

## **Feedback from Michelle Brown, National Trust, for the Purbeck SERT 2016 and 2017**

Over the last two years, Student Environmental Research Teams (SERTs) from Bournemouth University have been working on the heathland habitats of Studland, Godlingston and Hartland, owned and managed by the National Trust, Purbeck. This collaboration between academic institution and conservation charity is a fantastic example of partnership working for the benefit of wildlife conservation.

The 'wo/man-power' provided by the students, who receive theoretical and practical training in structured field survey methodologies, species identification, data analysis and presentation, has enabled the Trust to implement the trial of Priority Habitat Assessment Monitoring to inform how the Trust manage some of the most iconic wildlife reserves in the South.

By recording scientifically robust data through consistent and repeatable methods, the SERT students have generated a significant amount of data which allows the Trust to monitor the species composition and structural diversity of heathland habitats. This data has, and will continue to, form the foundations of evidence-led Management Plans for the Purbeck Estate, and will inform future plans for cross-boundary and cross-organisational working between neighbouring conservation organisations and landowners in working towards a landscape-scale approach to conservation in Purbeck.

The success of the last two years will continue to be built upon in Purbeck and the results of the Priority Habitat Assessment Monitoring trials will be shared across the National Trust with a view of implementing the methods nationally to inform evidence-led management on National Trust land.