



THE CORNWALL COLLEGE GROUP



INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN THE LAND-BASED SECTOR? WONDERING WHAT TO DO NEXT? A RURAL WEEK COULD BE FOR YOU!!

WHAT IS A RURAL WEEK?

Delivered in groups of 8 service leavers, a Rural Week is a five day residential course run out of Bickton College in East Devon, near Exeter. Throughout the week Service Leavers of all ranks and ages are given an insight into a full range of employment opportunities across land-based areas, all with the common theme of working outdoors.

The following vocational areas are covered:

- Agriculture - Livestock and Cropping
- Landscaping Industry
- Gardening and Amenity Horticulture
- Sports Turf and Golf Industry
- Forestry and Arboriculture
- Environmental Conservation
- Game Keeping and Countryside Sports
- Rural Estate Management and Maintenance
- Land Based Engineering / Machinery
- Smallholding
- Equine Care and Horseracing
- Forest School
- Construction Plant and Operation

Through a mix of classroom presentations delivered by subject matter experts and visits out into the workplace including golf courses, Forestry England ranges, arboriculture sites and agricultural holdings, Service Leavers are stimulated to consider what job roles best suit their future aspirations and skills set. During each session potential entry routes, salary scales and progression paths along with desirable knowledge and skills are discussed and explored.

Presenters encourage Service Leavers to reflect on their own existing attributes, behaviours and transferable skills developed during their military careers. Applying these to land-based employment can give individuals a significant head start in securing future employment, and the land-based sector is becoming more and more aware of what a good fit they are.



Service leavers are also presented with self-employment options across the land-based areas and the final session of each Rural Week is dedicated to exploring opportunities around self-employment and the motivational, legal and procedural considerations attached to it.

We also invite military veterans who are now working in the land-based sector to come and talk to us in the evenings and share their experiences of transition and their contacts. It's not always what you know but who..!

Next Steps – HighGround's Rural Employment Manager will arrange a follow-up call 7 days after the Rural Week ends to discuss next steps which can include arranging work experience, training and qualifications and introductions to HighGround's national network of contacts.

HOW WILL A RURAL WEEK BENEFIT ME?

- It will help in planning the transition into employment in the land-based sector.
- After considering a full range of career options outdoors you will be able to discount some and focus on the transition into others.
- You will understand entry routes and where applicable essential or desirable qualifications (including short courses) that will provide a head start.
- You will gain an insight into key industry organisations and associated networks across your chosen area.
- With the support of the HighGround Charity you will be introduced to a network of potential employment opportunities across the country.

FUNDING

Rural Weeks are free at the point of delivery and are funded via HighGround Charity which developed the programme and is now working with corporate supporters who will underwrite the cost of individual Rural Weeks. Serving personnel are eligible to claim their Travel and Subsistence (T&S) via their SRA.

2021 PROGRAMME

Rural Week 34 – 21 to 26 March

Rural Week 35 – 16 to 21 May

Virtual Rural Week 06 – 19 to 21 Jul

Rural Week 36 – 19 to 24 September

Rural Week 37 – 31 October to 5 November

Virtual Rural Week 07 – 6 to 8 December



ABOUT BICTON COLLEGE – PART OF THE CORNWALL COLLEGE GROUP

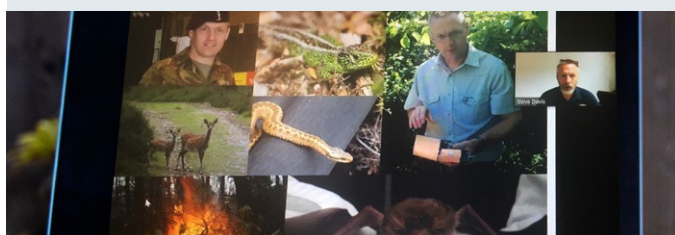
Bicton College is located in East Devon within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, 2 miles from the Jurassic Coast. The historic Georgian mansion, commercial farm, arboretum and excellent campus facilities are set in 200 hectares of parkland. The College is 10 minutes from the sea and 20 minutes from the city of Exeter. For those travelling by train, collection details from Exeter St David's station are provided in the Joining Instructions.

DON'T HAVE TIME TO ATTEND A RURAL WEEK?

As a response to CV-19, we have developed Virtual Rural Weeks and will run two in 2021.

Attendance at a VRW does not preclude you from joining a Rural Week but it will increase your knowledge about the land-based sector and where opportunities for those who bring military skills and experience can be accessed.

It's also a perfect introduction to Team HighGround and what we offer service leavers to help you navigate Life beyond the military – Outdoors.



SAMPLE TIMETABLE FOR A VIRTUAL RURAL WEEK

Monday

09.30 – Introduction to the land-based sector, considerations when choosing a 2nd career and an individual's experiences of transition from the military to civilian employment.

11.30 – Landscaping and Heritage Gardening.

13.30 – Agriculture.

Tuesday

09.30 – Rural Estate Management.

11.30 – Environmental Conservation and Park Ranger

13.30 – Forestry.

Wednesday

09.30 – Arboriculture.

11.30 – Post-Covid opportunities, employment considerations and Next Steps.

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SAMPLE TIMETABLE FOR HIGHGROUND RURAL WEEK:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	07:30 – 09:00 Breakfast	07:30 – 08:30 Breakfast	07:30 – 08:30 Breakfast	07:30 – 08:30 Breakfast	07:30 – 09:00 Breakfast
	09:00 – 10:00 Intro to the Week & Landbased Training and Education	08:30 – 10:30 Environmental Conservation – Visit – Role of a Warden / Ranger	08:30 – 09:30 Ag Engineering & Construction Plant – Presentation	08:30 – 11:30 Smallholding – Visit	09:00 – 11:30 Self Employment, Interview Skills and CV's.
	10:00 – 11:00 Group Familiarisation	10:30 – 12:30 Forestry England - Visit	09:30 – 11:00 Wildlife Ranger / Gamekeeping - Visit		11:30 – 12:00 Post Course Questionnaires / Round Up / Depart
	11:00 – 12:30 Agriculture Industry – Farm Visit		11:00 – 12:30 Construction Plant Operations – Practical	11:30 – 12:30 Arboriculture – Visit	
	12:30 – 13:00 Lunch	12:30 – 13:00 Lunch	12:30 – 13:00 Lunch	14:00 – 14:30 Lunch	
	13:00 – 15:00 Forestry Industry (Visit)	13:00 – 15:00 Greenkeeping – Visit	13:00 – 15:00 Forest School – Visit	14:30 – 15:30 Animal Care Industry - Presentation (Visit)	
	15:00 – 16:30 The Landscaping Industry – Presentation	15:00 – 16:30 Horticulture / Gardening - Presentation	15:00 – 16:30 Equine Industry – Presentation or Visit	15:30 – 17:00 Rural Estate Management and Job Roles – Presentation	
16:30 – 17:30 Arrival / Welcome / Room Allocation	16:30 – 17:00 Feedback and Miscellaneous	16:30 – 17:00 Feedback and Miscellaneous	16:30 – 17:00 Feedback and Miscellaneous	17:00 – 19:00 Evening Meal / Own Time	
17:30 – 18:30 Evening Meal	17:00 – 19:00 Evening Meal / Own Time	17:00 – 19:00 Evening Meal / Own Time	17:00 – 19:00 Evening Meal / Own Time	19:00 – 22:00 End of Course Social Evening – Local Public House	
18:30 – 20:00 Group Familiarisation and Administration	19:00 – 20:30 Evening Speaker	19:00 – 20:30 Evening Speaker	19:00 – 20:30 Evening Speaker		
20:00 – 22:00 Free / Social Time	20:30 – 22:00 Free / Social Time	20:30 – 22:00 Free / Social Time	20:30 – 22:00 Free / Social Time		

“ Thank you for your support for Service leavers and veterans on this HighGround course. The course itself was a straightforward course and a real eye opener to me specially how many avenues I can tap into beyond my military career. The Service leavers can cover the food and accommodation including travel rail warrant through their Regimental TNS using their GRT leave and re-settlement entitlement.

I highly encourage and recommend others specially those who are within their re-set bracket to book and attend the course within their wish list.

Your staff and all guest speakers were amazing. All subjects covered were very relevant. It was so nice to meet some ex-forces personnel on the course too. ”

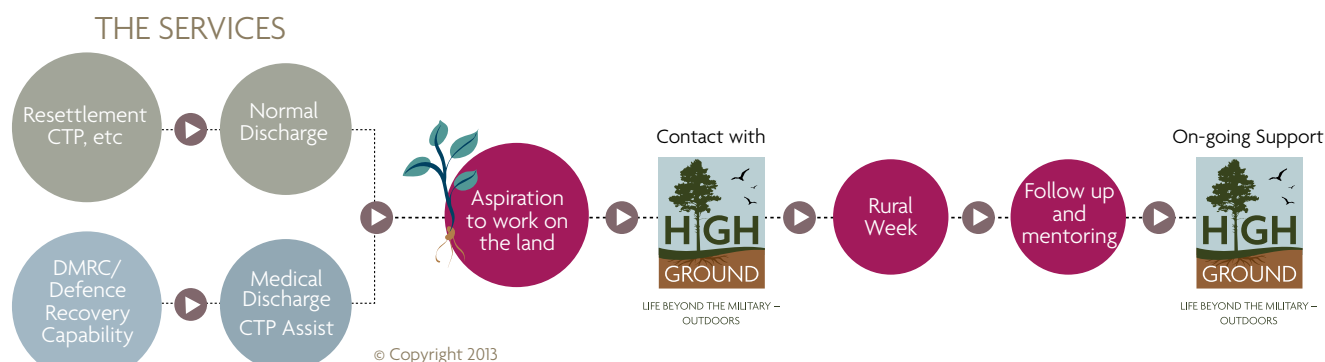
Major AK Gurung. 36 Engineer Regiment & Queen's Gurkha Engineers.

HIGHGROUND CHARITY

HighGround is tri-service with a vision to promote land-based opportunities for all who have served. The Charity provides advice, information, contacts and introductions to help you move forwards as you plan and execute Life Beyond the Military – Outdoors. Some people know where they want to go, and just need some advice and introductions and are on their way. For others, the land-based sector offers so many opportunities for Service Leavers it can be hard to know where to start! After a Rural Week there are many follow-up options which the Charity can help you with, including training, work experience (with a constantly expanding network of contacts throughout the UK and abroad) and volunteering. You can see examples of how HighGround is working with service leavers, reservists and veterans by visiting the 'Good News' page on our website.

HOW DO I ACCESS RURAL WEEKS OR VIRTUAL RURAL WEEKS?

- Call Anna Baker Cresswell on **07951 495272** or e-mail anna@highground-uk.org for booking information.
- Due to CV-19 restrictions the maximum capacity for each Rural Week is 8.
- Attendance is on a first come first served basis and Bicton's decision is final.
- There is no limit for Virtual Rural Weeks – all service leavers and veterans are very welcome to join us!



RURAL WEEK ALUMNI

“The week gave me space and time to think and relax, focus my mind on the future and decide what exactly I want to do and how to get there. A wonderful experience, one for which I am extremely thankful. This is a very diverse area and plenty of opportunities for veterans, with a strong support network of professional like-minded people.”

Lieutenant Royal Navy, Summer 2019.

“This was my first exposure to any rural jobs/careers so every lecture/presentation was beneficial to me giving me the basic introduction into many opportunities in the land-based sector. I thought the pace of the Rural Week was spot on. The after dinner speakers were great and I'd recommend it to anyone looking towards the land-based sector.”

SBS medically discharged.

Visit our website to find out more: www.highground-uk.org

Become a Friend of HighGround and receive our free newsletter.

07951 495272 | anna@highground-uk.org | @HighGroundBoss



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