

Trainee Countryside Ranger – Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust

Would you like to gain the knowledge, skills and confidence to pursue a career in the environmental sector?

We are recruiting a volunteer trainee countryside ranger for Berry Head National Nature Reserve. Set on the beautiful coastline of South Devon, this 9-12-month training opportunity offers valuable experience in practical habitat management; footpath maintenance; visitor engagement and ecological monitoring.

Free basic accommodation and training budget included.

Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust manage a wide variety of sites and habitats, including SSSI calcareous grassland, lowland heathland, LNR Woodlands and the stunning South West Coast Path.

The main focus will be on carrying out practical habitat management between Berry Head and Sharkham Point. Some of the key work areas include grassland strimming and raking in winter, and coast path cutting and footpath maintenance in the summer. You will also get involved with seasonal guillemot counts, botanical surveying, butterfly transects, guided bat walks, livestock checks, site patrols, litter picking and public events.

What we offer:

- 9-12-month training programme, 4 days per week plus weekends on a rota basis
- Free on-site accommodation including bills (excl. TV licence)
- Training budget to spend on relevant external courses of choice but must include First Aid and Brushcutter courses
- Work experience in a successful organisation that will demonstrate your abilities and commitment to future employers
- Full mentorship throughout your placement from an experienced member of staff guiding you through your professional development, including regular 1:1s and a reference for future employers
- Working in a supportive environment alongside other long-term and local volunteers
- Networking opportunities within the organisation, partner organisations and other organisations that work within the same sector.

“This placement is a wonderful way to get further into the field of conservation and to make connections to learn from. I have learned a lot more about practical

conservation work and managing a nature reserve. I feel lucky to have had the opportunity to work and live in such a special place, working outdoors every day and becoming immersed in the surrounding wildlife.” – Emily Roulston, Trainee Countryside Ranger Jan-Nov 2023

To apply for the position please visit our recruitment page (<https://www.countryside-trust.org.uk/vacancies/>) where you will find the job description and an application form. We aim to conduct interviews in person.

For further details about the role, please email Marije Zwager, Engagement Ranger at Berry Head marije.zwager@countryside-trust.org.uk

Closing date for applications: Sunday 9th February 2025 at midnight

Proposed interview date: Tuesday 18 January 2025 (TBC)

Preferred start date: Monday 10th March 2025

Torbay Coast & Countryside Trust

Registered Charity No: 1077561 Company Reg No: 03757410 Vat Reg No: 945 6807 85

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Torbay Coast & Countryside Trust is a local independent conservation charity that cares for over 1,700 acres of Torbay's most beautiful natural spaces including Ocombe Farm, Cockington Country Park, Berry Head National Nature Reserve and a host of tranquil bluebell woods, flower-rich meadows, traditional farmland and stunning coastal cliffs and pathways.