

## Woodland Skills Programme FAQ's

Woodland Skills is Avon Needs Trees' new training programme, designed to increase employment opportunities for adults who want to work in the green sector.

If you require large print documents please contact:

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### What is the Woodland Skills programme?

The Woodland Skills training programme is a combination of practical on-site learning experiences and talks from industry professionals on a range of topics relating to woodland creation, tree care and land management.

It is designed to help adults who want to work with trees and woodlands to gain skills and experience that might lead to employment, training or volunteering.

Participants will be encouraged to create their own self-directed career plan. They will receive help with CV writing, interview skills and resources to support next steps into employment, volunteering or further training after completion.

Throughout the 6-month programme, there will be opportunities to meet people working in a range of jobs across the sector and/or to shadow our staff and volunteers in a range of activities relating to Woodland Creation, heritage and outreach.

## Who's it for?

**Participants suited to this programme will be:**

- Over the age of 18
- Not yet in a paid job within the green sector
- Looking to work in the green sector now or in the future
- Able to dedicate approximately 2-4 days a month to the programme (flexible times)

**We are particularly keen to hear from those who identify when any of the following:**

- Long-term unemployed people of all ages
- People having taken a career break and now looking to retrain
- 19-24 year olds out of work and/or looking for a career
- People who have volunteered with Avon Needs Trees and are looking for more
- Those who have faced barriers to accessing environmental jobs - which might be due to race, sexual orientation, child-care situations, income or disability.

## Is it accessible?

We want people to be able to participate in and around their varied other life commitments and constraints, and so

- Daytime workshops will be organised to take child-care responsibilities into consideration wherever possible
- Some learning can take place online in the evenings drawing from ANT's online events programme and archive of previous talks and presentations.
- Transport (or transport expenses) can be covered with prior agreement
- We will vary days of the week for workshops and online sessions

Some tours and training tasks can be adapted to suit access needs, although when visiting rural settings there may be constraints due to uneven ground and limited paths. If you have specific access needs please contact us to discuss how we can support you.

## How much does it cost?

The 6-month programme is free to attend, thanks to funding from West of England Combined Authority (WECA) and the generous support of all the industry experts offering their time to lead workshops.

## What does it involve?

### Course Content

**Workshops and Site visits** will happen approximately once or twice a month and will involve a mixture of tours and presentations alongside practical tasks and skills.

### Online content

Drawing from the ANT archive of talks and presentations, participants can choose to learn about pollinators, butterflies, water voles & beavers, mushrooms, foraging, ancient woodlands and the positive impact trees can have on the climate crisis.

### Shadowing opportunities

For those with specific career goals in woodland creation we may be able to provide the chance to shadow some of our staff for a day to assist in day-to-day job related tasks. This could include site inspections and maintenance surveys, heritage work, outreach at local events and leading volunteer days. Specific opportunities will be worked out with individuals once the programme is underway.

### Workshop dates and locations

Date	Workshop focus	Location
Thurs 11th January 2024	<b>Avon Needs Trees introduction:</b> Welcome group and overview of programme Possibly a tour of Great Avon Wood if time.	Bristol or Pensford
Friday 26th January 2024	<b>Forest Of Avon Trust</b> - Coppicing skills day, looking at bringing stands back into rotation	Upton Cheney * transport can be arranged
Feb 2024 Date TBC	<b>British Natural History Consortium</b> - introduction to the Festival of Nature	Bristol or online (TBC)
Thursday 8th or Friday 23rd February 2024	<b>Tree planting at Great Avon Wood</b> - A look at tree planting plans and woodland design. Tree planting demonstration, and a chance to join	Pensford

	in with tree planting tasks. - <b>TBC</b>	
Feb 2024 Dates TBC	<b>Check in calls or in person catch ups</b>	Bristol or online (TBC)
Friday 1st March 2024	<b>Bristol City Council</b> - Visit to Stokes Park to learn about managing a landscape at scale and practical tasks with a Parks ranger.	Bristol
Thurs 18th April 2024	<b>Bristol Avon Rivers Trust</b> - River sampling and invertebrate Identification. Plus career pathways.	Great Avon Wood
April 2024 Dates TBC	<b>Check in calls</b>	Bristol or online
May 2024 Date TBC	<b>National Trust</b> - Veteran Tree management and types of jobs within the National Trust.	Tyntsfield. *transport can be arranged
May 2024 Date TBC	<b>CV writing and refining / interview practice</b>	Bristol or online
1-9th June 2024	<b>British Natural History Consortium - Festival of Nature - volunteering opportunities</b> (optional)	Bristol and surrounding areas.
Thurs 20th June 2024	<b>Programme wrap up session and celebration</b>	Pensford

## Course Learning Objectives

- To increase knowledge and practical experience relating to Woodland creation, Tree care and Land management.
- To broaden understanding of environmental jobs working with trees and landscapes and learn more about career pathways in this area.
- To meet employees who are currently doing jobs relating to trees and meet possible future employers
- To brush up on CV writing and interview skills
- To create a self-directed plan of action, which might include further training you'd like to do, volunteering opportunities, and jobs you're going to apply for.

## How will success be measured?

- Each person will set a goal for the programme and self-evaluate achievements
- Attendance at the workshops will be recorded
- Short written or verbal feedback will be requested after each workshop session

- A programme evaluation form will be completed at the end of the programme or upon early-exit (especially if a job has been taken!).
- On completion, we will ask you if you'd like to keep in touch with us and let us know when you get your dream job!
- A celebration will take place at the end of the programme.

## What is expected of me?

### Participants will be required to:

- Attend workshops in various locations in and around Bristol & Avon (roughly once or twice a month and usually on a weekday)
- Attend online sessions (roughly once a month - there will be a mix of daytime and evening, or you can watch recordings in your own time)
- Direct your own learning and development by selecting opportunities that match your career inspirations
- Try new activities and tasks
- Check in with Programme Coordinator every other month. (20 mins phone call)
- Provide feedback on the workshops and complete an evaluation at the end of the programme.

## What will I get out of it?

Like most things, the more you put in, the more you'll get out. This programme is a combination of organised workshops and time at home developing your own job interests and preparing for applying to forthcoming vacancies.

By attending the monthly workshop sessions, you will finish the programme with a greater understanding of employment options available in the Green sector. You will come away with new knowledge and skills that can be applied to various job roles, and you will receive resources to help you take your next steps into employment.

## When will it happen?

Avon Needs Trees' **Woodland Skills** programme will run throughout 2024.

**Group 1:** January - June 2024

**Group 2:** July- December 2024

There will be one or two workshops a month, usually on a Thursday or Friday with some opportunities to join online evening talks and weekend events.

We can host groups at our office space in Gloucester Road, Bristol, at our woodland sites and we will be arranging visits to other local sites across the Bristol-Avon area too.

## How do I apply?

Application is through a short application form that is made up of some multiple choice questions. You will be asked to give your name, email address, phone number and postcode, which will only be used for the purpose of the application. For more information about how we process and store your data, you can read our [privacy policy](#).

You will also be asked to answer the following questions:

- 1) Why would you like to apply for a free place on this course?
- 2) What would you hope to get out of this?
- 3) Why is it the right time for you?

For each question, you can answer in up to 1200 characters, which is approximately 250 words

We would be grateful if you would complete an anonymous equalities form when you apply.

## How will participants be selected?

Applications will be scored against the priority groups, the area you live in, and your intention to gain employment in the green sector. After this initial filtering, applications may be assessed according to the answers in the three questions listed above. All applicants must be over the age of 18 to be considered for a place on the course.

## When's the deadline?

For the course starting in January 2024, the deadline for applications is: **Wednesday 6th December at 5pm 2023.**

Successful applicants will be notified by 21st December 2023.

For the course starting in July 2024, applicants will be able to apply in April 2024.

## Who to contact

If you have questions about the programme or the application process, please contact: Debs Hoy, Volunteer & Skills Coordinator by email:

[volunteer@avonneedstreets.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@avonneedstreets.org.uk) or by phone: 07709 086 434