



Life on the Edge Level 2 Countryside Apprentice

LEVEL:	AP1
ACCOUNTABLE TO:	Life on the Edge Volunteering & Learning Officer
SALARY:	£8.81/hr - £17,000 per annum
LOCATION:	Various countryside sites on the South Devon coast
CONTRACT:	18 Month Fixed Term Contract



Job Purpose

Countryside Workers carry out specific environmental and conservation tasks, and they will also be clear about how practical conservation work interacts with the productive and recreational use of the countryside, including allied farming and how these relate to countryside management practices.

Countryside Workers will be able and willing to do challenging work outdoors, in a variety of locations, which may be remote, including farmland, woodland and coast, interact with the public and explain their work as well as undertaking their role all year round in a variety of weathers, both on their own and as part of a team.

Through a programme of structured learning, both at college and on the job with South Devon Ranger teams, Life on the Edge Apprentices will gain experience and build a portfolio and are given the opportunity to gain a Level 2 Apprenticeship.

Additional funded items

In addition to the salary specified, the full cost of college fees, (paid directly to the learning provider by South Hams District Council Levy Fund), accommodation, specified training courses (first aid and brushcutter), plus travel and subsistence expenses for the college block weeks will be funded by the Life on the Edge project. We will also provide uniform and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) safety equipment.

Role Profile

During this 18-month apprenticeship the role holder can expect to learn techniques and expand theoretical knowledge on the following topics and themes:

- Manage habitats using a range of specialist techniques such as coppicing, hedge laying, and establishing native meadows, using appropriate tools and equipment.
- Construct or repair boundaries including different fencing types (such as post and rail, stock fencing), hedging (establishing a new hedge or laying an existing hedge) and dry-stone walling depending on the geographic location/landscape and local natural materials.
- Construct or maintain access ways.



- Manage vegetation in a range of different situations, for example strimming pathways, establishing and managing trees, hedgerows and meadows, eradicating invasive species in order to conserve native flora and fauna.
- Construct and /or maintain site furniture for access and interpretation. For example, bridges, gates, stiles, boardwalks, signs/waymarks or information boards using sustainable materials where possible. This will involve both following standard methods and also undertaking site specific design.
- Use a range of hand tools and powered tools safely such as hammers, panel saws, levels, drills, brushcutters/trimmers. Gaining the relevant certification for this range of powered equipment and undertake the routine maintenance of the tools used.
- Expanding problem solving skills: being resourceful in finding solutions to problems that may arise in day to day work and know when to ask a supervisor for advice.
- Identify a range of British flora and fauna native to the specific local area e.g. commonly seen birds, mammals, insects, herbs, flowers, trees or fungi to determine the appropriate habitat management needed. Including more specialist project species and their habitat requirements.
- Assist with volunteer tasks and public events as part of the Life on the Edge programme.
- Undertake surveys which help inform site management plans and work plans, for example, survey habitats and species, numbers of visitors, the condition of Rights of Way or structures/furniture.
- Write a simple dynamic risk assessment and be able to use it on site. Use the risk assessment as the basis of working safely; understanding the hazards on the site and involved in the wide range of practical tasks undertaken by Countryside Workers. Know how to reduce these risks to an acceptable level for themselves, the public and colleagues through using safe working practices and wearing personal protective equipment.
- Communicate effectively in a range of situations e.g. through face to face interaction, electronic communication, telephoning or presenting to members of the public, contractors, colleagues or landowners.

Person Specification

Qualifications

Essential	Desirable
English and Maths GCSE's – Grade D/Level 3 or above or equivalent.	
Full UK Driving licence.	

Knowledge / Experience

Essential	Desirable
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A keen knowledge of nature conservation and species recovery.

An understanding of Countryside Management in a rural sector environment.

An enthusiasm for being outdoors and engaging with the natural world.

Skills / Abilities

Essential	Desirable
Ability to deliver high standard of work to an agreed standard.	Ability to effectively motivate colleagues at all levels to work collaboratively.
Ability to build effective working relationships.	Ability to work with teams across the organisations in the project.
Experience of utilising communication skills	Ability to work with a range of people adapting actions to meet their needs.
Aptitude to learn from others and follow a structured learning programme.	
Ability to work outdoors in all weathers, sometimes in exposed sites.	

General / Other

Essential	Desirable
Good timekeeping skills and able to prioritise time effectively.	
The postholder will be expected to undertake flexible working patterns and may be asked to work evenings and weekends occasionally, for which time off in lieu will be taken.	

General

The list above is not exhaustive; this role profile sets out the duties of the post at the time it was drawn up. Such details may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the duties or the level of responsibility involved.



Safeguarding Children & Adults at Risk

The Council has a Safeguarding Policy which outlines its responsibilities and the responsibilities of its employees. All employees need to be aware of this Policy and comply with the contents.

Equalities, Diversity & Inclusion

The Council has an Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion policy which outlines its commitment to creating a culture that respects and values each other's differences, promotes dignity, equality, diversity, and inclusion, encourages individuals to develop and maximise their true potential and combats prejudice, discrimination, and harassment.

Staff Code of Conduct

The public, our communities, customers, and colleagues are entitled to expect the highest standards of conduct from all people working for the Councils. The Code of Conduct sets out the general standards of conduct expected of everyone working for the Councils.

Climate Change

Contribute to the Council's corporate objectives in relation to climate change by considering the environmental impact of individual and collective actions, working to reduce resource and energy use, minimise waste, and anticipate and enhance the efficiency of services in response to a changing climate, wherever possible, to help the council reduce its own carbon footprint and that of the district.