

Job Description

Job Title:	A Wilder Walkmill Apprentice
Specific Work Location:	WCRT office is in Keswick, Cumbria (but work will be focused at Walkmill Woods near Whitehaven)
Contract Type:	18 months apprenticeship scheme
Salary:	Apprenticeship wage £5.28 (age 16-18)/£5.28 per hour (19 or over) for the first 12 months followed by national minimum wage for the second year (6 months) of the apprenticeship. £7.49 (age 18 – 20) £10.18 age 21 to 22 and £10.42 (Age 23 or over)
Post reports to:	Apprenticeship Training Officer
Hours:	Full time - 35 hours per week (1 day home/office working on college work)

Job Purpose and Summary

To carry out practical ‘hands on’ conservation works at Walkmill Community Woodland and other catchments throughout Cumbria. To gain relevant qualifications in countryside, environmental and land based management studies – The Countryside Worker Qualification - in partnership with Askham Bryan College.

<https://www.askham-bryan.ac.uk/courses/countryside-worker-apprenticeship-level-2/>

As part of the scheme you will be expected to go the Askham Bryan College campus in York for a week at a time at set times of the year. You will also get the opportunity to work with other rivers trusts in Cumbria as well as the Environment Agency, Natural England, the Forestry England and the Lake District National Park, among others.

The post holder will:

- Carry out conservation work and projects to maintain and improve Walkmill Community Woodland and the surrounding area for people and wildlife;
- Be responsible, together with other staff, for the care, maintenance and safe use of shared vehicles, tools, plant and equipment;
- Ensure their work sites are left in a better condition through the conservation activities carried out;
- To gain relevant experience sufficient for assessment against recognised qualifications (Apprenticeship in the Countryside Worker Qualification);
- To work positively with their team mates, other staff, partner organisations, volunteers and contractors whilst carrying out conservation activities;
- To assist other staff when required;

- Ensure the highest standards of quality is achieved in all duties carried out;
- Communicate effectively within the team, with other rivers trusts and partner organisations;
- Conduct all activities in a manner to promote good external relations and a positive image of the organisations;
- Be responsible for meeting performance targets as set by the Apprentice Training Officer and Askham Bryan College
- Making presentations as required to Staff, Trustees and other organisations;
- Contributing to other Trusts projects and activities as required;
- Undertaking general clerical duties associated with the post;
- Assisting with other work as appropriate and when available.

Job Specification

You will receive on the job training from the WCRT Apprenticeship Training Officer (and sometimes other WCRT staff) in relevant tasks including tree planting, tree felling, hedge laying, drystone walling and wetland creation. Course work will be completed when visiting Askham Bryan College in York, which will happen 7 times over the 18-month course. Other training such as chainsaws, brushcutter and pesticides will be delivered at NPTC training sites across Cumbria.

Health and Safety

All duties and activities are to be carried out in accordance with the Trust and Partners' Health and Safety policies and procedures.

Working relationships

Post holder reports to: A Wilder Walkmill Apprenticeship Training Officer

Other key working relationships: Askham Bryan College; Walkmill Parish Council and Walkmill Activity Group; Lake District National Park Authority; Eden Rivers Trust; South Cumbria Rivers Trust.

Person Specification

Experience

The post holder will be expected to have a passion for the environment and be actively seeking a career in the environmental sector. Apprentices should have Level 1 Maths and English, equivalent to GCSE Grade 2 (old GCSE Grade E) or above. Apprentices will be expected to work towards Level 2 Maths and English where this has not been achieved.

Desirable Skills

- Physically fit with the desire to learn;
- The ability to use machinery and equipment including chainsaws;
- Good verbal and written communication skills;
- Pro-active with the ability to work on own initiative, independently and as part of a team;
- Ability to organise personal work programmes and meet deadlines;
- General IT skills and desktop publishing;

Personal Qualities

- Committed to the environment and conservation ;
- Dedicated, adaptable and flexible to your approach to work;
- Enthusiastic with an ability to inspire and motivate others;
- Imaginative, inventive and able to turn ideas into action;
- The ability to deal with a wide variety of people in a friendly and professional manner;
- Ability to work under pressure and to deadlines.

