

# Trees for Life

## 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:

- Habitats and animal movements
- Deer biology
- Firearms handling and ballistics
- 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
- Deer stalking and shooting



## Desirable attributes for this traineeship include

- Passionate about the environment
- Interested in land management
- Willing to learn
- Level headed and patient
- Physically fit, or willing to get fitter
- Proactive in seeking opportunities
- Safety conscious
- Reliable and responsible
- Trustworthy and honest
- Good attention to detail
- Hardworking
- Able to follow instructions
- 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



## How you'll spend your time

- 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.

If pandemic restrictions allow, there may 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.

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Image credit: Ewen Weatherspoon