# STONEMASONRY PROVISION IN CUMBRIA

 QUESTIONNAIRE

Introduction

The [Land + Nature Skills Service](https://www.lanss.uk/) (LANSS) is a new service for Cumbria. The aim of the service is to connect people with learning and training opportunities with a focus on facilitating the development of skills provision to meet learner and employer needs in Cumbria.

As part of its remit, LANSS is investigating rural and heritage skills provision in Cumbria and working with local employers and training providers to identify skills gaps and enable local training provision.

Overview

LANSS recently conducted an audit of stonemasonry provision in Cumbria and identified approximately 25 operational stonemasonry businesses in Cumbria. These findings indicate that there is a need for the Stonemason apprenticeship to be delivered locally, and local colleges support this view. Currently, the Stonemason Apprenticeship Level 2 Standard is only offered by three colleges in the UK.

Context

Stonemasonry is a heritage skill that is listed on the UK Heritage Craft Red List. It is categorised as ‘Currently Viable’ because it is a skill that is still in demand today. However, it is on the red list because sufficient provision to ensure that the skill continues to be passed down may not exist.

The framework for a Level 2 apprenticeship in stonemasonry was reintroduced in 2021 and the route is: Construction and the built environment. The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) defines the role of a Stonemason as: “Install new natural sustainable and ethically sourced stone or conserve, repair or replace existing natural stone in buildings and/or landscape projects.”

Aims

LANSS has the support of a local college and is collaborating to deliver the Stonemason Level 2 Apprenticeship in Cumbria. In order to make this possible, the college requires collaboration with local employers. To facilitate this, we would be extremely grateful if you could complete and return the following questionnaire.

**Stonemasonry Provision in Cumbria: Questionnaire**

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| 1. **Company Information** |
| Company Name |  |
| Address |   |
| Email |  | Tel. |  |
| Which type of stonemasonry best describes the one in which your business operates?  |
| Banker Stonemason |  | Interior Stone Fixer |  | Quarrying  |  |
| Heritage Stonemason |  | Exterior Stone Fixer |  | Slate mining/working |  |
| Memorial Stonemason |  | Stone Façade Preservation |  | Other (…………………) |  |

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| **2. Do you have apprentices?** |
| YES | NO |
| If yes, please give further details. For example, how many apprentices, nature and duration of apprenticeship.  |
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| If no, what measures do you have in place to ensure recruitment and training needs are met in your company?  |
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| **3. Would you be in a position to take apprentices?** |
| YES | NO |
| If yes, how many apprentices could you take? |
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| If no, why not? Could you work with LANSS and a local college to overcome obstacles? |
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| **4. The length of the Stonemason L2 Apprenticeship is 24 months. Would you be able to take an apprentice****for the full duration of the apprenticeship?** |
| YES | NO |
| **5. Would you be able to offer a work experience placement of:** |
| 1-2 weeks | 1-6 months | 6-12 months | Other |
| Which of the following types of stonemason work experience could you offer: |
| Banker Stonemason | Interior Stone Fixer | Quarrying  |
| Heritage Stonemason | Exterior Stone Fixer | Slate mining/working |
| Memorial Stonemason | Stone Façade Preservation | Other (……………………………) |

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| **5. Please use this space to provide additional comments and/or information.** |
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| The undersigned acknowledges that the purpose of this questionnaire is to inform the development of Cumbrian based rural and heritage skills provision. LANSS will treat your responses with confidentiality and will not share your feedback with anyone else without obtaining your permission.  |
| **Name** |  |
| **Role** |  |
| **Date** |  |
| **Signature** |  |

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COLLABORATION!

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| For further information, visit: | <https://lanss.uk/> |
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