

Future Custodians Case Study: The Apprentices



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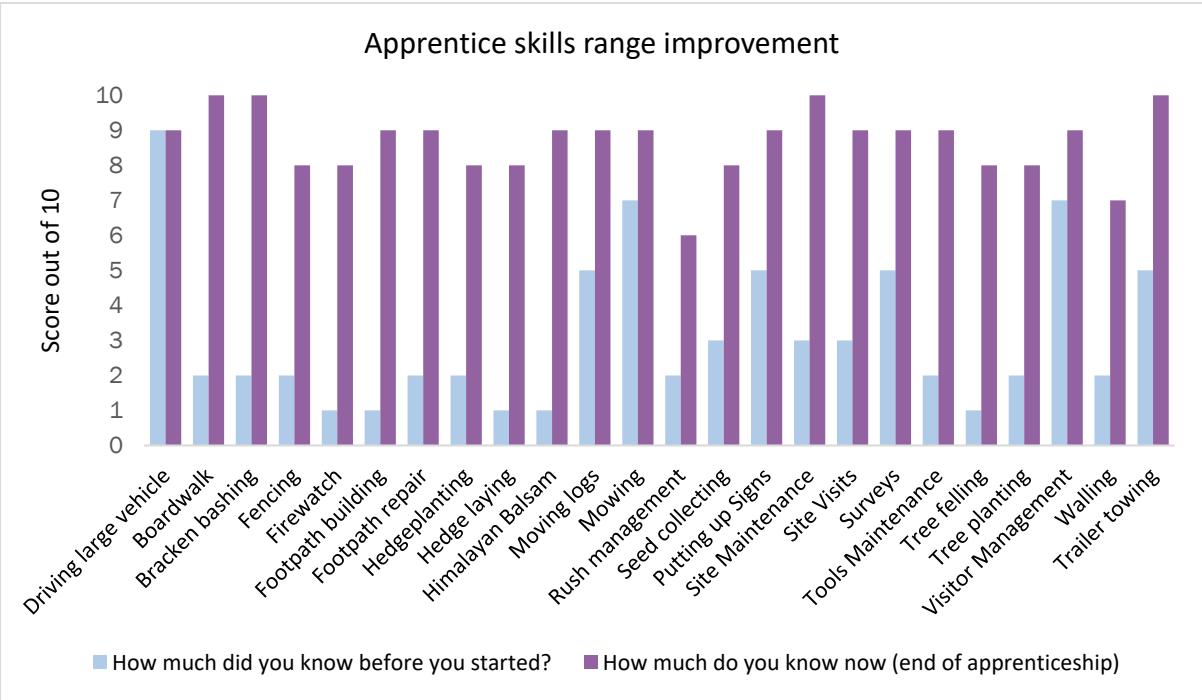
Countryside Worker Apprentices – first cohort

Emily was the first apprentice to complete her apprenticeship and gain employment with the National Trust at Shugborough, later moving to a new ranger role at Harwick Hall in Derbyshire. During her apprenticeship she worked at Lyme Park another National Trust site, and used many of the skills she trained for including chainsaw use and pesticides. Lyme Park staff also trained the apprentices how to install deer fencing and split larch fencing. One member of staff there was a mentor for Emily.



Emily felt her skills dramatically improve over the year she trained with the South West Peak Landscape Partnership.

Emily digging a hole ready to install a gate



Lloyd began his apprenticeship with very few practical skills. He was an enthusiastic worker throughout his apprenticeship, impressing many partners and project officers. He had a mentor at Severn Trent Water and was offered extra courses e.g. sit in all terrain vehicle, because he worked there as part of his apprenticeship and as a volunteer.



“The most valuable aspect of the apprenticeship was being given the opportunity to gain experience with different organisations.

This allowed me to gain an insight into the aims of other bodies and how organisations can work collaboratively to achieve shared goals.

I would like to thank Helen Betts and the South West Peak team for all the help and advice I was given during my apprenticeship, which was greatly appreciated and has proved to be invaluable in my current role.”

Lloyd collecting wildflower seed with the Glorious Grasslands project

Rob gained many skills while he was with the Future Custodians project. Rob was excellent at site and grounds maintenance but needed more support in learning new tasks.



Rob spreading heather brash with the Moors for the Future Partnership

Countryside Worker Apprentices – second cohort

Matt came to the project with many carpentry skills already and improved on these throughout his time with Future Custodians. He was always the first to volunteer to work with the Countryside Maintenance and Projects Team (CMPT) at the Peak District National Park when opportunity arose and was offered a one year contract with the team when he completed his apprenticeship.



“The apprenticeship was a brilliant opportunity and fully equipped me to enter the land-based sector, which is where I now work. Thanks SWPLP!”

Matt hanging a gate on a stone pillar, with the Countryside Maintenance & Projects Team.

Dan was a very motivated worker, excellent at leading groups and supporting his colleagues.



“This opportunity put my life back on track to getting a career and a lifestyle I love. It's been great working with the SWP, such a great opportunity and I feel so lucky to have had it. It's given me an amazing kick-start to my career. It's upsetting thinking about having to leave the team after having such a great time over the last year. Hopefully, in the future I'll be able to work with everyone again, but for now I feel I have to take the job offers I've received to progress my career.”

Dan sitting on a section of dry stone wall he is building

Jasmin started to work on a farm at weekends after the DART Trainer arranged for the Countryside Apprentices to have an off job training day helping with Tb testing the cattle. The farm then offered Jasmin a full time job.



“My experience on this apprenticeship was amazing. It gave me a focus and a way to change career which is what I needed and wanted out of it. Apprenticeships for older people (20+) should be promoted and encouraged. Without this apprenticeship the road to where I want to be career-wise would have been a lot longer.”

Jasmin digging a hole for a gate post

Livestock Farmer Apprentices – first cohort



First cohort of apprentices with the Vocational Training Officer on a SWP tour

Josh, a farm apprentice on a dairy farm, made the most of the money available for courses and appreciated the training. Josh attended and achieved nine different qualifications. He worked on a farm inside the South West Peak for his apprenticeship and returned to his family farm and contract work, eg trimming hedges after he had completed his training. The family were very supportive of the scheme and the pesticides PA6 training and assessment were held on their farm.

Josh said, “Yes I’ve a lot of qualifications now and putting them to good use, in particular I can trim cows’ feet and AI on my own without supervision. It was also good to go to market towing the trailer”

Josh’s parents added, “Josh does AI the cows on a regular basis so now we don’t need to have someone else to come and do this, also it has given him chance to input what breed we use on the dairy cow. He now does regular foot trimming too and records the data for farm assurance. Both are very useful courses to have done. Now that the dry weather is here, we have also done a little chainsawing on overhanging branches that have damaged fencing and walls. Thanks”

Joe Gibbs worked on his family sheep farm and learnt how to shear sheep, use a chainsaw and attended a medicine administration course. All the first group of apprentices visited Joe’s farm to see a Slowing the Flow site where trees were pulled in to the river to create pools and riffles to increase invertebrate habitat.

Livestock Farmer Apprentices – second cohort

Dan attended all but two of the training activities organised for him. He has gained foot trimming and artificial insemination qualifications. He was very shy about talking in groups but made an effort and the VTO also helped by supplying any questions he might be asked before each event so he could prepare.



Dan in his dairy

Amy was the best at attending the online training out of all the farm apprentices. She contributed well and gave positive feedback after each event but at the end of the project felt that overall the SWPLP training was not very useful, however, she did feel that the additional training courses provided were very valuable in increasing her ability to work on farm.

Will attended half a training day and did not interact with the Countryside Apprentices. From the beginning he was not very interested in conservation and unfortunately we did not manage to change his mind. Both appreciated the training on foot trimming and used the skills regularly. They received only one training course, for Will this was due to lack of attendance at SWPLP training and for Amy it was difficult for her to find time when she could leave the farm. All the farms were small, family run businesses who relied on the apprentices to complete work.



Will and Amy with their apprenticeship certificates

Will completed his apprenticeship in July 2021 and continues to work on the family farm. The farm as a whole is intensive but they are open to new ideas, have a hay meadow and took part in the small field trials. Will's attendance at training courses was good and he generally felt that the courses were useful and his skills and knowledge had increased.



Will with the family's favourite cow

Jake works on his grandparents farm and runs most of the practical work on the farm. The farm is non-certified organic and already has many conservation features. Both Jake and his Grandfather took part and contributed to training and discussions.



Jake in a telehandler

"The courses that I attended have helped me make improvements to the farm."

...seeing how different farms were working to improve conservation and what effects it had on their business"

"As employers we have been extremely pleased for Jake to have done these courses and full credit to the South West Peak. Thank you very much.

Please carry on these courses for the sake of young farmers on farms who have little else to fall back on"