

Countryside Skills



Core technical qualifications (you will study both qualifications)

ABC Awards Level 2 Award in Sustainability and the Renewables Industry

ABC Awards Level 1 Diploma in Practical Countryside Skills

What will you be learning?

- Learning will be based around developing an understanding of conservation and the environment through the development of countryside and horticultural skills in a practical setting.
- Modules studied include Teamwork in the Environment, Health and Safety, Traditional Fencing Construction, Footpaths, Site Design and Construction and Woodland Management, Plant Propagation, Landscaping, Site Management and Understanding Conservation & Environment issues.
- In addition we will aim to introduce learners to the production of traditional rural craft skills.
- Developing knowledge and skills related to the development of alternative, sustainable and renewable energy.

Methods of assessment

- The course is practical in nature so assessment is evidence based.
- Students will be expected to create a portfolio with written, photographic and video based documents demonstrating a critical understanding of all the elements of the course.
- Students will build their knowledge of Environmental and Conservation issues, woodland management and rural craft skills.

What are lessons like?

- Lessons are led by Mr James Mitchell, an experienced woodsman who has a wealth of experience in managing rural locations but especially in forestry areas.
 - James has many of the woodland skills which are becoming rare and the pupils will be learning many of these by working with traditional hand tools such as spades, mattocks,
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loppers, forks, handheld and pruning saws, rakes, trowels, with a high emphasis on learning while doing.

- The majority of lessons will be outside on the 'Woodland Site' and other designated woodland areas around the school site. Students will also be involved in a few 'Live Projects' working with a range of 'Professional External Partners'.
- Students are expected to work in all weather conditions, safety permitting, and will need suitable clothing.
- Some of the lessons can be quite physically demanding.
- Specific lessons will be in classrooms for developing the portfolios and looking at the environmental and conservation issues.
- This is a very exciting time for our subject as we have the opportunity to design and develop designated areas of our school site – students will have a lasting impact on our learning environment.

How will we work with employers and the community?

- We have established a professional working relationship with Wildsmith Hotels, and specifically - Hipping Hall. This opportunity provides students with access to a number of 'live' assignments to design and build within the grounds of the hotel. We also expose students to a range of professional partners including: Woodland Trust, Natural England, and in addition we have links with Newton Rigg College, and Scotland's Rural College who support student's future pathways.

Where can this pathway lead?

A variety of career options in: Environment and Forestry Management, Farming and Landscape, Conservation, Horticulture, Landscape Design, the Sustainability and Renewables Industry & Build and Rural Craft Skills.