

Skills for Rewilding

Deer Management and Estate Maintenance Traineeship

Trees for Life are recruiting one deer management and estate maintenance trainee, to be based at the Dundreggan Estate near Loch Ness. Management of deer on the estate is an important component in assisting the recovery of the ancient Caledonian forest. Deer management in this case means reducing the number of deer to a level where there is a balance between the deer continuing to fulfil their vital role within the ecosystem and them preventing recovery of the forest. The trainee will learn management and monitoring techniques associated with finding that balance from the deer manager, who has 30 years' experience. In addition, the trainee will learn practical estate maintenance skills that are relevant to someone going on to work in a deer management role.

Traineeship experience and learning

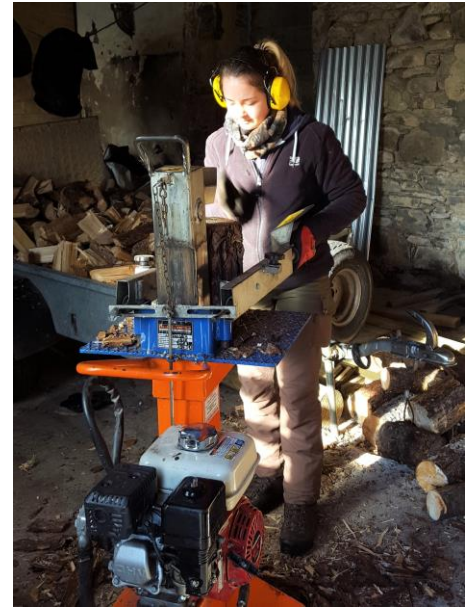
- Deer biology
- Habitats and animal movements
- Firearms handling and ballistics
- Deer stalking and shooting
- Larder work and food hygiene
- Herbivore impact assessments
- Deer counts and setting cull targets
- Animal health and diseases
- Plant and tree identification
- All-terrain vehicle certification
- Chainsaw certification
- Tool use and maintenance



- Four days a week learning by doing.
- One day a week independent study towards a Deer Stalking Certificate Level 1 and compiling a portfolio of evidence.
- There will be opportunities to go on work placements with external organisations to make links with potential future employers and to increase knowledge about deer management and estate maintenance. In addition, there will be crossover with activities on the other traineeships. There will also be an opportunity to gain a first aid qualification and health and safety/risk assessment training will be provided.

Desirable attributes for this traineeship include being:

- Passionate about the environment
- Interested in land management
- Willing to learn
- Level headed
- Physically fit, or willing to get fitter
- Patient
- Careful
- Reliable
- Trustworthy and honest
- Good attention to detail
- Hardworking
- Responsible
- Good social skills
- Team worker
- Good timekeeping
- High level of common sense
- Practically inclined
- Flexible (happy to help with whatever needs doing)
- Willing to work in cold/hot, wet or midge conditions



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