

**North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership/ Guidance note on training and jobs.
Updated June 2014**

Thanks very much for your enquiry about training and/ or job opportunities. Most of the information below is in website format. If you don't have access to the web, please contact me direct and I can send you print-outs.

- a) Walling information – at the minimum, join the Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain - www.dswa.co.uk – a national body, then sign up to join your local branch. Each branch runs free practice days for members where you can work alongside experts to improve your walling skills. The advice from professional wallers is that it takes anything from 2-3 months more or less full time to get a level 1 qualification (*120 Learning Hours*) and then a further 3-5 months full time to get a level 2 qualification (*120 Learning Hours*) which is the industry standard (*LANTRA Recommendation*).
- b) Test Centres are located Low Kays Farm, Hamsterley DL13 3QY, tel: 01388488799 and Crooklands Farm, Milnthorpe, Cumbria, LA7 7NH, tel: 015395 67953. Both are registered with DSWA and LANTRA as a Dry Stone Walling training and test centre and offers LANTRA/DSWA Level 2/Intermediate training.
- c) The North of England Civic Trust (NECT) runs the HERITAGE SKILLS INITIATIVE (HSI), check out www.nect.org.uk click on Heritage Skills and download the programme for training and events. There is now one of these for Cumbria. Click on NECT, then select either North East or Cumbria, then select Training and events programme 2014.
- e) Many conservation organisations have practical tasks and training opportunities for volunteers. Check the National Park web-sites eg. Lake District, Northumberland, Yorkshire Dales. These schemes usually involve a training element in exchange for a commitment of your time.
- f) Yorwoods and Northwoods are training agencies for woodland businesses. Each has a very good reputation. www.yorwoods.org.uk , www.northwoods.org.uk
- g) www.Countryside-jobs.co.uk is a subscription service which lists training, paid and voluntary jobs.
- h) The National Trust currently have: <http://vacancies.nationaltrustjobs.org.uk/job-search.asp>. Also check out the National Trust's web-site for volunteering/ training opportunities.
- i) Natural England http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/about_us/jobs/default.aspx
- j) Environment Agency <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/jobs/default.aspx>
- k) A foundation course in dry-stone walling, lettercutting, stonecarving, sculpture, quarrying, geology and landscape aesthetics is being prepared in Teesdale. All enquiries to Ewan Allinson - 07840-277505, e_allinson@hotmail.co.uk.

I can put you on my list of interested personnel for job opportunities that are sent directly through to me but I need your specific permission to add you as this list will be kept electronically by me. Please let me know about this point. Finally I ask that if you have success through following any of these tips, or have other tips to share please let me know.

Regards, Lesley Silvera, Project Development Officer, North Pennines AONB Partnership, The Old Coop Building, 1 Martin St, Stanhope, DL13 2UY, T: 01388 528801, W:northpenninesaonb.org.uk, E:lesley@northpenninesaonb.org.uk