

Joining Instructions for Virtual Rural Week (VRW)



LIFE BEYOND THE MILITARY –
OUTDOORS

Dear HighGrounder,

The HighGround Team look forward to meeting and welcoming you to the VRW.

We want you to get the most out of the VRW, to help you with your research, planning, and new chapter in the land-based sector. All the presenters you will meet over the 3 days are here to help you with advice, contacts, and their precious industry knowledge. There will be plenty of opportunities for discussion and questions. To save time with introductions on Monday morning brief pen pictures of the HighGround Team and HighGrounders are provided below:

HighGround Team

Chris Shepherd

Chris works closely with HighGround in co-ordinating the delivery and content of Rural Weeks run out of Bicton College.

Chris has worked in education for 28 years since graduating in 1991 from Seale Hayne Agriculture College in Newton Abbot, Devon. He has always had a passion for the land-based sector with his mother being from a farming family and his father a Veterinary Surgeon. During his career within the Cornwall College Group, incorporating Bicton College and Duchy College, he has lectured in Agriculture and Farm Business management. In his role as Work-Based Learning Manager, he was responsible for the College's delivery of Apprenticeship programmes across the Land Based Sector.

Anna Baker Cresswell

Founder and Executive Director of HighGround.

Proud Northumbrian, bosses everyone about and raises the funds to keep HighGround moving forwards.

Pete Boorn

My name is Pete Boorn and I make up the 3rd member of the team delivering the Rural Week at Bicton College. I served for 22 years in the Royal Marines followed by 14 years as a Police Officer. As a veteran I quickly develop a rapport with those attending, I have been described by a recent HighGrounder as providing pastoral care, which sums up my role exactly.

Tim Lever

Tim is currently negotiating the resettlement process following a military career spanning thirty years. Having attended a Rural Week at Bicton College in 2017 with an initial interest in pig farming, Tim came away from the week with a broader understanding of the land-based sector and aspirations to have a go at everything! Subsequently extended in service, links have been maintained with HighGround since attending the Rural Week, allowing involvement where and whenever possible. Leaving military service later this year Tim will become the HighGround Rural Employment Manager.

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ZOOM Etiquette

The team look forward to hosting you during our series of VRW sessions. You will be sent the day before each session the Zoom link for the following day. The first Zoom link will be sent to you on Sunday.

In advance of the VRW you may want to test the setup of your PC / Laptop to check all runs smoothly. Equally you may want to ensure that the bandwidth you have is sufficient to run a video conference call.

Please turn up early. Initially you will enter the waiting room. At the designated start time the host will invite all participants to join the session.

Chris Shepherd will host the sessions. Once all participants have joined the session will be locked. All sessions are recorded.

As a matter of course the host will mute all participants to ensure that background noise does not interfere with the flow of the session.

If you have a question for the speaker please use the Zoom raised hand icon. This will notify Chris Shepherd, and he will invite you to ask the question at the appropriate time.

The Zoom Chat feature allows comment during the session. Questions may also be directed to Chris Shepherd who will then ask them on your behalf at the appropriate time.

Consider your background and what may be visible to others.

ZOOM Guide

With thanks to Lincs Digital you can download a Zoom guide here:

<https://lincsdigital.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/zoom-guide.pdf>

The Land-Based Sector Landscape

List of areas within the Land-Based Sector presenting Employment and Self-Employment opportunities for Service Leavers and Veterans. Revised Jan 2021.

Agriculture – Arable and Livestock (1)	Smallholding
Landscaping – Commercial and Domestic (1)	Animal Health and Welfare
Rural Estate Management (1)	Equine and Thoroughbred Management
Arboriculture (1)	Forest School
Forestry (1)	Aquaculture (2)
Environmental Conservation (1)	Hydroculture (2)
Heritage Gardening (1)	Outdoor Sports and Recreation (2)
Gardening and Amenity Horticulture	Viticulture and Oenology (2)
Gamekeeping and Wildlife Management	Land Based Service Engineering – Construction and Plant

Areas identified with (1) are included during the VRW representing circa 70% of the Land-Based Sector. All areas, apart from those identified with (2), make up the content of a Rural Week at Bicton. The four areas not yet presented during a Rural Week will be represented in a catch all presentation delivered at the end of the week.

Summary

HighGrounders find the VRW beneficial for different reasons having approached from different backgrounds. If there are specific questions you may have ahead of the VRW please let us know. Likewise, if you have questions you would like posed to the speakers on your behalf.

Finally, there is no requirement to take copious notes during the sessions as all presentations will be sent to you at the end of the week.

All good wishes and see you soon!

Anna.