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CAREERS IN ARBORICULTURE

ARBORICULTURE

Arboriculture can be defined as the production and management of trees and shrubs in urban and rural environs where amenity is the primary objective. (Whereas Forestry usually has the primary objective of economic timber production.)

THE SKILLS OF ARBORICULTURE

Plant selection and production:

In addition to the trees and shrubs that are the natural vegetation of Britain, arboriculture deals with a wide variety of other woody species capable of healthy growth in the UK. For example, the space available, the soil and micro climate to towns, often dictate the use of small or medium size trees having an ornamental form which have been selected for particular features. (eg. leaf colour, branch habit, flower or fruit colour.) These plants are perpetuated in many differing ways, including vegetatively, (cuttings, budding or grafting) in controlled environments available in nurseries.

Planting:

Tree and shrub planting is also an important component of amenity horticulture courses, particularly at County Agricultural Colleges. In addition to one year and three year residential courses, short training courses specifically on planting are available, usually arranged on an ad-hoc basis by colleges, training groups, and/or employers.

Tree Surgery:

Specialist instruction in the skills of tree surgery is offered by a range of colleges throughout the country and also by individual instructors. In addition, many amenity horticulture courses include tree surgery as a component of the syllabus. The Arboricultural Association should be able to advise you of the nearest course.

Amenity Woodlands:

Specific courses are not available for this work, but the practical skills required are mainly those of commercial forestry. As such the courses offered at Cumbria College of Agriculture and Forestry, Inverness College and some County Agricultural Colleges are appropriate.

Specialist courses on aspects of amenity woodland management are arranged on an ad-hoc basis.

General Arboriculture:

The specialised practical skills of arboriculture are offered as packaged courses of three years for the National Diploma

(BTEC) at Merrist Wood Agriculture College, and one year NCH (Arboriculture) also at Merrist Wood and elsewhere. Aberdeen University is offering arboriculture as an option in forestry degree courses, while both Aberdeen and Oxford Universities are including arboriculture at post graduate level.

ARBORICULTURAL CAREERS AND EDUCATION

In arboriculture, opportunities exist for people with many skills including management in both commercial enterprises and local government. The range of expertise required, combined with the comparative youthfulness of the industry, is supplied by education and training and career structure which are still evolving. Both residential courses and alternative routes of training exist. This note is intended to provide background information for young people considering a career working with amenity trees and shrubs.

PRE-COLLEGE EMPLOYMENT

Agricultural colleges require some work experience in the industry before studies commence. Generally this may be gained in any aspect of forestry or arboriculture. In the long-term experience in nursery production of trees and shrubs may be the most valuable because it will assist the trainee in learning to identify trees and shrubs. Those sufficiently interested in working with amenity trees should contact their local nurserymen, these are listed in the Yellow Pages the telephone directory under "Nurserymen - Trees and Shrubs), local authority parks departments, tree surgeons - listed in the Arboricultural Association's Directory of Consultants and Approved Contractors, and Yellow Pages as "Tree Work Contractors " or forestry contractors, listed as "Forestry Maintenance Contractors".

QUALIFICATIONS

Please see our leaflet – ‘A Guide to Qualifications & Careers in Arboriculture

Several county agriculture colleges offer amenity horticulture courses, day release horticulture courses and short courses.

ADDRESSES OF COLLEGES OFFERING COURSES IN ARBORICULTURE

**University of Aberdeen,
www.abdn.ac.uk**

King's College, Aberdeen, AB24 3FX
Email: sras@abdn.ac.uk

tel: 01224 272000
Fax:

**Askham Bryan College of Agriculture & Horticulture
www.askham-bryan.ac.uk**

Askham Bryan, York YO2 3FR
Email: enquiries@askham-bryan.ac.uk

tel: 01904 772277
Fax: 01904 772288

**Angus College,
www.angus.ac.uk**

Keptie Road, Arbroath, Angus, Scotland, DD11 3EA
Email: marketing@angus.ac.uk

tel: 01241 432600
Fax: 01241 432600

**Bicton College,
www.bicton.ac.uk**

East Budleigh, Budleigh Salterton, Devon EX9 7BY
Email: enquiries@bicton.ac.uk

tel: 01395 562400
Fax: 01395 567502

**Brooksby Melton College
www.brooksbymelton.ac.uk**

Melton Campus, Asfordby Road, Melton Mowbray,
Leicestershire LE13 0HJ
Email: course.enquiries@brooksbymelton.ac.uk

tel: 01664 855457
Fax: 01664 855455

**Capel Manor College
www.capel.ac.uk**

Bullsmoor Lane, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 4RQ
Email: enquiries@capel.ac.uk

tel. 08456 122 122
Fax: 01992 717544

**Bridgwater College
www.bridgwater.ac.uk**

Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2LS
Email: enquiries@bridgwater.ac.uk

el. 01278 455464
Fax: 01278 444363

**DeMontfort University, School of Agriculture & Horticulture
www.dmu.ac.uk**

Caythorpe Court, Caythorpe, Nr Grantham, Lincs NG32 3EP
Email:

tel. 116 255 1551
Fax:

**East Durham & Houghall Community College
www.edhcc.ac.uk**

Houghall Centre, Houghall, Durham, DH1 3SG
Email: enquiries@edhcc.ac.uk

tel. 0191 518 2000
Fax: 0191 5867125

**Easton College,
www.easton-college.ac.uk**

Easton, Norwich, NR9 5DX
Email: info@easton-college.ac.uk

tel. 01603 731200
Fax: 01603 741438

**Inverness College,
www.inverness.uhi.ac.uk**

Scottish School of Forestry, Viewhill, Inverness, IV2 5EA
Email: info@inverness.uhi.ac.uk

tel: 01463 273000
Fax: 01463 711977

**Kingston Maurward College,
www.kmc.ac.uk**

Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 8PY
Email: administration@kmc.ac.uk

tel: 01305 215000
Fax: 01305 215001

Myerscough College**www.myerscough.ac.uk**

Myerscough Hall, Bilsborrow, Preston, PR3 0RY

Email: enquiries@myerscough.ac.uk

tel. 01995 642333

Fax:

Merrist Wood College**www.guilford.ac.uk/mwsite/mw-index.aspx**

Worplesdon, Nr Guildford, Surrey, GU3 3PE

Email: info@guilford.ac.uk

tel. 01483 448500

Fax:

Moulton College,**www.moulton.ac.uk**

West Street, Moulton, Northampton, NN3 7RR

Email: enquiries@moulton.ac.uk

tel: 01604 491131

Fax: 01604 491127

Newton Rigg/University of Cumbria**www.cumbria.ac/forestry**

Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 0AH

Email:

tel. 01524 384758

Fax:

Otley College,**www.otleycollege.ac.uk**

Charity Lane, Otley, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP6 9EY

Email: info@otleycollege.ac.uk

tel. 01473 785543

Fax: 01473 785353

Shuttleworth College,**www.shuttleworth.ac.uk**

Old Warden Park, Biggleswade, Beds, SG18 9EA

Email: enquiries@shuttleworth.ac.uk

tel: 01767 626222

Fax:

Reaseheath College,**www.reaseheath.ac.uk**

Reaseheath, Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 6DF

Email: enquiries@reaseheath.ac.uk

tel. 01270 625131

Fax:

Sparsholt College**www.sparsholt.ac.uk**

Sparsholt, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 2NF

Email:

tel. 01962 776441

Fax: 01962 776587

Warwickshire College,**www.warkscol.ac.uk**

Moreton Morrell Centre, Moreton Morrell, Warwickshire, CV35 9BL

Email:

tel. 01926 318000

Fax: 01962 318300

Writtle College,**www.writtle.ac.uk**

Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3RR

Email:

tel. 01245 424200

Fax:

USEFUL ADDRESSES**For General Information:****ARBORICULTURAL FORESTRY ADVISORY GROUP (AFAG)****www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/forstry.htm****telephone: 01787 881165****fax: 01787 313995****Email:**

FORESTRY COMMISSION

www.forestry.gov.uk

231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT

telephone: 0131 334 0303/ 0845 FORESTS

fax:

Email:

ARBORICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

www.trees.org.uk

Ampfield House, Ampfield, Romsey, Hampshire S051 9PA

telephone: 01794 368717

fax: 01794 368978

Email: admin@trees.org

ROYAL FORESTRY SOCIETY

www.rfs.org.uk

102 High Street, Tring, Herts. HP23 4AH

telephone: 01442 822028

fax: 01442 890395

Email:

ENGLISH NATURE

www.english-nature.org.uk

Northminster House, Peterborough, PE1 1UA

telephone: 01733 40345

fax: 01733 568834

SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE

www.snh.org.uk

12 Hope Terrace, Edinburgh, EH9 2AS

telephone: 0131 447 4784

fax: 0131 446 2277

THE TREE COUNCIL

www.treecouncil.org.uk

71 Newcomen Street, London, SE1 1YT

telephone: 020 7407 9992

fax: 020 7407 9908

Email: info@treecouncil.org.uk

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS KEW

www.kew.org

School of Horticulture, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3AB

telephone: 020 8332 5655

INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED FORESTERS

www.charteredforesters.org

St Colme Street, Edinburgh, EH3 6AA

telephone: 0131 225 2705

fax: 0131 220 6128

Email: icf@charteredforesters.org