



Skills England

Standard Draft Preview

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Standard in development L2: Countryside worker Version 2.0

Title of occupation

Countryside worker

UOS reference number

ST0408

Core and options

No

Level of occupation

Level 2

Occupational maps data

Route: Agriculture, environmental and animal care

Pathway: Agriculture, Land Management and Production

Cluster: Environment technician

Typical duration of apprenticeship

18 months

Target date for approval

01/09/2025

Resubmission

No

Would your proposed apprenticeship standard replace an existing framework?

No

Does professional recognition exist for the occupation?

No

Regulated occupation

Is this a statutory regulated occupation?

No

Occupational summary

This occupation is found in places like National Parks, nature reserves, and private estates. Countryside Workers also work for organisations like Wildlife Trusts and the National Trust.

The broad purpose of the occupation is to perform environmental and conservation tasks to protect, conserve and restore landscapes, habitats and ecosystems. Countryside Workers carry out sustainable practices and engage with users of the countryside and enhance the experience of the public using it. Daily tasks include building and fixing fences, walls, and

hedges, maintaining access routes, and managing land for wildlife by managing native and invasive species.

Countryside Workers monitor habitats and wildlife to understand species numbers and adjust management practices accordingly.

In their daily work, an employee in this occupation interacts with team members, volunteers, and the public, usually reporting to a supervisor like a ranger or site manager.

Countryside Workers will be responsible for ensuring conservation efforts align with farming, landscape and historic environment interests, recreational activities like fishing and shooting, and public access to the countryside. They work outdoors in various locations and weather conditions, both alone and in teams, throughout the year.

Typical job titles

Access ranger

Assistant ranger

Countryside worker 

Estate worker

Field operative

Maintenance ranger

Site warden

Volunteer leader

Are there any statutory / regulatory or other typical entry requirements?

No

Occupation duties

DUTY	KSBS
<p>Duty 1 Build and repair field boundaries including fences, walls and hedging.</p>	<p>K1 K2</p> <p>S1 S2</p> <p>B1 B2 B6</p>
<p>Duty 2 Maintain pathways or public access for walkers, cyclists and horse riders.</p>	<p>K3 K4</p> <p>S3 S7</p> <p>B1 B2 B6</p>
<p>Duty 3 Use surveys to monitor flora, fauna and habitats and to assist in determining approaches to access management.</p>	<p>K5 K6</p> <p>S4 S5</p> <p>B1 B2 B6</p>
<p>Duty 4 Identify and manage habitats and vegetation in accordance with management plans.</p>	<p>K7</p> <p>S6 S8</p> <p>B1 B2 B6</p>
<p>Duty 5 Maintain and construct site furniture.</p>	<p>K8 K9</p> <p>S9</p> <p>B1 B2</p>
<p>Duty 6 Select and perform maintenance on tools and equipment in accordance with manufacturer recommendations.</p>	<p>K10 K11</p> <p>S10</p> <p>B1 B2</p>
<p>Duty 7 Liaise with the internal and external stakeholders using face to face interaction, electronic communication and telephone.</p>	<p>K12 K13 K14 K19</p> <p>S17</p> <p>B1 B2 B3 B5</p>
<p>Duty 8 Work safely, following rules and regulations to protect self, colleagues and the public.</p>	<p>K15 K16 K17</p> <p>S11 S12 S13</p> <p>B1 B2 B4</p>

Duty 9 Keep up to date with advances in working practices and technologies.	K18 K19 K20 K21 K25 K26 S14 B1 B2 B6
Duty 10 Identify how to integrate environmental conservation with other land use interests and the legislation that applies.	K22 K23 K24 S15 S16 B1 B2 B6

KSBs

Knowledge

K1: How the different types of boundaries, including hedges, fences, walls, relate to their location and usage.

K2: How the management of boundaries varies depending on their function and on local and regional factors for example geology, soil type, climate change and traditional style.

K3: The legal status of access, including Public Rights of Way and land designated as Open Access.

K4: The different types of path surfaces and structures and the suitability of these for different areas and usage.

K5: How to identify British native and non-native flora and fauna including invasive plants, their lifecycle and how they are considered during habitat management work.

K6: Techniques used to carry out surveys and how they are used to inform decisions on habitat, species, or access management in a specific location.

K7: Habitat and vegetation management techniques, how their suitability varies depending on the locality and how they are used to promote conservation.

K8: British standards that apply to constructing site furniture locally and how appropriate adaptations might be made depending on the topography, the geographical location and local style.

K9: How to construct or maintain site furniture using sustainable materials where possible.

K10: How to maintain and use hand tools and powered tools for example chainsaws and brushcutters.

K11: How to safely handle and apply pesticides and the alternative methods for pest control that minimise environmental impact.

K12: How to identify a health and safety or environmental issue and how to report it in accordance with organisational and legal procedures.

K13: Ways of communicating with the public through social media to promote work.

K14: Styles and methods of communicating with colleagues, volunteers and visitors using site interpretation, face to face interaction, electronic communication and telephone.

K15: Safe manual handling practices, when personal protective equipment should be worn.

K16: How to write risk assessments to mitigate risks to the public and themselves.

K17: Practical first aid techniques for use in outdoor situations.

K18: How to construct water control measures to slow the flow of water to reduce erosional impact from increased rainfall, for example water deflector, sluice or leaky dam, using local sustainable materials.

K19: How to navigate in the countryside using a map and compass, satellite navigation and global positioning systems and how to use digital maps in a work context.

K20: How severe and frequent weather events, including those caused by climate change, impact the countryside, including habitats, flora, fauna, and water levels, and how management practices can be adapted to lessen the impact at local and national levels.

K21: Environmental best practice and the importance of using products from the local area or from sustainable sources.

K22: How conservation work complements and interacts with other land management uses and interests, for example recreation, archaeology and historic environment, game keeping, tourism, estate management, farming or forestry.

K23: How legislation governs the use and protection of the countryside and ecosystems, and how to apply this legislation in practice at both local and national levels.

K24: The environmental impact of conservation work, including, the use of vehicles, fuel for machinery and dealing with waste materials, and how to sustainably improve working practices to benefit the environment.

K25: Digital technology and digital systems and associated GDPR and cyber security policies and procedures.

K26: Methods to identify and undertake learning and continuing professional development opportunities.

Skills

S1: Construct or repair boundaries using different fencing types, for example post and rail, stock fencing or walls using local and natural materials.

S2: Establish new hedging or manage existing hedging.

S3: Construct or maintain suitably drained access ways using appropriate materials.

- S4:** Identify British flora and fauna both native and non-native to the specific local area, for example, commonly seen birds, mammals, insects, herbs, flowers, trees or fungi, to determine the appropriate habitat management needed.
- S5:** Carry out surveys which inform site management plans and work plans.
- S6:** Use of brushcutters to clear vegetation.
- S7:** Manage habitats and vegetation using specialist techniques and tools appropriate to the task and conservation requirements, dependant on seasonality, for example, strimming pathways, using pesticides, managing trees and hedgerows, and eradicating invasive species.
- S8:** Use chainsaws for felling trees up 380mm and cross-cut timber.
- S9:** Construct or maintain site furniture for access and interpretation, for example, bridges, gates, stiles, boardwalks, signs/waymarks or information boards using sustainable materials where possible.
- S10:** Carry out pre use safety checks of hand tools and powered tools.
- S11:** Produce and apply dynamic risk assessments.
- S12:** Identify and apply safe working practices, including manual handling, and use personal protective equipment in accordance with manufacturer guidelines.
- S13:** Apply practical first aid techniques in outdoor situations.
- S14:** Construct water control measures to slow the flow of water to reduce erosional impact from increased rainfall, for example water deflector, sluice or leaky dam, using local sustainable materials.
- S15:** Minimise negative environmental impact by following workplace policies when selecting and using vehicles, fuelling machinery and dealing with waste materials.
- S16:** Use digital technology and systems in accordance with GDPR and cyber security policies and procedures.
- S17:** Adapts behaviour and communication style to suit the audience for example colleagues, volunteers, visitors, landowners, other professionals and the public.

Behaviours

- B1:** Positively embraces working outdoors in the countryside and environment, undertaking practical tasks in all weathers.
- B2:** Demonstrates a strong work ethic including commitment, diligence and pride in doing a job well.
- B3:** Works independently and in a team environment, building positive relationships with colleagues and volunteers.
- B4:** Promotes safe working practices for themselves and others.

B5: Respectful of others and promotes equity, diversity and inclusion with the team.

B6: Considers the impact on the environment when using resources and carrying out work.

Qualifications

English and maths

English and maths qualifications must be completed in line with the apprenticeship funding rules.

Does the apprenticeship need to include any mandated qualifications in addition to the above-mentioned English and maths qualifications?

Yes

Other mandatory qualifications

an award or training and assessment in first aid at work +F or forestry first aid +F or forestry first aid minimum 1 day course (face-to-face), carried out by either an awarding organisation, a UKAS accredited trade body or voluntary aid society recognised by government as specified in HSE document GEIS 3.

Level: 2

Additional information: Please refer to the Awarding Organisation to confirm if English and maths is an essential component of any mandatory qualification.

a level 2 qualification in chainsaw maintenance and cross cutting

Level: 2

Additional information: Lantra awards Level 2 Award In chainsaw Maintenance and Cross Cutting (600/5701/4) or City & Guilds NPTC Level 2 Award in Chainsaw Maintenance and Cross Cutting (600/6161/3). Please refer to the Awarding Organisation to confirm if English and maths is an essential component of any mandatory qualification.

a level 2 qualification in felling

Level: 2

Additional information: Lantra awards Level 2 Awards in Felling and Processing trees up to 380mm (600/5703/8) or City and Guilds NPTC Level 2 Certificate of Competence in felling small trees up to 380mm (603/7354/4). Please refer to the Awarding Organisation to confirm if English and maths is an essential component of any mandatory qualification.

a level 2 qualification in the safe use of brushcutters and trimmers qualification

Level: 2

Additional information: Lantra Awards Technical Award in Brushcutters/Trimmers – (training with assessment) or City & Guilds NPTC Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Brush-cutters and

Trimmers (601/1299/2). Please refer to the Awarding Organisation to confirm if English and maths is an essential component of any mandatory qualification.

a level 2 qualification in the use of pesticides

Level: 2

Additional information: Lantra Awards Level 2 Award in the Safe Application of Pesticide using Hand Held Equipment (601/6562/5) (PA1 and PA6a combined) Or Lantra awards Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Pesticides (PA1) (601/5977/7) and Lantra Level 2 Safe Use of Pesticides and Hand Held Applicators (without safe use) (601/6562/5) (PA6a) or City & Guilds NPTC Level 2 Principles of Safe Handling and Application of Pesticides (PA1) and City & Guilds NPTC Level 2 Award in the Safe Application of Pesticides Using Pedestrian Hand Held Equipment (PA6a). Please refer to the Awarding Organisation to confirm if English and maths is an essential component of any mandatory qualification.



Consultation

Progression routes

ST0926 Countryside ranger V1.3 L4

Supporting uploads

Mandatory qualification uploads

-  ST0408_standard_off-the-job-type-2-evidence_Countryside Worker mand qual evidence.docx
-  ST0408_standard_regulatory-requirements-evidence_ST1323_standard_regulatory-requirements-evidence_Code_of_Practice_for_using_Plant_Protection_Products_-_Complete20Code.pdf

Mandated degree evidence uploads

Professional body confirmation uploads

Subject sector area

3.4 Environmental conservation