

 Forest Schools Education



**Social Forestry<sup>TM</sup>**

**Social Forestry Practitioner Award**

## Foundation Social Forestry

The remit for this course is to give the Social Forestry Practitioner a rounded understanding of their role in providing maximum opportunities for learners to develop in a number of areas during a Social Forestry Project.

The practical skills, technical knowledge and theoretical understanding of working in woods and forests are developed as well as issues relating to the individual learner and their relationship with themselves, others and the environment in which they will be working.

In order to become a competent Social Forestry Practitioner it is important to have both knowledge and understanding of the specific processes involved in learning in this specialised context, as well as the technical skill to maximise learning for each individual. This requires the Social Forestry Practitioner to be able to carry out Learning Needs Analysis and transpose this into effective session and project planning. The Social Forestry Practitioner will then be required to observe individuals in order to monitor progress against initial goals and continually adapt to the needs of the individual using a number of different techniques.



## Who benefits from Social Forestry projects?

It is likely that the learners that engage in a long term Social Forestry Project will have additional social or emotional needs that may in the past have created barriers to learning, or contributed to some extent to social exclusion. These may never, in the past, have been addressed successfully. It is the role therefore of the Social Forestry Practitioner to be able to identify these additional learning needs and provide a project which can develop both social and emotional skills as well as the practical skills of working in a woodland environment.

The Practitioner will be aware of they're own impact on the learning experience and be personally reflective, able to be flexible to the intrinsic needs of the individual at all times. This will be accompanied by a basic understanding of how external and internal processes can impact on the brain and learning efficiency.



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This qualification is designed to give the Social Forestry Practitioner the generic knowledge, understanding and skills to take an individual through a long term project in order to address issues surrounding core competencies of emotional wellbeing. The increased awareness of which can lead to self awareness, self regulation through reflection techniques, develop intrinsic motivation through success in acquiring practical skills, thus creating a positive mental attitude to learning and develop an understanding and application of personal choice within the wider social context.

This course is an exciting insight into the way we learn. It highlights how the Social Forestry Practitioner can provide a positive learning environment for each learner and be consciously aware of their role in providing opportunities for each learner to become responsible in developing positive strategies to promote their own social inclusion and emotional wellbeing.



## What to expect from a Social Forestry Course

- Understand the woodland as an ecosystem including species identification, properties and uses of common trees.
- Understand woodland management techniques and their effects.
- Understand and manage environmental impact of activities in a Social Forestry context.
- Understand learners relationship with themselves, others and the environment in which they will be working.
- Understand and carry out successful Training Needs Analysis and transpose this into effective session and project planning.
- Understand social and emotional needs that may in the past have created barriers to learning, or contributed to some extent to social exclusion.
- Understand both the external and internal processes that can impact on the brain and learning efficiency.
- Understand the ethos of Social Forestry.
- Understand the needs of different client groups.
- Understand the main issues affecting human wellbeing.
- Understand how the natural environment affects human wellbeing.
- Understand how physical activity and new experiences improve wellbeing.
- Understand that the structure and layout of a woodland work setting and the format of a day's session can impact on wellbeing.
- Learn how the use of learning styles improves motivation for the Practitioner and the learner.
- Manage the social and legal aspects of Social Forestry projects.
- Understand how Benefit Analysis can support the justification of exposure of clients to risk and challenge.
- Use and evaluate an observation and monitoring process during a Social Forestry activity or programme.

- Develop woodcraft skills and tool use to enable practitioners to safely instruct clients in creative woodland activities.
- Acquire and apply knowledge and understanding of the specific processes involved in adult learning in this specialised context.
- Proficiently apply technical skills to maximise this learning for each individual.
- Adapt to the needs of the individual using a number of different techniques.
- Develop both social and emotional skills in individuals through the careful development of strategic approaches to learning.
- Be continually able to observe the impact of the training environment and be flexible to the intrinsic needs of the individual to maximise learning.
- Be aware of the impact of the practitioner on the learning experience and be personally reflective.
- Develop through careful analysis and observation core competencies of emotional wellbeing to enable the individuals learner to function in a range of social situations.



- The Social Forestry course runs over 5 days.
- You have 3 months to complete your portfolio once you have attended the course.
- The cost is £540.00 per person.

For more information about this course or any of our other training opportunities, please do not hesitate to get in touch via the methods below;

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