Are you interested in learning more about woodland management? Or maybe you have always wanted to try your hand at drystone walling, spinning, greenwood working or making charcoal? Our diverse programme offers an opportunity for people to explore, learn or improve traditional skills and crafts that have maintained the landscape over the centuries.

The courses are part of the Rusland Horizons Landscape Partnership Scheme, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The scheme aims to restore and enhance the unique landscape of a wonderful part of South Lakeland.

For more information visit www.ruslandhorizons.org

Course Costs

Course fees are stated in each description.

Courses are free if you are unemployed, in full time education, or have contributed significant volunteer time towards the Rusland Horizons scheme.*

If you live within the Rusland Horizons Scheme area, there is a 50% course discount on all course fees (materials costs still apply).

Money for materials should be brought to the course and given to the trainer directly on the day.

If you live within the British Horizon Scheme, eligible courses are 100% funded under the government’s ‘Building Our Communities’ initiative.

Courses fees are stated in each description.

*excludes material costs

How to Book

Booking is essential. Courses are being co-ordinated in partnership between Rusland Horizons and Cumbria Woodlands. To book, or for more information, please call 01539 822140 (please leave a message and someone will get back to you) or email clare@cumbriawoodlands.co.uk. If applicable, full payment is required to confirm your booking.

Heritage Skills Training Programme

October 2016 to August 2017

Greenwood Bench Making / 8 October / £15*
Greenwood Skills / 15-16 October, 12-13 November & 3-4 December / £40
Besom Making / 5 November / £6
Bowl Carving / 19 November / £15
Introduction to Hedge Laying / 10 - 11 December / £20
An Introduction to Coppicing / 21 - 22 January / £14
Learn to Spin / 11 February / £10*
Winter Tree Identification / 19 February / £6
An Introduction to Felting / 11 March / £7*
Swill Basket Making / 31 March - 2 April / £60
An Introduction to Dry Stone Walling / 8 - 9 April / Free
Hazel Hurdle Making / 22 - 23 April / £14*
Spoon Carving / 29 - 30 April / £21
Oak Bark Peeling / 18 May / £14
Cleft Oak Gates / 2 - 4 June / £18*
Summer Tree Identification / 18 June / £6
Charcoal Making / 28 - 29 June / £14
Make your own Stick Chair / 1-2 July / £20

*excludes material costs
Course Diary

Greenwood Bench Making
Saturday 8 October 2016, 9am - 4pm
Stott Park Bobbin Mill, Finsthwaite
Cost: £15 (plus £25 materials cost on the day)
Join local craft worker Gareth Thomas to spend the day learning the skills to create your own greenwood bench.

Greenwood Skills
Saturday & Sunday, 16/17 October, 12/13 November & 3/4 December 2016, 9am - 4pm
Hay Bridge Nature Reserve, Bouth
Cost: £40 for all 3 weekends
Join tutor James Mitchell for a series of three weekends exploring and developing basic techniques and skills employed in greenwood working. Focusing on a different species each weekend, this course serves as an excellent introduction and overview to those wanting to develop basic skills in the field.

Besom Making
Saturday 5 November 2016, 10am - 4pm
Moss & Spring Heights Wood, Bouth
Cost: £6
Join Lorna Singleton for a day learning the art of birch besom making, taking away your very own besom broom.

An Introduction to Coppicing
Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 January 2017, 10am - 4pm
Sales Bank Wood, Oxen Park
Cost: £14
Join forester and author Edward Mills to learn the theory and practice of the ultimate in sustainable woodland management - coppicing.

Winter Tree Identification
Sunday 19 February 2017, 10am - 4pm
Rusland Reading Rooms, Rusland
Cost: £6
Have you ever wondered how to identify trees in winter? With no leaves to help, this can be a tricky task so this course with forester Edward Mills will show you some of the methods used to tell an oak from an ash in mid-winter.

Spoon Carving
Saturday 29 & Sunday 30 April 2017, 10am - 4pm
Moss & Spring Heights Wood, Bouth
Cost: £21
Learn to safely and efficiently carve your own unique kitchen utensils from freshly cut timber using an axe and knives. Over two days you’ll have plenty of time to gain confidence and to work on more complicated designs so you’ll return home with the skills and knowledge to make your own traditional hazel spoon.

Charcoal Making
Wednesday 28 & Thursday 29 June 2017
Force Knott Wood, Satterthwaite
Cost: £14
Explore the art and science of charcoal burning on this practical hands-on course. We cover all aspects from woodland management and timber selection to processing and marketing the charcoal. Over the two days we will be producing charcoal in a steel ring-kiln back-garden scale barrel burns, a traditional (but miniature) earth-clamp, and a biscuit tin! Expect to get mucky!

An Introduction to Felting
Saturday 11 February 2017, 10am - 4pm
Rook Howe Quaker House, Satterthwaite (b/c)
Cost: £10 (plus £5 materials cost on the day)
Learn to spin with local craft worker Rebecca Oaks.

Hazel Hurdle Making
Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 April 2017, 10am - 4pm
Moss & Heights Spring Wood, Bouth
Cost: £14
Join local craft worker Rachel Taylor to learn the techniques involved creating traditional cleft oak gates.

Swill Basket Making
Friday 31 March - Sunday 2 April 2017, 9am - 4pm
High Nibthwaite
Cost: £60 for the 3 days
Swills are very traditional baskets from the Furness area. During the three day course we will start with a coppiced oak tree, a bundle of hazel rods and go through the whole process. Everyone should be able to complete their own swill. No previous experience is necessary. A simple vegetarian lunch is provided.

Oak Bark Peeling
Thursday 18 May 2017, 10am - 4pm
Force Knott Wood, Satterthwaite
Cost: £14
Traditionally, oak is peeled in the early summer and the bark is used for tinning hides into leather. Peeling season is usually mid April to early July but during this time there are often periods when the oak does not peel so well. The peeled oak poles are used for rustic furniture, fencing and trellis work. This one day course will be a day in the woods peeling oak using a simple hand bark peeler. Please bring packed lunch, gloves and waterproofs or clothes to suit the weather. Fingers crossed for a good peeling day.

To Book
any of these courses see over