



Arboricultural
ASSOCIATION
The home of tree care



**YOUR FUTURE IS
LOOKING UP!**

ARBORISTS

Arborists or Tree Surgeons provide expert care for trees, they understand how a tree functions as a living entity, ensuring they stay healthy and grow strong within their environment. Their work includes pruning, trimming, and shaping branches as well as providing risk assessments or conducting hazard checks. Many tree surgeons run their own businesses or work for larger organisations such as the National Trust.



KEY SKILLS

Good communication skills

- with a range of people including customers, colleagues and consultants.

Teamwork

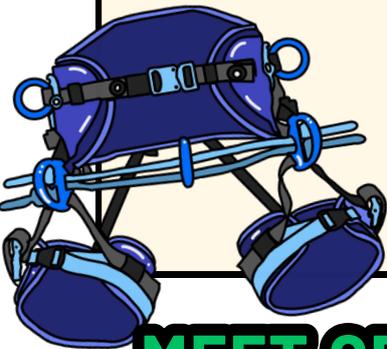
- often working as part of a 'crew' it is important to be a team player in this role.

Enjoy working from heights

much of the work takes place either up in the tree canopy or via ropes!

Practical, hardworking attitude

This is not a desk job, you will be outside in all weathers wearing protective clothing and will need to enjoy physical tasks! This often includes the use of power tools such as chainsaws, chippers and shredders.



MEET CECILY

Cecily Withall is a Climbing Arborist at The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Scan the QR code to learn more about her career.

QUALIFICATIONS

Level 2 Certificate in Arboriculture

A good starting point after leaving school, Level 2's provide foundational knowledge and skills in Arboriculture.

Level 2 Arborist Apprenticeship

An apprenticeship will allow you to work, learn and study on the job.

NPTC (National Proficiency Tests Council) certificates

Essential for demonstrating competency in specific areas, such as using chainsaws, machinery and tree climbing.

BTEC National Diploma Level 3 in Arboriculture

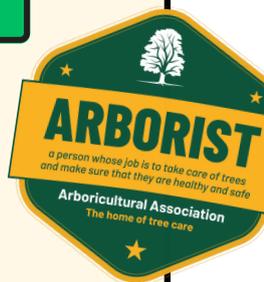
Equivalent to 3 A-Levels

T Level in Tree & Woodland Management & Maintenance Level 3 (Arboriculture)

This qualification will provide both the theoretical knowledge and the practical skills and behaviours to gain employment or go on to Higher Education.

Degrees in Forestry, Arboriculture, or related fields

While not always essential to become a tree surgeon, they can provide a strong theoretical basis for tree surgery practice and lead onto consultancy work in the future.



TREE OFFICERS

Tree Officers are responsible for the management and care of amenity trees usually on behalf of the local council or authority. The trees may be situated in parks, gardens, schools or on public highways and streets. Ensuring they tree stock is safe and healthy is important for the wildlife, biodiversity and people who live in the community.

The role also reviews arboricultural reports and assessments, creating TPO's (Tree Protection Orders) to protect trees from development pressures and mismanagement. They provide the authority, with expertise and knowledge to refuse building or highways applications if certain trees are not kept or considered within the development.

Overseeing planting initiatives or contracts Tree Officers manage the establishment of new trees on public land, often inviting local people to get involved wherever possible.



KEY SKILLS

A passion for trees

- A passion for amenity trees in a variety of public settings.

Stakeholder management

- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively with a range of stakeholders.

Following policies and procedures

- Legislation, local policies and procedures knowledge – an interest in the laws protecting trees, wildlife, and highway management is important.

Using technology

- Information technology specifically GPS enabled systems to conduct stock surveys.

Science and Research

- Knowledge of biological threats to our trees here in the UK including pests, diseases and disorders.

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Level 4 Award, Certificate or Diploma Arboriculture/Forestry qualification

Such qualifications are the stepping stone between further and higher education.

Professional Certifications

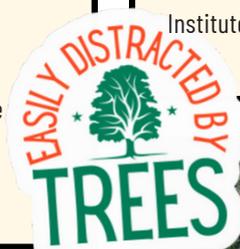
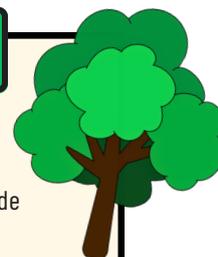
Further professional certifications such as the Lantra Professional Tree Inspection (PTI) or EAC VETcert qualification.

Bachelor's (BSc) or Master's (MSc) degree

in Arboriculture, Forestry or related fields – Studied at university a degree will allow you to develop your theoretic knowledge to a very high level often specialising with the subject.

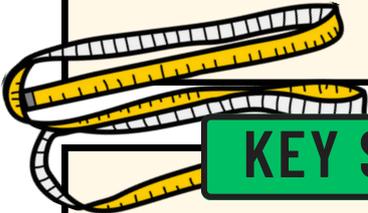
Professional accreditation/membership

with industry bodies, such as the Arboricultural Association or Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF).



CONSULTANTS

Consultants are specialised professionals focused on the care and management of trees in both urban and rural settings. This diverse role combines academic expertise, scientific knowledge, and practical experience to serve a wide range of clients, including individuals, corporations, and public landowners. They produce comprehensive reports on tree health and wellbeing that incorporate conservation and environmental best practices. Their recommendations cover a range of topics, including species selection, wildlife management, pest and disease identification, and the preservation of ancient or veteran trees.



KEY SKILLS

A passion for trees

- particularly those in situated in amenity landscapes such as parks and gardens. An interest in tree care must be coupled with the ability to accurately identify a wide variety of tree species.

Critical thinking and problem-solving

- ability to analyse data and current research to make informed decisions.

Interest in using technology

- to assist in the conduction of tree surveys such as drones and GPS enabled systems.

Effective communicator

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Science and Research

- Interest in environmental sciences and academic research within the sector.



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DISCOVER MORE

There are many more careers in Arboriculture, scan the QR code to learn more about tree careers.



ECOLOGISTS

Ecologists investigate how people, animals, and plants interact with their natural environments. By offering crucial information, data and research about ecosystems and the biodiversity within them they aid in the conservation and preservation of the natural environment. In order to identify, document, and track species and their habitats, ecologists typically specialise in one of several fields.

An Ecological Arboriculturist combines their expertise in ecosystems (ecology) with the study of trees (arboriculture). Managing and comprehending how individual trees interact with their surroundings, including other plants, animals and organisms such as fungi. It is a specialist area of study that falls under both ecology and arboriculture.

KEY SKILLS

Science and Research

- Excellent scientific knowledge in a specific field such as flora, arboriculture, marine, fungi.

Analytical

- Fantastic analytical abilities, statistical skills and problem-solving thinking.

Love the outdoors

- Love of nature and working outdoors in all weathers!

Communication

- Outstanding written and spoken communication, as reports and management plans will need to be produced for a range of stakeholders.

Adaptable

- Adaptive, detail-oriented, individuals who are passionate about environmental conservation.

Following legislation

- Desire to learn about legislation surrounding the protection of wildlife and the environment.



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