



Ribble Life
Together



River Conservation Apprenticeship

Job Title:	River Conservation Apprentice
Purpose:	To support the delivery of Ribble Life Together and undertake a practical apprenticeship leading to a nationally recognised qualification.
Reports to:	Volunteer Supervisor
Location:	Clitheroe
Hours:	37.5 hours per week (including release to Craven College for classroom learning)
Salary:	NMW for apprentices
Contract:	24month fixed term contract (TBC)

The Ribble Rivers Trust (RRT) is the lead partner in the Ribble Life Together project, which as a catchment scale project is delivering a range of activities to improve the condition, management and awareness of the Ribble Catchment. The project brings together over 20 stakeholder and interest groups to develop and deliver a catchment action plan that will bring immediate and lasting benefits for people and the environment.

In developing the core activities of the project, the Ribble Life Partnership has identified the need to engage more widely with residents in the catchment and to involve and educate new and younger people in practical catchment management.

As such RRT is looking to recruit two River Conservation Apprentices who will be involved in both physical conservation projects such as fencing, tree planting, fish pass maintenance and litter clean ups, and activities that inform, engage and inspire people to be more actively involved in looking after their local environment, such as guided walks about projects that have been delivered.

The apprenticeships will start in September 2017 and will last for two years. They will provide work-based training with the employing organisations and trainees will study qualifications in both Horticulture (Landscape Operative) and Environmental Conservation at Craven College. Apprentices will also gain a range of certificated skills which are vital in land-based industries and will be assisted with the costs of transport to training.



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Job Description

1. Completing an Environmental Conservation qualification:

The vocational qualification will be assessed at work and at college. Attendance at college will be an average of two days a month throughout the scheme. A timetable will be set before the start of the course and may vary seasonally.

Trainee progress will be monitored on a three-monthly basis by college staff, employer and RRT staff. They will visit the workplace and talk to apprentices and supervisors. This meeting will give the opportunity to discuss the training and any concerns.

2. Working under the Volunteer Supervisor and with volunteers to deliver practical catchment management projects within the catchment. The practical aspects may include:

- Signposting, waymarking and maintenance of footpaths on walk routes
- River clean-ups, maintenance and in-channel improvements, e.g. brash bundles
- Vegetation and invasive species control and management
- Construction and repair of footbridges, stiles, gates, fences, interpretation boards and signs
- Dry stone walling, laying cobbles, paved ways and concreting
- Construction and repair of culverts, drain laying
- Fencing, hedging, ditching and drainage maintenance
- Tree planting and wetland creation
- Use of powered tools and equipment, e.g. brush cutters or chainsaws
- Caretaking, maintenance and cleaning of RRT projects, e.g. fish pass projects,
- Communicating with visitors, community groups and volunteers
- Adhering to all health and safety rules and regulations

3. Engaging with the community:

- Attending events
- Speaking to volunteers
- Supporting other RLT projects, e.g. Rivers in the Classroom,
- Going back in to your former school or college to talk to students about the benefits of joining an apprentice scheme

4. Undertaking any other duties, which the Volunteer Supervisor may reasonably request

The role will be based principally within RRT offices in Clitheroe, but will be expected to work across the catchment. Transport to sites will be provided but apprentices will be expected to make their own way to the main place of work each morning.



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Person Specification

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications		
Minimum GCSE Grade C English and Maths	✓	
Willingness to train and study for Level 2 Diploma and additional training opportunities provided	✓	
Experience		
No previous work experience necessary but an aptitude for practical work desirable		
Personal qualities		
Self-motivation, commitment and initiative	✓	
Good interpersonal skills and the ability to get on well with other members of the team.	✓	
Able to communicate well with other staff and the general public.		✓
Strong interest in learning practical conservation/field skills	✓	
Capable of demonstrating initiative in dealing with unforeseen circumstances	✓	
Willingness to work hard to complete the practical parts of the traineeship	✓	
A level of physical fitness appropriate to the post	✓	
A keen interest in and a firm commitment to, countryside conservation and the aims of the organisations	✓	
Driving licence		✓