**CPRE Hampshire & National Lottery Heritage Fund**

**Hedge Laying Traineeships (6 positions)**

**Role Description**

Are you practical and enjoy working outdoors? Passionate about heritage crafts and wildlife conservation? CPRE Hampshire, in partnership with the National Heritage Lottery Fund and professional hedge layers from across England are running 5-month traineeships in the traditional craft of hedge laying. The traineeships may also include hedge planting and coppice management depending on location. The traineeships are designed for people who have a genuine interest in a career in hedge laying, with some outdoor practical working experience.

As part of the traineeship you will receive training in:

* Hedge laying
* Hedge planting (location dependant)
* Coppice management (location dependant)
* Chainsaw Maintenance and Cross-cutting qualification (NPTC/LANTRA) (PPE provided)
* Bronze Level 1 Hedge Laying accreditation (LANTRA)
* Forestry First Aid
* BASIS course in Hedgerow Management

**Main Responsibilities and tasks:**

Working in small, friendly team and receiving full training and getting plenty of experience.

1. To learn and support the undertaking of commercial hedge laying: prep work, laying cuts, staking and binding.
2. To learn heritage skills and promote their benefits.
3. To learn to assess a hedge and its suitability to be laid.
4. You will be required to ensure any tools you are using are kept safe and maintained regularly.
5. To complete a portfolio or workbook. This will provide a record of work carried out and consolidate on-the-job learning.
6. Additionally, some hedge planting jobs/coppice management dependant on traineeship location.

You will also be invited to a hedge laying competition where you can improve your skills.

The objective is to become competent in hedge laying to work on commercial hedges working alongside professional hedge layers. To achieve a National Hedge Laying Society (NHLS) LANTRA Accreditation certification at Bronze level by the end of the traineeship period.
 **Personal Requirements:**

* Aged 18-30 years old (flexible), living / working in England
* Not holding any previous qualifications or accreditation in hedge laying (contact us if unsure)
* Serious about starting a rural career (evidenced through previous experience, training, hobbies, volunteering, etc.)
* Happy to work outside in all weathers, providing own outdoor clothing and waterproofs if required
* Reliable, self-motivated, and keen to learn new skills
* Able to follow procedures and instructions, paying attention to detail
* Able to work with a range of people, including customers, business contacts, and the public
* Good at working as part of a team, and on their own
* Able to provide their own transport to their place of work

**Location (base) & Hours:**

**Stockbridge, Hampshire\***: 15-22.5hrs/2-3 days per week, funding dependant (Part-time) - [Hedgelaying | Rhcountryside | Stockbridge](https://www.rhcountryside.co.uk/)

**Abbess Roding, Essex\*:** 22.5-37.5hrs/3-5 days per week (Full and part-time roles available) - [Hedge Planting, Laying & Coppicing Services in Essex | Hedgelife](https://www.hedgelife.co.uk/)

**Norbury Park, Surrey\***: 37.5hrs/5 days per week (Full-time) – Hedges & Hurdles  [Commercial Hedgelaying, Coppicing & Training Courses](https://hedgesandhurdles.com/)

**Chew Magna, Somerset\***: 37.5hrs/5 days per week (Full-time) - [Mike Reed (@mikereedhedgelaying) • Instagram photos and videos](https://www.instagram.com/mikereedhedgelaying/)

*\*Sites will be within 1hr radius of base location. Please note, traineeships are based within one of each of the above counties, not a mix. You can indicate preference in application form.*

**Pay:** National Living Wage, £12.21/hr (may be reviewed depending on experience)

**Start date** Monday 3rd November 2025 - 31st of March 2026 (5 months)

**Interviews** - to be held in person at following locations:

* Stockbridge, Hampshire – week of 18th August
* Abbess Roding, Essex – week of 18th August
* Norbury Park, Surrey – week of 25th August
* Chew Magna, Somerset – week of 18th August

If you are interested in applying then please email CPRE Hampshire's Hedgerow Project Officer, Ellie Banks at [**ellie.banks@cprehampshire.org.uk**](https://www.countryside-jobs.com/%22/%22mailto%3Aellie.banks%40cprehampshire.org.uk?subject=Hedge\%22) for more information and the application form.

This application will require a completed application form and CV.

**Deadline for applications:** Sunday 3rd August 2025