Forestry Pre-Apprenticeship

Carsphairn Community Woodland

December 2025

Carsphairn Community Woodland manages a 49-hectare mixed woodland on behalf of the local community. Based at Muirdrochwood, near Carsphairn, the woodland provides affordable firewood and aims to improve access for locals. CCW wants to encourage young people to learn new skills and get involved in the woodland and in the wider forestry sector. We are looking for an intern to come and join us on an employed basis.

Carsphairn Community Woodland Pre-Apprentice Job Description

This 6-month placement provides an excellent opportunity to learn modern community forestry practices and gain valuable skills in the industry. The Forestry Pre-apprentice will provide general support to Forest Management staff in their everyday duties. Where appropriate, this will likely include but not be limited to:

- Supporting harvesting operations, collecting, processing and delivering firewood. Assisting with identifying tree species, pruning, brashing, cutting and felling and working with log splitter.

- Supporting planting & restocking operations by collecting seeds, growing trees in the polycrub and tree planting.

- Carrying out forest maintenance operations. Where appropriate, this might include strimmer and flail mower work, chainsaw cutting, axes and pole saws, tractor winch and hand tools.

- Developing Woodland Management Skills, to include:
  - Path creation
  - Fencing
  - Planting

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  - Re-spacing
  - Wildlife Management
  - Timber production
  - Tree Nursery Management
  - Basic knots
  - Machinery tickets

- Other activities will likely include:
  - Adhering to health and safety protocol in the woodland
  - First Aid Forestry training
  - Adhering to current climate change policies
  - Following traditional silviculture practices e.g. thinning, continuous cover
  - Identification of tree species and other wildlife
  - Identification of pests, diseases and wildlife
  - Awareness of wildlife habitats within woodlands
  - Shadowing the Forest Supervisor in day-to-day woodland management.

The post holder may be required to work flexible hours, where necessary, to meet the demands of the post. Time off in lieu will be given.

Key qualities required of the successful candidate:

- Practical can-do attitude - a problem solver, not problem finder.
- Experience of and desire to work outdoors.
- Comfortable working alone or as part of a small team.
- Prepared to take part in job related training.
- Prepared to engage with publicity about the Pre-apprenticeship
- Committed to the timescale of the 6-month Pre-apprenticeship.

Base location: Carsphairn Community Woodland

- 37.5 hours / week
- Employment status: Employee
- Employed by Carsphairn Community Woodland Ltd.
- 6-month contract.
- Holiday: 30 days pro rata (15 days)

From time to time, the candidate will be required to work outside normal office hours. Working times will be arranged with the line manager, and any subsequent changes will be by mutual agreement.