

ADAM STALLARD - A trainee with the Stiperstones and Corndon Hill Country Landscape Partnership Scheme's Dynamic Hills training project.

I was in a dead-end job, I wanted to get a career. I knew this was the kind of work I was interested in.



Adam's traineeship ran from February 2016 to February 2017, completing placements with three different organisations; with the wardens at Natural England on the Stiperstones, with National Trust at Cardingmill Valley on the Long Mynd, and with JP Brayford's contracting business. Over the year, he worked towards – and achieved – City & Guilds Level 2 Diploma in Work-based Environmental Conservation. This included units a variety of relevant skills including habitat management, chainsaw maintenance and gates and stiles. As Adam described it, "Basic things that are really useful for the future".

I did part of a unit, for example setting up a post and wire fence, learning how to repair it and maintain it, then I wrote up a diary of what I had done. I had to meet criteria, how I had done it, what tools I'd used.

The Scheme's funding provided Adam with a bursary of £9000, as well as £1500 towards his qualifications and £250 for health and safety equipment. The traineeship project was designed and managed by Jen, the Scheme's part-time Training Officer. She provided mentoring support, and organised all of the vital background paperwork including the accreditations.

As a result...

.... Adam succeeded in gaining his City & Guilds Level 2 Diploma in Work-based Environmental Conservation

.... He has also gained his 'tickets' in a variety of really important skills so that he can now use these at work, including chainsaw use, tree-felling, tractor driving and use of pesticides.

.... He has used the experience and references from the traineeship to get a part-time ranger job in woodland management and access in the Elan Valley, and he also works as a tree surgeon with a local contractor.

From leaving school with no qualifications, abandoning a college course and finding himself in a dead-end job, [Adam] is now a confident young man with a part-time job he loves.



I've now got skills and qualifications, and confidence in myself to do the work. There are lots of people in uni doing countryside management, but not getting the experience. It's been really good to do the actual task.

I've really enjoyed the work, people have been really helpful.

It gave me a really good feeling, I'm really quite good at something.

It's set the path for the future, opened doors for me.