



Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies

Career Progression in Land Management and Production – Trees and Timber

Higher Diploma to a Vocational Qualification to Employment

A career in Trees and Timber

Example – Tree Surgeon

Tree surgeons, also known as Arborists work with individual trees, hedgerows and shrubs in cities, the countryside and conservation areas. They are trained and equipped to tend trees, preserving, planting, protecting, pruning and felling, sometimes with heavy equipment. Tree surgery is often performed to improve the health of a tree, to improve its appearance or performed for safety reasons. A tree surgeon will have knowledge of trees as living organisms and understand when, how and why specialist tree care is needed.

Whilst training to become a tree surgeon, employees usually begin their career as part of ground staff. They then undertake further training to climb and move on to become a tree surgeon.

The job is interesting and varied and requires a wide range of different skills.

These include:

- being practical and good at working with their hands
- being able to work well alone and as part of a team
- good communication skills
- a good awareness of health and safety issues.

Tree surgeons work for local government, organisations such as The National Trust, specialist contractors, private landowners and businesses.

For information on the skills gaps and shortages of the current workforce and factsheets on individual industries within the environmental and land-based sector, including trees and timber please visit: www.lantra.co.uk/skills-assessment

Although there are no set academic requirements for entry into this particular job role the Higher Diploma would equip students with real skills and knowledge with which to undertake further study in preparation for employment.

There are also many other job roles within the trees and timber industry and information on these can be found at www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u/ and www.afuturein.com

Why choose the Higher Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies for entry into a Career in Trees and Timber?

What makes the Diploma different from the traditional GCSE route is that it is not purely a classroom based course. Students get out and about and learn from different employer businesses/organisations who understand what the next workforce generation needs to know. Consequently students take up to date, real world knowledge directly into the workplace.

This is achieved through employers being actively involved with the Diploma in a number of different ways, for example:

- Work Shadowing
- Industry Days
- Visits
- Mentoring
- Questions and Answers Sessions
- Work Experience.

For further information on Employer Engagement in the Diploma visit – www.diplomaelbs.org.uk/welcome/consortia/downloads-and-resources/

What does the Diploma actually consist of and how is it different?

The Higher Diploma is equivalent to 7 GCSEs (grades A*-C). You can also study additional GCSEs alongside the Higher Diploma.

There are **three** elements to the diploma:

- principal learning
- generic learning
- additional and specialist learning.

Principal Learning

Principal learning is a free standing qualification relating to the environmental and Land-based sector. It focuses on developing relevant knowledge, understanding and skills and applying them to work-based situations.

Therefore students would look at:

- exploring the productive and working environment – how we manage the environment in the modern world
- plants and animals – the role plants and animals in today's society covering subjects including nutrition, care, welfare and breeding
- developing the sustainable environment – the impact of people and business on the environment and debating current environmental issues.

Generic Learning

Consists of:

- functional skills in English, ICT and mathematics
- personal, learning and thinking skills
- a project
- work experience – a minimum of 10 days related work-based activities.

A Project

A student interested in a career in trees and timber such as a Tree Surgeon would perhaps choose a project related to developing climbing harnesses or ropes.

In order to meet project objectives students need to:

- manage the project
- use resources/undertake research as appropriate to the topic
- develop realise the project to achieve the planned outcome
- review the project outcomes including own learning and performance.

Students need to show they can plan, deliver and present a piece of work.

Work Experience

There are opportunities for work experience within the trees and timber industry. This could include working with tree surgeons as ground staff, assisting by clearing away branches and debris.

For a career in trees and timber enthusiasm and an interest in working with the environment and outdoors is really important.

Additional and Specialist Learning

Additional and specialist learning adds breadth and/or depth to the learning experience. A student's choice of ASL enables them to personalise their programme to include studies which interest them and support their career ambitions. An example of this could include a Level 2 Certificate in Practical and Environmental Studies

For further information on the qualifications within the diploma please visit <http://www.accreditedqualifications.org.uk/DiplomaCatalogueSelection.aspx>

Further Progression

On completion of the Diploma there are opportunities to study for work based diplomas (NVQ's) in Forestry and Arboriculture at Level 2. These qualifications can be undertaken whilst employed and include workplace assessment.

Tree surgeons usually train on the job under the supervision of a manager or another experienced colleague

The Royal Forestry Society (RFS) and Institute of Chartered Foresters can provide details of specialist centres offering professional arboricultural qualifications for workers wishing to progress and develop their skills.

People entering this career must attain competency certificates before they are able to practice (some of which are a legal requirement). These include competency certificates in chainsaw use and pesticide application.

For a list of current qualifications visit the national database of accredited qualifications (NDAQ), www.accreditedqualifications.org.uk

It may also be possible to enter this career through an appropriate apprenticeship programme. Apprenticeships provide structured training with an employer and combine practical and theoretical skills designed to help employees reach a high level of competency and performance. For information on apprenticeships visit www.apprenticeships.org.uk

Diploma progression illustrations can be found on the QCDA website: www.qcda.gov.uk/25715.aspx

More information on the Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies can be found at www.diplomaelbs.org.uk.