



Outdoor Learning Trainee

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| JOB TITLE | Outdoor Learning Trainee |
| EMPLOYER | The Ernest Cook Trust |
| JOB LOCATION | Downham, Lancashire - moving to Preston, Lancashire (Autumn/ Winter 2024) |
| HOURS | 0.8 FTE (28 hours per week) (working pattern by agreement with line manager) Fixed term until 31 March 2026 |
| SALARY | £20,821 (pro-rata) |
| REPORTS TO | Outdoor Learning Officer |

The Ernest Cook Trust

The Ernest Cook Trust is an educational charity and one of the UK's foremost providers and funders of Outdoor Learning. Our vision is for an **environmentally engaged society with better connections to nature**.

Our mission is to improve the life chances of children and young people through a range of Outdoor Learning experiences, enabling them to learn from nature, empowering them to have a positive impact on the environment. We do this through grant support, direct delivery, research and advocacy.

This role is a great opportunity to play an important part in facilitating our Outdoor Learning experiences across Lancashire, in partnership with The Forest of Bowland National Landscape team.

Forest of Bowland National Landscape

The Forest of Bowland National Landscape was designated in 1964 with a primary purpose to conserve and enhance 800 square kilometres of important upland landscape within Lancashire and North Yorkshire. A National Landscape is designated and protected under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, with protection further enhanced by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

The National Landscape is managed by a partnership of landowners, farmers, voluntary organisations, wildlife and recreation groups, local councils and government agencies. Representatives from these groups sit on the Forest of Bowland National Landscape Joint Advisory Committee (JAC). The JAC is supported by a number of themed working groups that assist in the delivery of the National Landscape Management Plan. Key priorities of the Management Plan are to provide opportunities for people to discover and learn about the special qualities of the National Landscape and for people to improve their health and wellbeing by connecting with nature, culture and the landscape.

The Forest of Bowland is rich in nature, with a network of places to engage in nature and the outdoors. It is well connected to villages and towns in and around, as well as cities. This exciting programme looks to connect people with their landscape and the area's wildlife and heritage, improving people's access and understanding to this popular countryside area.

The Role

The Ernest Cook Trust is seeking to appoint a passionate and enthusiastic Outdoor Learning Trainee. This role will support Outdoor Learning and Community Engagement activity on the Connecting People and Nature project, in and around the Forest of Bowland National Landscape.

The Ernest Cook Trust, in partnership with The Forest of Bowland National Landscape is delivering the [Connecting People and Nature | Forest of Bowland National Landscape](#); a 3-year nature, wellbeing and learning project, which seeks to engage with communities in and around the Forest of Bowland.

The successful candidate will work with our experienced Outdoor Learning Officer and the Forest of Bowland Community Engagement Officer, delivering nature-based learning and activity sessions to individuals, and school and community groups - including those who might currently face barriers to accessing and participating in the outdoors, such as people living in towns, and who aren't well represented in natural spaces and environmental careers.

We will fund your training, based on your needs, and support your development within the role. Training could include Level 3 Certificate in Forest School Leadership, Walk Leadership or Project Management training, as well as essential training such as safeguarding and outdoor First Aid to ensure sessions are delivered safely. You'll also have the opportunity to shadow staff from a variety of organisations, helping build skills and experience for your future employment.

The Ernest Cook Trust is based in Gloucestershire, focusing its operations in geographical 'hub' areas, Cumbria/Lancashire being one of these.

Key accountabilities:

- Supporting the Outdoor Learning Officer to set-up and run Outdoor Learning sessions.
- Supporting the Community Engagement Officer to set-up and run community nature-based activity sessions to support people's wellbeing.
- Assisting with area and equipment checks and preparation for sessions.
- Setting a positive example and being a role model for the young people we work with.
- Meeting groups on site and explaining site safety to them.
- Demonstrating activities to be undertaken by groups, explaining how to do these safely, and working alongside the groups to encourage participation, displaying a good attitude and enthusiasm.
- Ensuring that participants are safe and well supported while on site, following Health & Safety practices and administering First Aid when necessary (all of which you will be trained in).
- Undertaking tasks to support the smooth running of projects and to help monitor the impact of our work.

The successful candidate will be someone who can work with a range of individuals and groups and is interested in Outdoor Learning, working outdoors and supporting people. We are looking for a team player who can work independently where required and someone who can adapt wherever necessary to suit the moment's needs, often in front of a group of learners.

Work will be mostly outdoors, so enthusiasm, whatever the weather, is essential.

How to Apply

In the first instance, please upload your completed CV and Cover Letter to:
<https://hr.breathehr.com/v/outdoor-learning-trainee-36690>

Closing Date

Friday 16 August 2024 at 17:00

Interviews

Friday 30 August 2024 (Downham, BB7 4BN, Lancashire)

Find more information about The Ernest Cook Trust on our website at www.ernestcooktrust.org.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Working at The Ernest Cook Trust

ABOUT US

As a land-owning educational charity, the Trust is uniquely placed to share its woodlands, farms, and natural habitats to inspire a greater love and understanding of the natural world, farming, and sustainability. We do this for children, young people, their families, and communities, particularly those who face barriers to accessing and participating in the outdoors.

We are part of an impressive community of networks and organisations across the UK, working to help create a more environmentally engaged society. Our work is increasingly done in collaborations and partnerships with like-minded organisations, particularly with our funding partners, whose contribution significantly boosts the scale and reach of our work. To discover more about The Ernest Cook Trust, visit our [website](#).

OUR SCHOOLS PROGRAMMES

Our Schools Programmes offer long-term support to the schools who need this most. We do not charge for our service and are constantly working on ways to break down barriers to participation in Outdoor Learning.

We offer a targeted programme of support, individually designed for each school, based on needs analysis and conversations with staff. This will follow one of two pathways:

Foundations for Outdoor Learning

This programme is a comprehensive, long-term support package for schools wanting to embed Outdoor Learning into their curriculum and practice. Support may include teacher CPD (Continuing Professional Development), mentoring, and advice on how to optimise use of your school grounds. We do this on your school site, with some supported visits to local green spaces and our own learning locations.

Enriching Education

This programme uses The Ernest Cook Trust's own learning locations - woodlands, farms, rivers and other natural landscapes - together with our Outdoor Learning leaders to support a school's Outdoor Learning provision. This may be a school's first experience of Outdoor Learning, or it may enhance and extend existing programmes. Either way, we aim to inspire all participants to spend more time outdoors.

OUR COMMUNITIES' PROGRAMMES

Our Communities programmes aim to empower people to engage with nature, thrive outdoors, strengthen physical and mental wellbeing, and lay the foundations for developing a lasting interest and care for the natural environment.

Naturally Connected to Nature

Working within local community and green spaces, our Outdoor Learning Officer provides Nature-based activity sessions for early years and family groups (Little Saplings, Lancashire). Little Saplings is designed to promote nature connection and provide opportunities for discovery and support parents and carers to build the confidence and skills to enjoy their local green spaces.

Community Leaders

Facilitating opportunities for community leaders to gain skills, knowledge and experience to access nature with their groups. Our Outdoor Learning Officers work with specialist practitioners to design supported outdoor nature-based activities which enable people, of all ages and backgrounds, to connect with the natural environment, providing opportunities for them to improve their wellbeing and understanding of nature.

OUR VALUES

The unique spirit of The Ernest Cook Trust is best expressed through our values:



Cultivating Connections At the heart of our work lies the belief that meaningful and lasting change happens through the cultivation of connections. We value the relationships we build with the people and communities we serve, as well as each other and the partnerships we form with like-minded organisations. We understand that these connections create the conditions for people and places to flourish.



Freedom to Try We embrace a culture of innovation and resilience, where both our team members and the individuals we serve have the freedom to try new things. This value encourages a dynamic and adaptable approach, nurturing trust and courage in ourselves and others



Progressive Stewardship We believe in responsible, forward-thinking management of our outdoor resources, as places where diversity can thrive. By actively caring for the environment, we ensure that the beauty and benefits of the outdoors are accessible to all, changing lives through individual and shared positive experiences.

Examples of our values in this role:

Cultivating Connections

- Working in partnership with local family support organisations, schools and other charities, to provide personal experiences in nature for underserved communities
- Building lasting relationships between people and their local green spaces, while promoting the outdoors as a resource for all

Freedom to Try

- Using new and innovative methodologies to attract new audiences to connect with nature
- Adapting every activity to suit a new audience and outdoor space
- Being proactive in engaging new audiences, meeting them where they are and taking them on a journey to connect with nature

Progressive Stewardship

- Being sustainable in our approach when working with new communities and the local environment
- Educating the next generation about nature and conservation, providing support and training to those in education roles and inspiring confidence in community leaders

WHAT TO EXPECT

Join our friendly team at the Trust for a friendly and rewarding experience. We offer competitive salaries, a range of benefits plus a training budget for your personal growth.

We currently have around 50 members of staff based either at our Gloucestershire Head Office, across our UK landholdings and in our regional hubs (Gloucestershire, Cumbria/Lancashire, Leicestershire) or hybrid working.

There are fell walks and enviable views on the doorstep of our Downham office. The Cumbria/Lancashire hub team enjoys good hospitality at head office during visits, including regular staff lunches and overnight accommodation if appropriate.

Enjoy our generous benefits:

- 10% employer pension contribution (5% from employees)
- 27 days annual leave, plus statutory holidays (pro rata)
- Life Assurance
- Access to Employee Assistance Programme, providing 24/7 support for health, mental wellbeing, and more
- Dynamic, creative, and welcoming work environment.

Working for us will involve wellies, because we firmly believe that **everything is better outdoors!**

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Embracing diversity is an essential part of the work of The Ernest Cook Trust. We are committed to treating everyone as a unique individual, fairly and with respect, irrespective of race, disability, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or religion. We are committed to ensuring equality, respect, and safety for all, and prioritising the wellbeing of the children, young people and vulnerable adults we support. Our safeguarding policy can be found [here](#).

The appointment will be subject to satisfactory background checks including Disclosure and Barring Service and relevant online searches to comply with best practices in Safeguarding, and proof of the right to work in the UK.

