

Former countryside ranger wins prestigious BBC wildlife award



A former ranger in our Countryside Management team has won a prestigious BBC award, for her wildlife work.

Audrey Compton won this year's BBC Radio Devon's 'Make a Difference' Environment Award, for her work to preserve wildlife in Teignbridge.

She won the BBC Environment Award in recognition of her hard work in establishing the Wildlife Warden Scheme under the umbrella of Action on Climate in Teignbridge (ACT). The scheme was set up to find volunteers across Teignbridge to help wildlife

survive and thrive in their communities, and there are now 94 Wildlife Wardens working in 37 parishes.

Wardens work on a variety of projects; writing for media on wildlife gardening and similar topics; some monitor streams and rivers to assess water quality; surveying possible wildlife sites and protecting valuable habitats from development.

Audrey worked for TDC for around 15 years. Starting as a Ranger at Dawlish Warren, she then became Senior Ranger for the South Teignbridge sites and in the latter parts headed up Countryside Management.

Audrey, who continues to work closely with our Green Spaces team through her work with ACT, said: "This Award's recognition of the scheme's achievements has delighted the Wildlife Wardens, who feel proud and even more motivated to continue the work they love."

Former colleague and current TDC Ranger Sian Avon said: "Audrey's commitment to conserving wildlife habitats and the wildlife that inhabits them - and the passion to engage and inspire others is immeasurable. I feel very lucky to have had her as a colleague and to have her as a great friend."