



LIFE BEYOND THE MILITARY –
OUTDOORS

RURAL WEEK FOR YOUNG RECRUITS AT BICTON.

2nd to 6th May, 2022.

We were very proud to deliver our first ever Single Service week for Young Recruits who hadn't made it through training for medical reasons, commissioned and funded by The Royal Marines Charity.

Chris Shepherd's programme consisted of visits to an [RSPB](#) Reserve to speak to Toby about being a Warden, [Forestry England](#) to meet Josh for his perspective about being a Warden and then to Tidwell Barton to speak to Pete and Di Wastenage about Agriculture – and that was only Monday..!

Huge thanks to all our hosts [Clinton Devon Estates](#) John and Tom, [The Outdoors Group](#), Steve from [GoLandscape](#) Matt and Kirsty from [Hi-Line](#) to Steve and all the Bicton students for the plant operations practical, and to Ian from [Bowler Oakfield](#) for the Estate Management presentation – they all shared their knowledge and experience so generously and brought their areas of the land-based sector to life.

As always thanks to [Bicton College](#) for their ever generous hospitality and to Pete and Alec our evening speakers.

We hope you enjoy this [video of the week](#).

For more information about HighGround's services please contact Anna Baker Cresswell
Email: anna@highground-uk.org Telephone: 07951 495 272. www.highground-uk.org



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Everyone enjoyed the Forest School visit hosted by Neil and Emilia from [The Outdoors Group](#) and then it was time to head back to Bicton for a plant operation practical with Steve and some Bicton students before Dave Wright, an Army veteran now working on the [Crown Estate](#) in Windsor Great Park gave an excellent Zoom presentation about his transition and how he got to Windsor as our evening speaker – we look forward to welcoming you to Bicton in person Dave!

Our final day of visits (still in bright sunshine under blue skies) on Thursday took in Debbie at [South Yeo Farm West](#) to learn about Smallholding before Sir Harry Studholme welcomed everyone to Perridge Estate to learn about the realities of running an estate.

It was great to see Matt and Kirsty from [Hi-Line](#) again when they delivered another fantastic presentation about Arboriculture and how military skills and experience map so well into it before Ian from [Bowler Oakfield](#) rounded off our visits and presentations with an overview of estate management and the various routes in.

Phil from [Sampson Hall](#) delivered another inspiring and motivational session on Friday morning to complete our Rural Week and our grateful thanks to all who presented, hosted and gave so freely of their time, knowledge and experience during the week.

We thank Bicton for their brilliant hospitality and Greenwich Hospital and the RAF Benevolent Fund for their support to make the week possible.

Last word goes to David who left the Royal Navy as Commander Warfare after 30 years' service:

A well balanced week with great presenters organised by an inclusive, happy and friendly team – brilliant!

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