

Stocks Wood Outdoor Centre

Funded by the ESF Employees Support in Skills programme being delivered in Cumbria, Stocks Wood Outdoor Centre owned and managed by husband and wife duo Julian and Claire Earle have benefited from over £650 of fully funded training courses since March 2018.

With over 20 years' experience in education both are qualified Level Three Forest School Leaders with qualifications in outdoor first-aid. Julian's background is in primary education with roles including Assistant Head Teacher, Acting Deputy Head Teacher and Forest School Leader. He is also a qualified Mountain Leader and a competent musician. Claire's background is in both primary and secondary education with roles including Teaching Assistant, Special Needs Manager and Forest School Leader. They both have a passion for sharing their love of the outdoors and have worked with children and adults from varied backgrounds and different abilities, including those with special needs.

In moving to Rosley, Cumbria the couple purchased Stocks Wood and have undergone the process of developing a Forest School. Forest Schools provide fun, inspiring and fulfilling learning opportunities for people of all ages in a stimulating outdoor environment. Based on the Forest School philosophy, it takes its clients on a journey of self-discovery as much as the one exploring the magnificent woodland environment, learning and developing practical, personal and interpersonal skills along the way.

The courses undertaken covered Sit astride All-Terrain Vehicles, Chainsaw Maintenance & Cross Cut and Felling up to 380mm trees.

Award in Sit Astride All Terrain Vehicle Handling

The qualification provided the delegate with the knowledge, skills and understanding to ride or drive their ATV's safely in the work place. The qualification covered pre-use checks, instrument and control recognition, safe driving and manoeuvring the vehicle on various types of terrain including slopes. The qualification has been specifically designed to meet the diverse needs of learners who use ATV's in a variety of circumstances.

This course provided the delegate with the skills at which industry recognises learners have achieved competence to use these machines.

Award in Chainsaw Maintenance and Cross-Cutting & Felling and Processing Trees up to 380mm

These practical qualification has provided the delegate with the knowledge, skills and understanding, valued by employers, enabling learners to work within the forestry and arboriculture industry.

The mandatory Chainsaw Maintenance and Cross Cutting qualification is a benchmark for those wishing to enter the industry and enables learners to progress onto other optional qualifications to acquire the specialist skills and knowledge for their job.

The Felling and Processing of trees up to 380mm course has enables the learner to: fell trees with the use of wedges and felling bars; to carry out at least three different types of cut; to identify potential hazards and stresses, and select the appropriate techniques to assess and work with timber in compression or tension. In addition the learner now also knows how to take down hung up trees safely and in line with relevant legislation, however they will also be able to recognise situations where specialist assistance might be required.

The training course had many physical demands and required the carrying and movement of equipment in woodland and forest environments.

The skills learnt by the delegate in undertaking these qualifications shows the learner has developed their skills to the highest standards as required by the industry.



The course was informative and covered everything I wanted to know. The courses covered the relevant syllabus and was taught in a clear and enjoyable way. Julian Earle, Stocks Wood Outdoor Centre