

Youth Rural Skills



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LOCH LOMOND
& THE TROSSACHS
COUNTRYSIDE
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What is Youth Rural Skills Project

- ▶ Engaging young people aged 14 to 25 in rural work
- ▶ Provide a range of activities
- ▶ Working with local organisations & estates
- ▶ Partnership with Loch Lomond & Trossachs Countryside Trust, through the Wild Strathfillan Project
- ▶ Funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund & Stirling Council 'No one Left Behind Fund

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Pilot Scheme since January 2026 - What have we achieved

- ▶ We have formed partnerships with 7 hosts organisations
- ▶ National Trust for Scotland, RSPB, Tombreck Market Garden, Strathfillan Community Development Trust, LLTNP Rangers, Colin Burt Reserve, Auchlyne
- ▶ 5 sessions since April & 3 more arranged
- ▶ 8 young people taken part & 2 more looking to register





Activities

- ▶ Fencing - putting up a deer fence, removing a stock fence
- ▶ Invasive Species removal
- ▶ Species identification
- ▶ Dam building
- ▶ Venison Butchery / Deer Management
- ▶ Flood Debris removal
- ▶ Tree planting



What have we Learnt

- ▶ A few of our young people are interested in fencing
- ▶ They would like some form of accreditations
- ▶ They have enjoyed the activities & meeting people who work in the industry
- ▶ Our hosts have really enjoyed working with young people

Feedback from Young People

“I enjoyed the fact that it was laid back, whilst still being productive. Also enjoyed chatting to the RSPB”

“I enjoyed the physical aspect of work”

“Just about everything apart from the midges” (what worked well)

“Weather” (what could be improved)

“I really enjoyed getting hands on experience”





Feedback from Hosts

- ▶ *“session went well. Good level of work achieved and an enjoyable bunch of folk to be with”*
- ▶ *“We thought the session was a great success and we hope each of the participants took something from it. All of the participants had a fantastic attitude, and we’d be more than happy to have them back to do other woodland related training activities.”*



What Now?

- ▶ Looking for funding to continue programme below
- ▶ Doing a 12 week programme
- ▶ Includes LANTRA certificated courses - so only open to 16 - 25
- ▶ Extending to include McLaren High School pupils
- ▶ Hope to start this by April 2027
- ▶ Continue with existing programme until March 2027