



# Career of the week

## • Forestry Worker

Forestry workers, plant, manage and harvest trees and care for the environment in forests and woodland.

**Average salary (a year):** £19,000 (starter) to £730,000 (experienced)

**Typical hours (a week):** 42 to 44 hrs a week between 8am and 6pm

### College

You could take a course at an agricultural college to learn some of the skills needed in this job. Courses include:

- Level 2 Certificate in Arboriculture
- Level 3 Certificate in Countryside Management
- Level 3 Diploma in Countryside and Environment
- T Level in Agriculture, Land Management and Production.

### Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- 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
- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C), or equivalent, including English and maths for a T level

### Apprenticeship

You could get into this job by doing a Forest Craftsperson Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship. With experience, you could move on to complete a Professional Forester Level 6 Degree Apprenticeship.

### Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C), or equivalent, including English and maths, for an advanced apprenticeship
- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C) and A levels, or equivalent, for a degree apprenticeship

### Volunteering

You may find it useful when looking for jobs to have some relevant practical experience. You can find volunteering opportunities with organisations like:

- [Trees for Cities](#)
- [The Tree Council](#)
- [Forestry England](#)

## Direct Application

You could apply directly to become a forestry worker.

You'll usually need certain licences, for instance, a licence for chainsaw operations or for driving agricultural machinery.

## Skills and knowledge

You'll need:

- the ability to use your initiative
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- knowledge of geography
- the ability to work well with others
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- knowledge of maths
- excellent verbal communication skills
- the ability to work well with your hands
- to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device

You'll need to:

- have a [Certificate of Competence](#), if you carry out hazardous tasks using a chainsaw
- have a full driving licence

## Day-to-day tasks

As a forest worker, you could:

- clear undergrowth like shrubs and plants so you can plant tree seedlings
- cut down trees and branches and get timber ready to be removed
- put up fences, gates and public information notices
- clear footpaths and nature trails
- maintain equipment, drainage systems and car parks
- protect the forest from pests and diseases and prevent forest fires

## Working environment

You could work in woodland.

Your working environment may be physically demanding and outdoors in all weathers.

You may need to wear protective clothing.

## Career progression

With experience you could:

- become a forest works supervisor, woodland manager or arboricultural officer
- work as forest ranger with wardens or conservation officers to look after wildlife
- educate community groups on the importance of forest and wildlife conservation to sustainability