



# JOB of the Week



**Job name:** Arboriculturist

**Job description:** An Arboriculturist (Tree surgeon) carries out tree work including planting, felling, care and maintenance, and hazard assessments on environments where trees grow or are planted.

**Tasks you will undertake in the job:** As a Arboriculturist, you'll:

- plant trees and shrubs
- undertake thinning and tree surgery using a range of equipment
- carry out groundwork using a chainsaw and a chipper
- select plants and design landscaping schemes
- apply knowledge of tree biology for effective tree maintenance
- follow and negotiate clients' requirements
- manage tree care and tree-planting contracts
- carry out tree inspections and surveys
- write reports for engineers, solicitors and mortgage and insurance companies, providing information relating to trees - for example if a tree root system is damaging, or likely to damage, a building or cause subsidence
- review and respond to planning applications
- provide training for junior colleagues and volunteers
- conduct development site surveys and give pre-planning advice on topics such as the effect a proposed development may have on trees in the area and how best to retain them and incorporate them into the finished project
- reclaim abandoned industrial sites - if required
- prune tree growth away from electrical cables and public access routes - where necessary
- develop practical solutions to environmental issues
- advise on suitable trees for development sites.

As an arboriculturist, you'll cultivate and manage trees, hedgerows and shrubs. The work is undertaken in both rural and urban settings and includes all aspects of felling, preserving, planting and protecting trees, sometimes using heavy equipment.

You'll also provide information and advice on specific tree-related issues and may be involved in maintaining a safe relationship between the trees, their immediate environment and the general public.

**Skills required for this job (core competencies):**

Communication	Resilience	Organisation	Teamwork
Problem Solving	Initiative	Creativity	Digital literacy

**Sectors in which Arboriculturists would normally work:**

Typical employers include: commercial tree care companies; local authority planning and environment departments employing arboriculture or tree preservation officers; conservation organisations, such as the National Trust, covering England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the National Trust for Scotland and English Heritage; government departments, particularly the Forestry Commission; botanic gardens, such as the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and universities, colleges and schools - for teaching posts.

**Salary:** Arboriculturists are typically paid a starting wage of £16 000, this increases with experience, skilled Arboriculturists can expect to earn approximately £30 000 per year.

**Working hours:** Working hours are usually around 41-43 hours per week. It is likely that you will work during some evenings and weekends (sometimes at short notice)



## Qualifications to become a Arboriculturist:

You can get into this job through: a university course; a college course; an apprenticeship; working towards this role. You can study for a foundation degree, higher national diploma or degree. Relevant courses include: forestry; arboriculture; countryside management; forest management; woodland ecology and conservation. Entry requirements: 1 or 2 A levels, or equivalent, for a foundation degree or higher national diploma OR 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree

You could do a college course, which would teach you some of the skills and knowledge you need in this job. Relevant subjects include: Level 2 Certificate in Arboriculture; Level 2 Work-based Trees and Timber; Level 2 Felling and Processing Trees and Level 3 Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture. Entry requirements: 2 or more GCSEs at grades 9 to 3 (A\* to D), or equivalent, for a level 2 course; 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C), or equivalent, for a level 3 course

Apprenticeship: You may be able to get into this job through an arborist or a forest operative intermediate apprenticeship. Entry requirements: GCSEs, usually including English and maths, or equivalent, for an intermediate apprenticeship. Work: You may be able to start as a ground worker, supporting a qualified tree surgeon. You could then work your way up by completing further training in the use of chainsaws, ropes, ladders and harnesses. Courses are offered by private training providers and further education colleges.

**Essential skills you need to show:** To succeed as a Arboriculturist, the following personal skills and attributes would give you an advantage:

- a good level of physical fitness
- confidence working at heights
- stamina for holding equipment, such as a chainsaw
- a driving licence for working in different locations and transporting equipment
- an aptitude for working outdoors.
- Work experience: Pre-entry experience in areas such as project work (landscaping and urban reclamation), tree maintenance or planting work is essential.

**This job in the future:** The workforce is projected to decline by -2.1%, losing 200 jobs; in the same period, 53.7% of the workforce is likely to retire, creating 5 400 job opportunities.

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[www.ucas.com/careers-advice](http://www.ucas.com/careers-advice)

[www.kudos/cascaid.co.uk/#/](http://www.kudos/cascaid.co.uk/#/) (you all have a log on for this service)

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