from project team.





Role Profile

During this 1-year traineeship the postholder can expect to learn techniques and expand theoretical knowledge on the following topics and themes:

You will assist with the delivery of the following elements of the project, and receive both on the job and formal training in the skills required to do this:

- Specific species monitoring – both directly and development of volunteer opportunities.
- Participate and aid delivery of land management to benefit project target species – both through land management advice in group workshop sessions and on-farm advice, and practical habitat management, working with partner organisations to facilitate monthly volunteering sessions.
- Engage with LotE project activity as a whole, working across all workstreams – working with target and general audiences.
- Work under the direction of the LotE Conservation Officer, LotE project staff and other senior South Devon National Landscape staff to assist in the delivery of the project.
- Understand and follow South Devon National Landscape & South Hams District Council internal procedures including Health and Safety, information management systems, site protocols etc.
- Work closely and constructively with your manager and project colleagues in all areas of your responsibility.
- Undertake other duties as the Senior Management Team may require from time to time.
- The list of duties is not to be regarded as exclusive or exhaustive; there will be other duties and requirements associated with the post, and you may be required to undertake such other duties as may reasonably be required of you

Person Specification

Qualifications

Essential	Desirable
A specific qualification is not required but applicants should have a desire to pursue a career in the environmental sector	
Full, current UK driving licence	



Knowledge / Experience

Essential	Desirable
A keen knowledge of nature conservation and species recovery	An understanding of Countryside Management in a rural sector environment
	Knowledge of a range of invertebrate groups and some botanical knowledge of British wildflowers
	Some knowledge of working with groups to deliver practical conservation activities - working safely in a practical conservation setting

Skills / Abilities

Essential	Desirable
Ability to build effective working relationships	Ability to effectively motivate colleagues at all levels to work collaboratively
Good interpersonal skills – Approachable, professional and courteous	Ability to work with teams across the organisations in the project
Aptitude for learning and personal development	Ability to work with a range of people adapting actions to meet their needs
Good attention to detail and organisational skills	



General / Other

Essential	Desirable
Ability to self-motivate	
Ability to manage workload and competing priorities effectively	
Ability to work independently as well as part of a team	

General

The list above is not exhaustive; this role profile sets out the duties of the post at the time it was drawn up. Such details may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the duties or the level of responsibility involved.

Safeguarding Children & Adults at Risk

The Council has a Safeguarding Policy which outlines its responsibilities and the responsibilities of its employees. All employees need to be aware of this Policy and comply with the contents.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

The Council has an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy which outlines its commitment to creating a culture that respects and values each other's differences, promotes dignity, equality, diversity, and inclusion, encourages individuals to develop and maximise their true potential and combats prejudice, discrimination, and harassment.

Staff Code of Conduct

The public, our communities, customers, and colleagues are entitled to expect the highest standards of conduct from all people working for the Councils. The Code of Conduct sets out the general standards of conduct expected of everyone working for the Councils.



Climate Change

Contribute to the Council's corporate objectives in relation to climate change by considering the environmental impact of individual and collective actions, working to reduce resource and energy use, minimise waste, and anticipate and enhance the efficiency of services in response to a changing climate, wherever possible, to help the council reduce its own carbon footprint and that of the district.