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Defence
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AMPHIBIAN & REPTILE CONSERVATION DAY

10 FEBRUARY 2022

Ruralink (<u>ruralink.org.uk</u>) works with the military community and many other organisations to help service, ex-service personnel and their relations find work in the land-based sector. This includes providing volunteering opportunities for personnel to gain relevant conservation experience and knowledge as part of their resettlement.



DO - LEARN – CONNECT

Ruralink has teamed up with the DIO ecology team and Amphibian and Reptile Conservation to offer an enjoyable and educational volunteer experience day specifically for the military community. This will take place on 10th February 2022 at West Moors, Dorset. If you are interested in climate change, local environmental conservation, habitat maintenance and restoration, this is the day for you.

Practical conservation work Expert ecology lesson included Build your resettlement network

The key to saving populations of Britain's threatened reptiles and amphibians is habitat conservation. For rare reptiles, this means a focus on one particular habitat type - lowland dry heathland. On a global scale, this is more rare than tropical rainforest. In the last 250 years, over 85% of our heaths have been lost to forestry, roads, farming, building and mineral extraction, and much of what remains is often small and isolated and has become less valuable as good reptile habitat through neglect and the devastating effect of fires. As human populations increase, the habitat comes under increased recreational pressure - with more people comes the added risk of fire.

Heathland is a particularly warm habitat and as such hosts a variety or rare animals, birds, plants, insects, spiders and reptiles.

Help save this vital habitat whilst learning about your next career.

Where: West Moors, Dorset, **BH21 6QS** W3W: crunched.owls.speaking When: 10 February, 10:00hrs – 15:00hrs Contact: Fiona via <u>volunteering@ruralink.org.uk</u>

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