



## Careers information sheet

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### Arboriculture / Forestry

#### What do Arboriculturists / Foresters do?

The trees and timber industry involves the care and management of trees, woodlands and forests and the production of wood and timber products. Trees are managed for many different reasons, such as developing recreation and conservation areas or in the production of wood as a raw material. This is an expanding industry - there is an increasing interest in wood fuel for heat and power generation as it is a sustainable resource.

Arboriculture involves the planting, care and maintenance of trees and woodlands mainly for the conservation of rural landscapes and the urban environment.

Forestry is the science and practice of managing forests and woodlands and covers everything from creating and caring for small broad-leaved and community forests to planting and managing large coniferous forests.

Both areas involve practical skills such as raising young trees and using chainsaws. A high proportion of existing arboricultural businesses operate in South East England and self employment is a real possibility once you are skilled and qualified.

(Source: jobs4u/Lantra)

There are several different pathways to become a qualified Arboriculturalist/Forester.

ROUTE 1 - Work based learning

ROUTE 2 - Vocational learning

ROUTE 3 - Traditional

Go to the Key Routes web pages for interactive versions of these routes – <http://www.keyroutes.org.uk/careas/lanenv/opt-arbor.aspx>

Adults without formal qualifications can move into the tree and timber industry. You will need to demonstrate your enthusiasm (perhaps through volunteering) and be physically fit.

#### What else should I be doing?

It would help your Tree career to:

- look for work experience in a tree nursery

- find part time work where you meet the public and use your communications skills
- keep up to date with new developments in forestry and sustainable energy
- develop your decision making and problem solving skills
- work on your tree identification skills
- find out about old woodland crafts such as hurdle making and charcoal burning
- join the Woodland Trust  
<http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk>
- volunteer for conservation work, for example through the National Trust  
<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk> or your local Wildlife Trust  
<http://www.wildlifetrusts.org>
- keep fit

### **Useful links**

The Royal Forestry Society of England has information on professional qualifications as well as useful background information on trees.

<http://www.rfs.org.uk>

The Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF) is the professional body for foresters and arboriculturists in the UK.

<http://www.charteredforesters.org>

The Arboricultural Society advances the science of Arboriculture and is based in the South East (in Hampshire).

<http://www.trees.org.uk>

The Forestry Commission advances the science of Arboriculture and is based in the South East (in Hampshire).

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk>