



Conwy County Borough Council

Staff Recruitment Pack

Conwy County ... See For Yourself

Our rolling hills, rocky mountains and mile upon mile of spectacular coastline are just some of the things that make this wonderful corner of the world such a great place to live and work in.

Living in North Wales doesn't just mean soaking up the natural beauty (although we have this by the hectare). It means experiencing our history, language, art, music, great shopping and delicious food. Stone circles, forts, castles, watersports, golf. You name it. We have it. Oh, and did we mention the highest mountain in England and Wales?

So, if you're looking for a great county to live and work in, take a good look at what Conwy County has to offer.

Life Story

Compact yet diverse, our precious living landscape bristles with life all year round.

And you don't have to go far to appreciate the colours and sounds of our wilder inhabitants.



Seals in our coastal waters



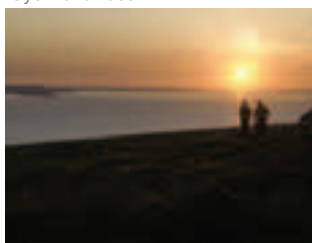
Betws y Coed



Sychnant Pass



Silver Studded Blue Butterfly



Miles of beautiful coastline



Wintery Welsh landscapes

Lonely outcrops, dense forest, and more woodland walks than you can shake a stick at. A journey through our landscape is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to see our fabulous wildlife. And with our abundance of plants, birds, animals and marine life, you're sure to spot some familiar favourites, and perhaps a few surprises.

Conwy town's Bodlondeb Woods is a peaceful woodland with magnificent views of the estuary from its open areas. It's bursting with a variety of tree species including oak, ash and cherry, and other inhabitants including foxes, squirrels and sparrow hawks.

Pwllcrochan Woods, which spans Colwyn Bay's hillside, has mostly native deciduous trees with other species including sweet chestnut and firs. There are plenty of other wooded places to visit, too. Each one with its own unique mix of inhabitants.

A short drive (or hike) to higher ground takes you to the moody landscapes of Pencychnant with its beautiful wild ponies, and rare dragonflies on the small hilltop lake.

The Great Orme's profusion of wildlife includes rare butterflies and plant life, a herd of free roaming Kashmir goats and great colonies

of sea birds, from kittiwakes to cormorants. Keep your eyes peeled from the sea cliffs. It's not unusual to spot the odd seal, porpoise or bottlenose dolphin in the coastal waters of the Irish Sea.

More than 200 species of bird have been identified at Conwy's RSPB Reserve on the water and banks of the estuary. Many exciting varieties can be seen here throughout the year. With footpaths, observatories, guided walks and special trails for youngsters, it's perfect for seasoned birders and first-timers.

Farmland makes up a great deal of Conwy's countryside. And there are plenty of marked footpaths to follow through green and pleasant rolling hills. Look out for rarities like the barn owl or species such as otter and water vole near rivers and streams.

From nature reserves to remote and untamed wilderness, Conwy's varied habitats are beautiful and bountiful all year round. An explosion of new life in the spring, the blossoms and birdsong of summer, the golden red-browns of autumn and sparse winter landscapes.

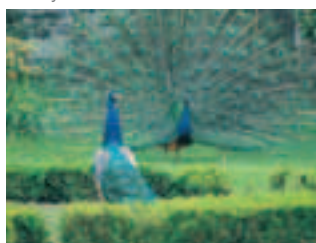
Inheritance

From elegant Victorian architecture to the crumbling walls and earth works of our ancient ancestors.

Our rich legacy gives Conwy County its special character. And, with its own unique story to tell, each place gives a magical glimpse of the past.



Dolwyddelan Castle



Peacocks at Gwydir Castle, Llanrwst



Aberconwy House, Conwy



Plas Mawr, Conwy



Llys Euryn, Rhos-on-Sea

Conwy town is a great place to start exploring the local history. The dramatic 13th century castle towers over one of the best examples of a medieval walled town in Europe. Aberconwy House, dating back to the 14th century, is believed to be the oldest surviving townhouse in Wales, and just a short walk away is Plas Mawr, the Elizabethan townhouse with its distinctive tower and beautiful interior plaster work.

Along the coast at Rhos-on-Sea are the remains of Bryn Euryn ancient hill fort, and the ruins of Llys Euryn built on the site of a 13th century palace. But our local history goes much further back. Excavation work at the Great Orme's 4,000 year old copper mines has uncovered thousands of bone tools, as well as hundreds of metres of prehistoric passages.

Inland, the lonely remains of Dolwyddelan Castle can be seen for miles around on its Snowdonian ridge. Built by Llywelyn the Great, it's one of the few officially Welsh castles. It's well worth a visit for the fantastic views alone.

Gwydir Castle is set within fabulous gardens in the Conwy Valley. Famous for its peacocks and some truly spooky supernatural sightings, it's one of Wales' finest examples of a Tudor courtyard house.

From pristine country house lawns to public gardens, we have some of the country's most beautiful examples right in our back yard. The celebrated Bodnant Garden is a must-see for serious gardeners, or those who enjoy life's simple pleasures. It features terraced and wild gardens, perfect lawns and a colossal range of plants from all over the world. Camellias in spring, blue flowering hydrangeas in the summer and berrying trees during autumn are just some of the seasonal highlights.

From its sheltered spot on the Great Orme, the gardens at Happy Valley enjoy great views over Llandudno bay. Some faithful restoration at Haulfre Gardens on the Orme's south face have returned this much-loved spot to its former glory.

From grand houses, to sublime gardens, our wonderful heritage is an integral part of our lives, carefully managed for our enjoyment today, and for years to come.

Sand and Surf

There's nothing quite like a day at the seaside. And in Conwy County you're never far away from a beach. From lively resorts to deserted shores, our bounty of beaches stretches for over 20 miles and has attracted visitors for generations. Perfect for a picnic and a paddle, a walk to refresh the senses, or some exciting watersport adventures.



Buckets and spades



West Shore, Llandudno



Llandudno's North Shore



Clean, safe beaches

We have award-winning beaches right on our doorstep. They're easy to get to, have good access, great facilities and plenty of parking. And whether you're swimming, surfing, building sandcastles or just enjoying the fresh air, you can be sure of a clean shoreline with safe water.

For a spot of seaside nostalgia, head to Llandudno's North Shore. With ice creams, buckets and spades, a Victorian pier and a long promenade, it's the most popular beach in the area. The sandy West Shore has a play area on the sea front, impressive views of Anglesey and the mountains, the sea cliffs of the Great Orme and some incredible sunsets over the water.

Colwyn Bay and Rhos-on-Sea's beaches are great for swimming, watersports and fishing, with cycling and walking along the coastal tracks. Penmaenmawr's promenade features a skating park, paddling pool and play area for children, so it's perfect for families. And there's a row of traditional beach huts, too, if you fancy a dip the old fashioned way. The busy shorelines at Conwy and Deganwy bustle with boating action on the fast flowing waters of the estuary.

For the freedom of a wide open space and the bracing sea air, Kinmel Bay's sand and shingle beach has a long promenade and a nature reserve on the land side of the beach. The front at Llanfairfechan has gardens and a play area plus a great expanse of sand at low tide, so it's great for walking.

When the temperature drops, pull on your hats and scarves and stride out onto a chilly, wind swept beach. There's nothing quite like it to refresh the mind and body. And whichever beach you choose, whatever time of year, you're sure to fall in love with the picture-perfect views all around.

Award-winning beaches 2007

Llandudno West Shore	European Blue Flag Award Encams Seaside Award - Resort
Llandudno North Shore	European Blue Flag Award Encams Seaside Award - Resort
Colwyn Bay/Rhos-on-Sea	Encams Seaside Award - Resort
Kinmel Bay	Encams Seaside Award - Rural
Pensarn & Abergele	Encams Seaside Award - Rural
Old Colwyn	Encams Seaside Award - Rural
Penmaenmawr	European Blue Flag Award Encams Seaside Award - Resort
Llanfairfechan	Encams Seaside Award - Rural

Great Taste

On the hunt for a brilliant place to eat?
From gutsy comfort food to gourmet delights, sample the local hospitality and you'll see why this part of the world is a big name on the culinary map.



Great international food



Socialising in Colwyn Bay



Food with a view



Eating out in Llandudno



Exciting modern food

Home Grown

Great food is a big part of our culture here in Wales. Our vast areas of fertile grassland coupled with a perfect climate for growing things, are the recipe for some truly delicious quality produce. Our Welsh black beef and salt marsh lamb are world renowned. And our almost endless coastline makes this part of Wales prime seafood country, too. Local sea-bass, lobster and mussels are on all the best menus.

If you fancy rustling something up yourself, there are plenty of places to pick up some quality ingredients. There's a fantastic range of long-established family butcher, baker and grocery shops, and a handful of great new delicatessen, stocking the best Welsh specialities. From award-winning sausages to infamous lava bread and Welsh cheese and wine. And with our stunning scenery, what better way to enjoy the local delicacies, than dining al fresco? A picnic on the beach or on higher ground really makes the most of these beautiful surroundings.

Eating Out

If you'd rather leave the hard work to someone else, you don't have to go far to track down the best places to eat out. Conwy County is packed with excellent foodie destinations offering the perfect pairing of food and drink. Great restaurants, brasseries and gastro pubs offer extensive menus with local ingredients, thoughtful wine lists and a warm Welsh welcome.

We love our home grown produce and we're proud to share it with the rest of the world. But we're also partial to the colours and flavours of global cuisine. If international food is your thing too, you won't be disappointed with the array of excellent restaurants serving delicious food from all over the world.

From traditional dishes enjoyed by our ancestors, to the latest thing in food. Whether you choose a buzzing bistro or a more elegant dining experience, the most reliable sign of a good place to eat is that the locals are dining there too! Who knows? You might even discover a hidden gem you'll want to keep secret.