

Title: **Case Study
Sport & Leisure
in Gloucestershire**

Emily Huntingford combines her love of outdoor pursuits with an interest in conservation and marine life.

After studying Outdoor Education, the 21-year-old is just starting the second year of a degree in Environmental Sciences at the University of Plymouth, and hopes for a career in marine conservation.

Emily gained 11 GCSEs at Newent Community School and started 'A' Levels. After her first year she decided to take time out to think about what she really wanted to do.

After a year in casual jobs, she took an Outdoor Education National Diploma at Hartpury College.

The first two terms of each year were spent at college, with half her time taking part in practical activities such as kayaking, canoeing, sailing and orienteering.

In the final term students were attached to a company offering outdoor education.

Emily spent her first-year work experience in the South of France working for outdoor adventure company PGL.

Although she loved the course she decided not to pursue outdoor education as a career. "As much as I love water sports, I wanted to keep it as a hobby," she says. "I wanted something else to do full time."

She chose a degree in environmental sciences, and was able to gain a place even though she didn't complete her 'A' levels by taking a year-long Foundation Degree. She is now topping it up to a full honours degree.

She says her Outdoor Education course has stood her in good stead – there is always outdoor pursuit work available in the holidays. Emily hopes she will call on it in future environmental work as a way of interesting young people in marine conservation.

"It would be lovely to raise awareness through outdoor education, because once you've got young people who want to get out on the water and appreciate water sports, they're very easy to target to raise awareness about the environmental impact.

"If eventually I could slot outdoor education and conservation both together, that would be my ideal job."