

South West Peak Landscape Partnership

Apprentice Training Provision Service Specification and Invitation to Tender

23 January 2018



SOUTH WEST PEAK
LANDSCAPE AT A CROSSROADS

www.southwestpeak.co.uk

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1. Introduction

The Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) is seeking training providers to support the training and assessment (apprenticeship) of three countryside workers and three farm workers. They will be employed from July 2018 for 18 months. In January 2020 we aim to start a further six apprentices (with the same occupational split).

2. Background

2.1 The Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) is the lead partner in the Heritage Lottery funded South West Peak Landscape Partnership Scheme (SWPLPS) which began its delivery phase in January 2017. The SWPLPS comprises 14 partners (Cheshire East Council, Cheshire Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, Farming Life Centre, Historic England, Natural England, Nature Peak District, RSPB, PDNPA, Severn Trent Water, Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Support Staffordshire and United Utilities) of which six are responsible for delivery of 18 projects, including 'Future Custodians'. Further details can be found on the partnership website www.southwestpeak.co.uk. Delivery is due to be completed at the end of 2021, at which point the partnership expects to have delivered a significant number of outputs and outcomes.

2.2 The partnership outcomes are:

Relationships

- Improved understanding and relationship between different communities (farmers, conservationists, residents, visitors, partners)

Land management

- Habitats are more diverse and more resilient
- Populations of key species are supported and more resilient
- A move towards economically and environmentally sustainable land management or 'high nature value farming'
- The landscape is managed for multiple benefits

People

- People have a stronger sense of place, they are engaging with the landscape, have better experiences, and have gained respect and understanding
- People have gained skills and knowledge about the landscape
- People value the landscape and understand the benefits it provides
- People who are currently disconnected from the landscape are supported to build a relationship

Landscape character

- Historic and built elements of the landscape are recorded, understood, valued and restored
- The distinctive mosaic of natural heritage is maintained and enhanced

2.3 PDNPA is part of a Trailblazer group of employers (led by North York Moors National Park Authority) which has been developing the Countryside Worker Apprentice Standard. The intention was to run this new standard from July 2018, but this has been delayed and it is not expected to be ready for delivery until late in 2018.

3. Future Custodians – Apprenticeship training

3.1 The intention of the Future Custodians project is to deliver farming and countryside worker

apprenticeships for 12 young people with integrated work and training programmes, with mentors drawn from across the range of partners.

3.2 The PDNPA will employ three countryside workers to work mainly in the South West Peak (SWP). The apprentices will complete work experience with many of the partners but will be under the supervision of the SWP Vocational Training Officer, also employed by the PDNPA.

3.3 The countryside workers will complete a Level 2 Diploma in Work-based Environmental Conservation and it is intended that they will also be given the opportunity to study the Level 2 Award in Business for the Environment and Land-based Sector (0070-25) with a training provider. It is hoped that PDNPA will be able to draw down money from its apprenticeship levy fund to pay the training provider for these courses.

3.4 In addition all apprentices will have the opportunity to train and achieve their chainsaw license, brushcutter licence, pesticides spraying certificate. This may be provided by the training provider or other qualified training provision.

3.5 The SWPLP aims to support the employment of three farm worker apprentices. These will be employed by individual farmers and each apprentice may work on one or two farms. The farm worker apprentices will complete a Level 2 Diploma in Agriculture/Livestock and as with the countryside workers we would like to give them the opportunity to study the Level 2 Award in Business for the Environment and Land-based Sector (0070-25) with a training provider. SWPLP will assist and facilitate service contracts between farmers, apprentices and training providers. The PDNPA will contract directly with training providers for any additional training, for example: tractor driving, ATV, and pesticide licence (please see the Form of Tender for the full list). In return for this the PDNPA requires (with farmer's consent) that it chooses half of the optional units that the apprentices will study. If farmers have any fencing, drystone walling or hedgelaying they will have an option to contract the three countryside workers to work alongside the farm apprentice for that farm.

4. Future Custodians - the Challenge

4.1 Our aim is to integrate the training of the farm apprentices and countryside worker apprentices with the intention that the next generation in the South West Peak will understand the issues that face farming and conservation and gain a range of skills to enable them to find employment in the South West Peak or nearby areas.

4.2 Ideally, all the apprentices would study together on the Level 2 Business Award for the Environment and Land Based Sector and any functional skills that are needed. Where possible the SWP Vocational Training Officer will arrange for the apprentices to spend some time working together on (for example) footpaths and boundaries on the participating farmers land. If possible the countryside workers will visit farms to gain work experience of the farming year and all six apprentices will be invited to training days on farm diversification and discussions on issues such as declining bird populations, farm pollution, bovine TB and future food security.

5. Description of the Services Required

5.1 Essential requirements

- Provide training and assessment services for Level 2 Diploma in work based Environmental Conservation and Level 2 Diploma in work based Agriculture/Livestock.
- Work with the SWP Vocational Training Officer to ensure the integration of training and work experience for farm and countryside workers.

5.2 Additional requirements

- Provide training and assessment services for Level 2 Award in Business for the Environment and Land-based Sector (0070-25).
- Provide training and assessment in NPTC courses including:
 - o Chainsaw maintenance, cross cutting and felling up to 380mm
 - o Pesticides training including PA1, PA2, PA6 and PA6inj
 - o Tractor driving
 - o Brush-cutting and strimming
 - o All-terrain vehicle

(PDNPA reserves the right to request other courses from time to time).

6. Budget

6.1 The funding band for Level 2 Diploma in work based Environmental Conservation and Level 2 Diploma in work based Agriculture/Livestock is currently £1,500 for each apprentice. The PDNPA is a levy paying employer and aims to draw down from the levy to pay for the training of the countryside workers. Farmers will claim 90% of the training costs from government and the SWPLP will pay the remaining 10% for the farm workers, plus any additional costs of training and NPTC courses.

6.2 The maximum budget for the essential requirements is £18,000 (including expenses but excluding VAT). Proposals which exceed this value will not be considered. There is an additional budget of up to £41,000 in respect of the additional requirements.

7. Timeline

06 February 2018 (1700): Deadline for submission of tenders

w/c 06 February 2018: Tender evaluation (and points of clarification if required)

w/c 19 February 2018: Inception meeting (Contract Commencement)

8. Scope of contract

It is intended that the contract will comprise the following packages:

1. Package 1: July 2018-December 2019 – contract with the PDNPA for training of 3 countryside workers and contract with farmers for training of 3 farm workers;
2. Package 2: January 2020-July 2021 - contract with the PDNPA for training of 3 countryside workers and contract with farmers for training of 3 farm workers;
3. Package 3: July 2018-July 2021 – contract with PDNPA for provision of additional courses (see paragraph 5 above) on a call-off basis.

9. Location and delivery of contract

It is expected that training will be provided within a reasonable travelling distance from the working location of the apprentices, i.e. Staffordshire Moorlands, Cheshire East and Derbyshire High Peak.

10. Health and Safety

The training provider will be responsible for the health and safety of all apprentices during service provision.