



Coleg y
Mynydd
Du



Black
Mountains
College

FURTHER EDUCATION

OUR COURSES



NVQ L2 DIPLOMA
**COPPICING AND
GREENWOOD TRADES**

📍 Talgarth or Treherbert



NVQ L2 DIPLOMA
**REGENERATIVE
HORTICULTURE**

📍 Talgarth or Treherbert



NVQ L2 DIPLOMA
NATURE RECOVERY

📍 Talgarth or Treherbert



TRAINEESHIP LEVEL 3
**REGENERATIVE FARMING
& AGROECOLOGY**

📍 Talgarth

ABOUT US

Black Mountains College believes in education that empowers people to build resilience in the face of the climate and ecological crisis.

Our approach is built on rethinking traditional learning to foster the skills, creativity, and systems thinking needed for a more sustainable future.

Our countryside-based campus is a living classroom, with access to biodiverse landscapes that inspire and challenge our students to connect deeply with nature.



WHAT IS AN NVQ?



LEVEL 2
Equivalent to 4-5 GCSE's
(A*-C)



LEVEL 3
Equivalent to 2 or more
A levels

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF STUDYING AN NVQ?

- ▶ A fully-funded work-based course offered to all UK residents - free to study!
- ▶ Available to anyone aged 16+ with no upper age limit
- ▶ A flexible route to becoming qualified in the workplace with no examinations
- ▶ A practical demonstration of your skills, knowledge and understanding
- ▶ A practical route to a specific job or career path
- ▶ Gain a widely recognised formal certification, accredited by City and Guilds and validated by NPTC Group of Colleges

NVQ LEVEL 2 DIPLOMA

COPPICING & GREENWOOD TRADES

Our Coppicing and Greenwood Trades NVQ will help you to develop skills and knowledge for a successful and rewarding career in the trees and timber sector.

A hands-on vocational course designed to equip you with practical skills in traditional woodland management and greenwood crafts. This unique programme allows you to work directly with the land, learning environmentally conscious methods of managing woodlands with minimum impact, improving biodiversity, and honing your craft skills with sustainable greenwood use.

LOCATION

Talgarth or Treherbert

TUITION TIME

3 Days Per Week

COURSE LENGTH

1 Year from September - July

MINIMUM AGE

16 Years Old

WHAT IS COPPICING?

Coppicing is an ancient form of woodland management that uses nature's ability to regenerate continually to harvest wood from a living tree. It involves periodically cutting trees down to ground level which promotes vigorous regrowth, creating a sustainable supply of wood which can be used to produce both products and energy.

Coppicing is also fantastic for increasing the lifespan of trees, improving tree health and promoting biodiversity!



WHAT WILL I LEARN?

We will resurrect old coppice woodlands by restoring them, and plant trees to create new ones! Modules covered include the following, each will have a particular focus on sustainability:

- Sharpen and Maintain edged hand tools
- Carry out maintenance of chainsaw and cutting system
- Cut, process and extract coppice
- Identify tree species and their properties
- Fell and process trees up to 380mm
- Control pollution incidents
- Process coppice materials and greenwood products
- Plant Trees
- Cross-cut timber using a chainsaw
- Monitoring and maintaining health and safety
- Prepare and produce charcoal
- Produce wood fuel in a woodland or forest (Treherbert ONLY)
- Site and install site furniture and structures (Treherbert ONLY)
- Hedgelaying (Talgarth ONLY)

Within this NVQ, students will also undertake a Chainsaw Maintenance and Felling Training Course, providing you with an additional, sought-after licence.

Modules may differ slightly depending on your chosen location

WHY STUDY SUSTAINABLE COPPICING AND GREEN WOOD WORK SKILLS?

Students will study in beautiful and unique woodland settings. This course is ideal for students who want to further their experience of working in forestry to increase their ability and confidence, or for anyone with a passion for nature, craft, and sustainability.

After this course, students may be able to:

- Move into a Level 3 course in Green Woodworking and Coppicing
- Use transferable skills for employment opportunities in the trees and timber sector
- Start a career as a self-employed or salaried tree surgeon or woodworker
- Use this qualification towards entry to the BMC undergraduate course
- Move on to other higher education courses such as Forestry or Arboriculture

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

Warm waterproof clothing and shoes for working outdoors, and chainsaw safe trousers, boots, helmet, and gloves.

NVQ LEVEL 2 DIPLOMA

REGENERATIVE HORTICULTURE

Our Regenerative Horticulture NVQ will help you to develop skills and knowledge for a successful and rewarding career in this sector.

This practical course encompasses organic, permaculture and no-dig principles, which work in harmony with nature for a sustainable future.

Practical, outdoor learning is backed up with classroom theory covering botany, soil science, food production, and ornamental horticulture.

LOCATION

Talgarth or Treherbert

TUITION TIME

3 Days Per Week

COURSE LENGTH

1 year from September - July

MINIMUM AGE

16 Years Old

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Our focus is on sustainability and ecology, with an emphasis on the soil biome—understanding the critical role of soil ecology and why no-dig methods (biomimicry) are essential for preserving and enriching this environment.

Dive into permaculture, keyline design, agroforestry, organic principles, and four-season vegetable production. Cover the basics of plant science, including plant evolution, hormone functions, and morphology. These aspects, along with the official modules, form the bedrock of sound practices and are crucial in addressing climate challenges by helping the land sequester more carbon.



Modules covered include the following, each will have a particular focus on sustainability:

- Assess soil texture & condition
- Prepare ground or area for planting
- Apply fertilisers to plants
- Plant trees
- Plant out plants in rows by hand
- Propagate plants indoors from seed
- Prune free standing fruit trees in winter
- Propagate plants by stem cuttings
- Identify damage caused by plant pests
- Identify plant diseases and disorders
- Carry out a site survey in 2-dimensions

Modules may differ slightly depending on your chosen location

WHY STUDY REGENERATIVE HORTICULTURE?

This course is ideal for students who want to further their experience of working in horticulture to increase their ability and confidence. You will study in beautiful, real-life training settings.

After this course, students may be able to:

- Move into a Level 3 Horticulture course
- Start a career as a self-employed or salaried gardener or landscaper/garden designer
- Set up or work in a market garden or plant nursery, or work in parks/green spaces
- Find work in plant science & technology, or go down the route of a horticultural teaching assistant or technician yourself!
- Use this qualification towards entry to the BMC undergraduate course
- Move on to other relevant higher education courses such as Garden Design, Plant Science, Ethno Botany, Agriscience or Arboriculture

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

Warm waterproof clothing and shoes for working outdoors, and a pair of wellies.



NVQ LEVEL 2 DIPLOMA

NATURE RECOVERY

This course involves a combination of classroom-based learning, practical fieldwork, and assessments to ensure competency in various conservation tasks. This includes designing and carrying out a practical conservation project from start to finish.

We aim to support each learner to prepare for and mitigate the effects of climate change in relation to building resilience into the natural environment. This course is aimed at individuals interested in starting a career in conservation, looking to enhance their existing skills in environmental stewardship, or make a difference to the world.

LOCATION

Talgarth or Treherbert

TUITION TIME

3 Days Per Week

COURSE LENGTH

1 year from September - July

MINIMUM AGE

16 Years Old

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Nature is under threat from climate change and pressures from unsustainable land use practices. Nature Recovery Level 2 is designed to equip learners with the foundational knowledge and practical skills necessary for contributing to nature recovery and conservation efforts.

You'll learn key skills for a career promoting environmental recovery and resilience, studying habitat management, wildlife identification and monitoring, countryside access and surveying.



Modules covered include the following, each will have a particular focus on sustainability:

- Introduction to Nature Recovery and its importance
- Habitat management, restoration and maintenance
- Wildlife identification, surveying and monitoring
- Conservation practices
- Environmental legislation and policy
- Community engagement and public access
- Health and safety in conservation work
- Undertake practical conservation projects

Through conservation projects, students gain practical experience in land restoration and design, alongside essential health and safety practices for fieldwork. Learn to solve real-world problems in relation to conservation and prepare for a career after your course. Emphasis is also placed on teamwork and communication skills, promoting sustainable public access and environmental stewardship.

Modules may differ slightly depending on your chosen location

WHY STUDY NATURE RECOVERY?

Students will study in beautiful real-life countryside settings. Whether you are new to countryside, nature, and environment work, or have some knowledge and basic skills, this course will help you to develop a successful career and make a real difference in national parks, local authorities, and wildlife trusts.

After this course, students may be able to:

- Move into a Level 3 course in Environmental Conservation
- Start a career working with a National Park, Wildlife Trust, or in nature restoration or land management companies
- Use this qualification as an introduction to careers such as: Countryside Ranger, Conservation Officer, Nature Recovery Advisor, Surveyor, Ecologist, or Environmental Consultant
- Use this qualification towards entry to the BMC undergraduate course, BA (Hons) Sustainable Futures: Arts, Ecology, and Systems Change

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

Warm waterproof clothing and shoes for working outdoors, and a pair of wellies.



LEVEL 3 TRAINEESHIP

REGENERATIVE FARMING & AGROECOLOGY

This course is ideal for students who want to further their experience in agroecology, agroforestry, soil science, and social and economic elements of regenerative approaches to land management and agriculture.

You will study in real-life training settings, within the Black Mountains on the border of Wales and England. Alongside your studies, you will undertake an optional work-based placement to enhance your employability skills and embed your learning.

LOCATION

Talgarth

TUITION TIME

3 OR 5 Days Per Week

COURSE LENGTH

1 year from January - December

MINIMUM AGE

16 Years Old

WHAT IS AGROECOLOGY?

The world of farming and food production is changing. The challenges of climate change and fluctuating economic environments ask farmers to diversify for resilience. Agroecology is a strategy that could help us with these challenges. Informed by traditional global practices, agroecology explores the use of natural systems to promote good food for everyone, forever.

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

Warm waterproof clothing and shoes for working outdoors, and a pair of wellies.



WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Our traineeship offers an authentic opportunity on a working farm, market garden or managed woodland and includes the following:

- Introduction to Regenerative Agriculture
- Soil and Plant Ecology
- Business Planning and Financial Forecasting
- Agroforestry
- Work experience is integrated across the year for all students (0.5 days per week)
- An optional year-long farm placement is offered for those who would like additional work-based training (an additional 2 days per week). A placement is guaranteed for those who would like it.

WHY STUDY REGENERATIVE FARMING & AGROECOLOGY?

You will be further supported by our partnerships with the Real Farming Trust and the Apricot Centre. Gain a real and authentic experience about what it is to be a grower, livestock farmer or woodland manager.

The traineeship will prepare you to:

- Work in regenerative farming or small-holding type settings;
- Work in community supported agriculture or the circular food economy;
- Work in regenerative land-based systems;
- Progress into higher education courses such as our BA (Hons) in Sustainable Futures: Arts, Ecology and Systems Change

WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENTS

We have partnered with a wide variety of local farms, where your optional work experience will take place for an additional 2-days per week. These may include:

Troed yr Harn, Talgarth

Ciliau Farm, Erwood

Lower Genffordd, Talgarth

Fern Verrow, Herefordshire

Hill Farm, Powys

FARMERS' Welsh Lavender, Builth Wells

Llwynberried, Llanigon

Moor Park Garden, Crickhowell

New House Farm, Monmouth

Penpont Organic Farm, Brecon

Ty Mawr, Brecon

Wye Organic, Ross on Wye

Greenfields Farm, Cusop

100% Hay @ Glanwye Farm

All trainees on placement are eligible for reimbursement of training related expenses (food, transport, accommodation) at £75 per week. Note that the cost of providing accommodation can be deducted from this amount.

ABOUT OUR COURSES

OUR LEARNING MODEL

Our learning model, applied across all courses, integrates the head, hands and heart, multi-sensory protocols, outdoor learning and multiple hierarchies of knowledge or ways of knowing.

As a part of their course, all students will undertake the Change in Practice module, which is 1-day per week and incorporates environmental science, where you will learn about earth cycles and ecosystems, as well as communication, research and business skills.

Your learning experience within these sessions will be supplemented with various activities, day trips, guest lectures, and projects relating to your subject, where you will work with local organisations to complete practical work. You will use your project experience to imagine a venture and create a business plan.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

At Black Mountains College, there are no exams! You will produce a portfolio of evidence throughout the year and be assessed via observations or a brief oral test.

WHAT ARE THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?

Black Mountains College is open to all.

We have no formal entry requirements, but you will need to complete a short interview demonstrating your passion and potential. Agroecology students generally require access to a car due to the remote locations of work experience placements.

Students aged 16 and 17 without grade 4 / C or above in GCSE Maths and English will be offered the opportunity to sit these exams with additional support during their studies.



STUDENT SUPPORT

Our student support services include advice, guidance and direct support and our team can help with a wide variety of aspects of student life, whether these are related to your studies, your career aspirations or something more personal. This includes:

- ▶ Careers advice and guidance about progression
- ▶ Personal tutoring
- ▶ Financial advice and hardship support
- ▶ Accommodation support
- ▶ Wellbeing / counselling / health advice
- ▶ Language study support
- ▶ Accessibility services

Students are able to make use of NPTC Group's range of support options too.

ACCOMMODATION

For students enrolled in Talgarth-based courses, BMC offers a range of accommodation options, from shared spaces to self-contained housing. Living in the historic-market town provides the chance to form a tight-knit community with like-minded peers and engage in collaborative learning outside the classroom.

STUDENT FINANCE

NVQ tuition fees are fully covered by the Welsh Government for all UK residents and does not need repaying:

- Over the age of 16
- With no upper age limit
- With no qualification or experience requirements
- With no limit on the qualifications you already hold (our courses are still free even if you already have a Masters Degree!)
- Regardless of your income

Although tuition is fully funded, you will still need to be able to cover your own living expenses for the duration of your study. There are some options to support you below, which are all dependent on household income and attendance:

- ▶ **Welsh Government Learning Grant**
- ▶ **Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)**
- ▶ **NPTC Group Support**
- ▶ **Black Mountains College Support**

[READ MORE ABOUT STUDENT FINANCE HERE](#)

STUDENT LIFE

You will join like-minded students and staff who will also bring new ideas to challenge and develop your thinking. The college is set within its context; we are part of the communities of Talgarth and Treherbert in and around the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, both of which offer a range of opportunities for you to learn and explore.

Our campuses offer the opportunity to live and learn in some of the most beautiful regions in the UK. The outdoors is your classroom, with lessons and projects often involving working directly with the land, with integrated walks, practical tasks and workshops.

Classes are small, fostering strong relationships between students, lecturers, and support staff. Whichever course you choose, you'll find yourself working on group projects, participating in discussions, and developing solutions together.



HOW TO APPLY

Apply now for Regenerative Farming & Agroecology, or register your interest to be alerted of applications opening for our other courses in March!

[REGISTER YOUR INTEREST HERE](#)

[APPLY HERE](#)



www.blackmountainscollege.uk



studyFE@blackmountainscollege.uk

For more information on our Further Education courses
and how to apply, scan the QR code.



Coleg y
Mynydd
Du



Black
Mountains
College

blackmountainscollege.uk/further-education