



Agriculture and Horticulture

Local Information Sheet No. 1

The Work

Land management and production includes: agricultural crops; agricultural livestock; aquaculture; fencing; floristry; land-based engineering; production horticulture and trees and timber. Animal health and welfare includes: animal care; animal technology; equine; farriery and veterinary nursing.

Environmental industries include: environmental conservation; fisheries management; game and wildlife management and landscape.

Other Local Information Sheets you might find useful:

No. 8 – Garage Work, Mechanics and Agricultural Engineering

No. 13 – Retail, Sales and Warehousing (includes floristry)

No. 17 – Animals (includes animal and horse care, veterinary nursing).

What's Happening?

This sector is divided into three clusters : Land management and production; animal health and welfare and environmental industries. The environmental and land-based sector employs about 720,000 people in England, and is an important part of our lives (it's worth about £8.9 billion a year). It also has about half a million volunteers. The recent decline in agriculture has a knock-on effect on other rural industries such as animal care, agricultural engineering and land management. A wide variety of career opportunities are available in land management and production, animal health and environmental industries.

Sector Skills Council for the environmental and land-based sector – Lantra – www.lantra.co.uk

Possible Job Titles

Arboricultural Worker
Conservation Officer
Countryside Ranger
Farm Manager

Farm Worker (Livestock/Crops)
Fish Farmer
Forest Worker
Gamekeeper

Garden Centre Worker
Groundsperson
Landscape Architect
Tree Surgeon

For information about these jobs see the – Environment, Animals and Plants section of your Connexions Information Centre. (HA/HB).

Your Options at 16 and 17

- **Further education at school or college** – continue to study, full or part-time, for a career or keep your future options open and simply continue to improve your qualifications.
- **Apprenticeships (Level 2)/Advanced Apprenticeships (Level 3)** – learn new skills with an employer, gain qualifications and get some real work experience. You will receive a wage, or, if you are eligible, an Education Maintenance Allowance of up to £30 a week.
- **Job** – regular, paid work that, with training, can lead to recognised qualifications.
- **e2e (Entry to Employment) & Pre-e2e** – programmes to help you prepare for a job, an Apprenticeship or further education.

For details of all these options speak to your Connexions personal adviser or see page twelve – Easy ways to get useful information.

Section 1

Further education: what's available locally and how to apply.

- This sheet lists full-time vocational courses. Other courses and ways of learning may be available.
- **Futures4Me** – explore all post-16 learning and training opportunities available in the West of England.
- Contact colleges/sixth form colleges for information and an application form. They all have websites.
- Go to open evenings and information events. See page twelve – Easy ways to get useful information.
- Ask colleges/sixth form colleges how well previous students have done on their courses.
- Use your school's Connexions Information Centre for information about local colleges and sixth forms.
- Higher education, Apprenticeships, a job with training, self-employment or time out to travel or do voluntary work are all options after college/sixth form college.
- Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is a weekly payment to help with costs if you go into the sixth form, college or go into training. Other financial support exists to help with travel, specialist courses, books and equipment and childcare. Terms and conditions apply to all. For more information - <http://moneytolearn.direct.gov.uk>

CITY OF BRISTOL COLLEGE – SOUTH BRISTOL SKILLS ACADEMY

Whitchurch Lane, Bristol, BS14 0JZ

Tel: 0117 312 5000

Website www.cityofbristol.ac.uk

Horticulture – City and Guilds NVQ 1

(1 year). Entry requirements: no formal qualifications are needed but we'll ask you to come in for an interview. This course will help you develop the skills and knowledge you need to start work as a gardener. You'll get loads of practical experience, too. Working in groups you'll create garden makeovers in private gardens or school grounds. You'll learn a range of skills from preparing the ground and growing plants from seeds, to using and maintaining garden machinery.

Horticulture – BTEC Introductory Diploma

(1 year). There are no formal entry requirements, but you need an interest in, and enthusiasm for, working in the land-based industries. This course is for students who want to develop the basic skills and knowledge to work in the horticultural industry. Possible employment opportunities include working in a garden centre, Parks Department, landscaping, grounds maintenance, or as a self-employed gardener.

Horticulture – BTEC First Diploma

(1 year). No formal entry requirements but suitable if you have Horticulture NVQ 1 or GCSE grades D or above. The course will give you the skills for planning horticultural work or managing people and resources in a supervisory role. The course will also include visits to local horticultural businesses and potential employers.

FILTON COLLEGE

Filton Avenue, Filton, Bristol, BS34 7AT

Tel: 0117 931 2121

Website www.filton.ac.uk

Land and Environment – Introductory Diploma – Level 1

(1 year). There are no formal entry requirements but students are expected to be working towards Level 1 in Literacy and Numeracy. Suitable for young people who have an interest in the land based sector. The course is very practical with assignment assessed work throughout the programme.

Gardening/ Horticulture – City and Guilds NVQ 1

(1 year). There are no formal qualifications required but a genuine interest in Horticulture is essential in addition to a willingness to work outside with plants and develop practical horticultural skills.

NORTON RADSTOCK COLLEGE

South Hill Park, Radstock, Bath BA3 3RW

Tel: 01761 433 161

Website www.nortcoll.ac.uk

Arboriculture – National Certificate

(1 year). Entry requirements: Level 2 in English or other appropriate industry experience. All prospective learners will receive an interview prior to enrolment. This course is designed to train learners to industry standard craft level in many aspects of arboriculture. The academic/practical balance is ideal for

both those wishing to enter the industry as a climbing arborist or seeking the foundation required for progression to higher level arboricultural courses. Typical units studied on the course cover machinery use, weeds, pests and diseases, tree management principles, climbing and groundsperson skills, plant and soil sciences and woodland management.

Environmental Conservation – National Certificate

(1 year). Entry requirements: Level 1 City & Guilds Environmental Conservation or GCSEs at grade C or above, (subject to interview). Students will study a wide range units covering habitats, ecology, environmental science, visitor management and tool use. Visits to environmentally important sites and presentations by guest speakers are an integrated part of the course.

Horticulture – National Certificate

(1 year). Entry requirements: Level 1 City & Guilds Horticulture or GCSEs at grade C or above, (subject to interview). Students will learn the skills and knowledge associated with becoming a craft operative in the horticulture industry. During the course students will cover many aspects of horticulture including plant sciences, identification of pests and diseases, establishment and maintenance of plants, organic growing and other similar subjects.

Land-based Studies (Arboriculture) – NPTC Certificate – Level 1

(1 year). Entry requirements: no specific entry requirements other than a genuine interest in conservation, wildlife and the countryside. Course includes: plant establishment and maintenance, machinery operations, plant use and knowledge, and landscape construction.

Land-based Studies (Environmental Conservation) – NPTC Certificate – Level 1

(1 year). Entry requirements: no specific entry requirements other than a genuine interest in trees and plants. Course includes: tree planting & establishment, tree & shrub identification and pruning.

Land-based Studies (Floresty) – NPTC Certificate – Level 1

(1 year). Entry requirements: no specific entry requirements other than an interest to develop a career in floristry. Aspects of the course will include basic floristry techniques, producing and maintaining shop displays, producing and assembling planted design.

Land-based Studies (Horticulture) – NPTC Certificate – Level 1

(1 year). Entry requirements: no specific entry requirements other than a genuine interest in horticulture. Course includes: basic practical skills.

What's available outside the area?

BICTON COLLEGE

East Budleigh, Budleigh Salterton, Devon EX9 7BY

Tel: 01395 562400

Website: www.bicton.ac.uk

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture – Introductory Diploma in Vocational Studies Level 1

(1 year). Entry requirements: While there are no academic entry requirements, students will need to demonstrate an interest in the agricultural industry and have sound reading, writing and numeracy skills. Entrance to the course is by interview. Home Farm is a real-life working environment on site, suitable for applying theoretical studies to practical experience.

Agriculture – First Diploma Level 2

(1 year). Entry requirements 4 GCSEs at grade D or above, to include Maths, English and Science, or NVQ 1 or equivalent such as NVQ Agriculture or Introductory Diploma in Vocational Studies (Agriculture), or appropriate experience and knowledge gained in a related working environment. Entrance to the course is by interview. A variety of agricultural related subjects are studied together with Key Skills at an appropriate level. In addition, there will be a five week period of industrial work experience and an opportunity to choose from optional units. Home Farm is a real-life working environment on site, suitable for applying theoretical studies to practical experience.

Agriculture – National Diploma Level 3

(2 or 3 years). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grades A - C, including English, Maths and Science, or a good pass in a related NVQ 2, or BTEC First Diploma or City and Guilds National Certificate or equivalent. Entrance to the course is by interview. You will study a wide range of agricultural subjects. Students will also complete a ten-week period of work experience. There are opportunities to gain other nationally recognised qualifications such as key skills, food hygiene, welcome host and First Aid. Home Farm is a real-life working environment on site, suitable for applying theoretical studies to practical experience.

ARBORICULTURE

Arboriculture – National Certificate in Horticulture (Arboriculture) Level 2

(1 year). Entry requirements: 4 GCSEs at grade D or above, to include Maths, English and Science, or NVQ 1 or equivalent such as NVQ, Introductory Diploma in Vocational Studies (Horticulture), or appropriate experience and knowledge gained in a related working environment. Entrance to the course is by interview. A variety of arboriculture related subjects are studied together with Key Skills at an appropriate level. Arboretum and college estate provide a real-life working environment on-site, suitable for applying theoretical studies through practical experience.

Arboriculture – National Certificate in Forestry and Arboriculture Level 3

(2 years). Entry requirements: 4 GCSEs at grade C or above, to include Maths, English and Science, or NVQ 1 or equivalent such as NVQ, Introductory Diploma in Vocational Studies (Horticulture), or appropriate experience and knowledge gained in a related working environment. Entrance to the course is by interview. A variety of arboriculture related subjects are studied together with Key Skills at an appropriate level. Arboretum and college estate provide a real-life working environment on-site, suitable for applying theoretical studies through practical experience.

COUNTRYSIDE

Countryside – Introductory Diploma in Vocational Studies Level 1

(1 year). Entry requirements: Whilst there are no academic entry requirements, students will need to demonstrate an interest in the countryside and conservation industry and have sound reading, writing and numeracy skills. Entrance to the course is by interview. Arboretum and college estate provide a real-life working environment on-site, suitable for applying theoretical studies through practical experience.

Countryside and the Environment – First Diploma Level 2

(1 year). Entry requirements 4 GCSEs at grade D or above, to include Maths, English and Science, or NVQ 1 or equivalent such as NVQ Agriculture or Introductory Diploma in Vocational Studies (Countryside), or appropriate experience and knowledge gained in a related working environment. Entrance to the course is by interview. A variety of countryside related subjects are studied together with Key Skills at an appropriate level. In addition, there will be a five week period of industrial work experience and an opportunity to choose from optional units. Arboretum and college estate provide a real-life working environment on-site, suitable for applying theoretical studies through practical experience.

Countryside Management – National Diploma Level 3

(2 or 3 years). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grades A - C, including English, Maths and Science, or a good pass in a related NVQ 2, or BTEC First Diploma or City and Guilds National Certificate or equivalent. Entrance to the course is by interview. You will study a wide range of countryside subjects. Students will also complete a ten-week period of work experience. There are opportunities to gain other nationally recognised qualifications such as key skills, food hygiene, welcome host and First Aid. Arboretum and college estate provide a real-life working environment on-site, suitable for applying theoretical studies through practical experience.

Countryside Management – National Award Level 3

(2 days per week over 1 year). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grades A - C, including English, Maths and Science, or a good pass in a related NVQ 2, or BTEC First Diploma or City and Guilds National Certificate or equivalent. Entrance to the course is by interview. You will study certain units of the National Diploma on a part-time basis. This course comprises 6 units and is equivalent to 1 A level. Arboretum and college estate provide a real-life working environment on-site, suitable for applying theoretical studies through practical experience.

Gamekeeping and Wildlife Management – Apprenticeship Level 2

(18 months). Entry requirements GCSEs and Initial Assessment Level 1 would be an advantage along with relevant experience and knowledge of your chosen industry. Entrance to the course is by interview. You will require a good reference and a suitable work placement. Bicton College can help you to find one. Arboretum and college estate provide a real-life working environment on-site, suitable for applying theoretical studies through practical experience.

FLORISTRY

Floristry – National Certificate Level 2

(1 year). Entry Requirements are 4 GCSEs grades A - D, including English, Maths and Science, or a good pass in a related NVQ 2, or BTEC First Diploma, or City and Guilds National Certificate or equivalent. The course aims to prepare you for creative production and working practices in a floristry shop.

HORTICULTURE

Horticulture – Introductory Diploma in Vocational Studies Level 1

(1 year). Entry requirements: Whilst there are no academic entry requirements, students will need to demonstrate an interest in the animal care industry and have sound reading, writing and numeracy skills. Entrance to the course is by interview. Arboretum and college estate provide a real-life working environment on-site, suitable for applying theoretical studies through practical experience.

Horticulture – First Diploma Level 2

(1 year). Entry requirements 4 GCSEs at grade D or above, to include Maths, English and Science, or NVQ 1 or equivalent such as NVQ Animal Care or Introductory Diploma in Vocational Studies (Animal Care), or appropriate experience and knowledge gained in a related working environment. Entrance to the course is by interview. A variety of animal care related subjects are studied together with Key Skills at an appropriate level. In addition, there will be a five week period of industrial work experience and an opportunity to choose from optional units. Arboretum and college estate provide a real-life working environment on-site, suitable for applying theoretical studies through practical experience.

Horticulture – National Certificate in Horticulture Level 3

(2 years). Entry requirements: 4 GCSEs at grade C or above, to include Maths, English and Science or NVQ 2. Entrance to the course is by interview. A variety of arboriculture related subjects are studied together with Key Skills at an appropriate level. Arboretum and college estate provide a real-life working environment on-site, suitable for applying theoretical studies through practical experience.

Horticulture – National Diploma Level 3

(2 years). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grades A - C, including English, Maths and Science, or a good pass in a related NVQ 2, or BTEC First Diploma or City and Guilds National Certificate or equivalent. Entrance to the course is by interview. You will study a wide range of animal care subjects. Students will also complete a ten-week period of work experience. There are opportunities to gain other nationally recognised qualifications such as key skills, food hygiene, welcome host and First Aid. Arboretum and college estate provide a real-life working environment on-site, suitable for applying theoretical studies through practical experience.

Horticulture – National Award Level 3

(2 days per week over 1 year). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grades A - C, including English, Maths and Science, or a good pass in a related NVQ 2, or BTEC First Diploma or City and Guilds National Certificate or equivalent. Entrance to the course is by interview. You will study certain units of the National Diploma on a part-time basis. This course comprises 6 units and is equivalent to 1 A level. Arboretum and college estate provide a real-life working environment on-site, suitable for applying theoretical studies through practical experience.

BRIDGWATER COLLEGE – CANNINGTON CENTRE FOR LAND-BASED STUDIES

Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 2LS

Tel: 01278 455464

Website www.bridgwater.ac.uk

AGRICULTURE

Land-based Studies, Agriculture – City & Guilds Certificate – Level 1

(1 year). Entry requirements: GCSEs grades D - G or other equivalent qualifications. Entry is also subject to a successful interview. This is the ideal course for those wishing to begin a career in agriculture. Course includes assisting with the care of animals, crop systems, tractor operations and industry experience.

Agriculture – BTEC First Diploma in Agriculture – Level 2

(1 year). Entry requirements: at least 4 GCSEs grades C - E, including English, or an appropriate Level 1 qualification. Entry is also subject to a successful interview. Course includes: practical insights into the livestock and crop production methods used in today's agricultural industries, plus a general understanding of mechanised operations.

Agriculture – BTEC National Diploma – Level 3

(2 years). Entry requirements: at least 5 GCSEs grades A - C, including English, Maths and Science, or an appropriate level 2 qualification. Entry is also subject to a successful interview. Course includes: livestock production, crop production and mechanisation, business management, estate skills, animal science, plant & soil science, the principles of machinery & mechanisation, environmental stewardship and the single farm payment.

COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT

Environment and Land-based Diploma – Level 1 and Level 2

(1 year). Entry requirements: Level 1 - GCSEs grades D - G or other equivalent qualifications. Level 2

- at least 4 GCSEs grades C - E, including English and Maths, or appropriate Level 1 qualification. Entry for all levels is also subject to a successful interview. Course includes: project based study of natural environment, plant and animal care, and breeding issues related to sustainability

Countryside and Environment – BTEC First Diploma – Level 2

(1 year). Entry requirements: at least 4 GCSEs grades C - E, including English and Maths, or appropriate Level 1 qualification. Entry is also subject to a successful interview. Course includes: introduction to countryside management and practical skills, industry experience, estate skills, habitat establishment, maintenance machinery & workshop skills, countryside recreation and/or environmental science.

Countryside Management – BTEC National Diploma – Level 3

(2 years). Entry requirements: at least 5 GCSEs grades A - C, including English, Maths and Science, or an appropriate Level 2 qualification. Entry is also subject to a successful interview. Course includes: business management & planning, environmental science, ecology & conservation, estate skills, industry experience, countryside tourism, heathland & grassland habitat management, farm habitat management, freshwater & wetland management.

Game & Wildlife Management – BTEC National Diploma – Level 3

(2 years). Entry requirements: at least 5 GCSEs grades A - C, including English, Maths and Science, or an appropriate Level 2 qualification. Entry is also subject to a successful interview. Course includes: the study of game species and their associated habitats. Ecology, estate skills, game bird production, shoot management, deer management and woodland habitat management.

HORTICULTURE, ARBORICULTURE AND SPORTS TURF MANAGEMENT

Land-based Studies, Horticulture – Level 1 Certificate

(1 year). Entry requirements: GCSEs grades D - G or other equivalent qualifications. Entry is also subject to a successful interview. Course includes: propagation of plants, identifying plants, identifying common pests & diseases and contributing to the establishment & maintenance of plants.

Arboriculture – BTEC National Award

(1 year). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grades A - C or the City and Guilds National Certificate or BTEC First Diploma or NVQ 2. The course is designed for people wishing to enter the arboriculture industry. You will study subjects including ecology of trees, business management, forest and woodland, estate skills and tree surveying.

Arboriculture – City & Guilds National Certificate – Level 2

(1 year). Entry requirements: at least 4 GCSEs grades C - E, including English, or an appropriate Level 1 qualification. Entry is also subject to a successful interview. Course includes: all aspects of the arboricultural industry at craft level, training towards the necessary NPTC certificates of competence in arboricultural chainsaw use - vital for employment.

Arboriculture – BTEC National Diploma

(2 years). Entry requirements are 5 GCSEs grades A - C or the City and Guilds National Certificate in Arboriculture, the BTEC National Award or NVQ 2. This Level 2 equivalent course is designed for people wishing to enter the arboriculture industry, particularly those who wish to become a climbing arborist.

Horticulture – City & Guilds National Certificate – Level 2

(1 year). Entry requirements: at least 4 GCSEs grades C - E, including English, or an appropriate Level 1 qualification. Entry is also subject to a successful interview. Course includes: a good grounding in practical skills and principles of horticulture.

Horticulture/Landscape Design – BTEC National Award/Diploma

(2 years). Entry requirements are at least 5 GCSEs grades A - C or to have completed a Level 2 qualification in Horticulture or equivalent. Course includes: Core topics which help develop a wide range of horticultural skills and prepare for supervisory roles across the industry including plant knowledge, plant propagation and machinery operations. During the second year students specialise in either Horticulture or Landscape Design.

Sports Turf Management – BTEC National Diploma

(2 years). Entry requirements are at least 5 GCSEs grades A - C or to have completed an appropriate Level 2 qualification such as Horticulture. Entry is also subject to a successful interview. Course includes horticultural skills and plant knowledge, plant propagation and machinery operations.

HARTPURY COLLEGE

Hartpury House, Gloucester, GL19 3BE

Tel: 01452 702132

Website www.hartpury.ac.uk

AGRICULTURE & COUNTRYSIDE

Agriculture – First Certificate

(2 years). Students need to have an interest in land-based subjects and a will to achieve. All students

must also complete a one week Rural Skills Taster Course.

Agriculture – BTEC First Diploma

(1 year). Entry requirements are 2 GCSEs grade D in any subject or a relevant further education qualification. The course includes a good balance of machinery, crop and livestock husbandry and practical skills.

Agriculture – BTEC National Award

(1 year). Entry requirements are 2 GCSEs grade C, one of which must be in English, Maths or Science or a relevant further education qualification. The wide range of teaching resources on-campus, including Home Farm, will bring the academic studies to life, enabling students to study first-hand animal husbandry, dairy production and crop production.

Agriculture – BTEC National Diploma

(3 years). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grade C, two of which must be in English, Maths or Science or a relevant further education qualification. Students will study first-hand life on a large commercial farm and be able to gain vital work experience during a year working in the industry.

Countryside and Game Management – BTEC First Diploma

(1 year). Entry requirements are 2 GCSEs grade D or a relevant further education qualification. Students will gain practical experience on the College's own Home Farm Estate.

Countryside Management (Game) – BTEC National Award

(1 year). Entry requirements are 2 GCSEs grade C in any subject, one of which must be in English, Maths or Science or a relevant further education qualification. The opportunity to gain sound academic knowledge and an understanding of countryside management with a strong focus on game.

Countryside Management (Game) – BTEC National Diploma

(2 years). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grade C, two of which must be in English, Maths or Science or a relevant further education qualification. Students will study first-hand subjects such as Shoot Management and Gamebird Production.

Countryside Management – BTEC National Diploma

(2 years). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grade C, two of which must be in English, Maths or Science or a relevant further education qualification. You will learn about the wide range of rural industries and habitats, as well as developing practical skills in a range of subjects such as, countryside management, gamekeeping and estate skills.

HORTICULTURE

Horticulture First Certificate and Land Based Operations – First Certificate

(2 years). Entry requirements: students need to have an interest in land-based subjects, a will to achieve, and complete a one week Rural Skills Taster Course.

Horticulture – BTEC First Diploma

(1 year). Entry requirements are 2 GCSEs grade D or a relevant further education qualification. This First Diploma will provide students with basic, easy-to understand introductory knowledge into the world of horticulture.

Horticulture – BTEC National Award

(1 year). Entry requirements are 2 GCSEs grade C, which must be in English, Maths or Science or a relevant further education qualification. The course is both theoretical and practical in nature, and horticultural facilities on campus will enable students to put into practice what they learn in the classroom.

Horticulture – BTEC National Diploma

(1 year). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grade C, two of which must be in English, Maths or Science or a relevant further education qualification. Designed to provide students with the opportunity to gain detailed knowledge and understanding of the principles and practices in horticulture.

HEREFORDSHIRE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY – HOLME LACY CAMPUS

Holme Lacy, Hereford, HR2 6LL

Tel: 01432 870 316

Website www.hct.ac.uk

Agriculture – BTEC Introductory Diploma in Land and Environment – Level 1

(1 year). Entry requirements: entry level qualifications or appropriate standards of literacy and numeracy or related interests and experience. This course is designed to develop the personal skills and qualifications needed for work and learning.

Agriculture – BTEC First Diploma

Please contact the college for further details.

Agriculture – Apprenticeship in Mixed Farming & Livestock

(2 years, 1 day per week). Entry requirements: a genuine and practical interest in farming. This course involves attendance at college for one day per week and four days at an appropriate work placement. It is designed for those with some previous experience of the farming industry and combines lectures and

project work with employment experience. The course reflects the types of farming found in Herefordshire and neighbouring counties and the skills necessary for a career in this industry.

Agriculture – Advanced Apprenticeship Mixed Farming & Livestock

(1 year). Entry requirements: students are required to hold a position of responsibility within the farming industry. This course involves attendance at college for one day per week and four days at an appropriate work placement. It is designed for those with good knowledge and experience of the farming industry.

You will need to be in a position of responsibility in order to gain full benefit from this training.

Agriculture – National Diploma

Please contact the college for further details.

Horticulture – Apprenticeship in Amenity Horticulture

Please contact the college for further details.

Horticulture – BTEC First Diploma

(1 year Full-Time or 2 years Part-Time). Entry requirements: 2 GCSE passes at grades A-C / relevant NVQ (or equivalent) qualification. The course provides an introduction to the Horticultural Industry. It is designed to provide the essential practical and horticultural skills for the workplace in order to allow progression onto other college based courses.

Horticulture – BTEC Introductory Diploma

(1 year). Entry requirements: 2 GCSE passes at grade E or above. Students must demonstrate a willingness to learn and an interest in animals, plants and the countryside. This course is suitable for young people who want to work outside with animals, plants or machinery but are unable to make the difficult choice of specialising in a particular subject at this stage

PERSHORE COLLEGE

Avonbank, Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 3JP

Tel: 01386 552 443

Website www.warkscol.ac.uk

Horticulture – City & Guilds Level 1 Certificate in Land-Based Studies

(1 Year). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grade E or above or a Skills for Working Life qualification and minimum of Entry Level 2 Numeracy and Literacy. This course is suitable for those wishing to learn the basic skills necessary to work in the horticultural industry and enjoy a “hands on” approach to learning. Basic skills, learning support and computer skills are also included in the programme. The course is also available at Kings Heath Park, Birmingham.

Horticulture – C & G Level 2 National Certificate in Horticulture

(1 Year). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grade D or above, or relevant level 1 qualification, or GNVQ Foundation, or relevant work experience, and a minimum entry level 3 for literacy and numeracy. Each applicant will be assessed at interview and must show they are capable of benefiting from the course. The National Certificate course is a broad based course of education, which aims to cover aspects of amenity and landscape horticulture and the associated subjects of science, management and machinery. The course also covers transferable skills, the skills essential for anyone who is seeking employment in the future.

Horticulture – Advanced National Certificate Level 3 (10 units of study)

(1 to 3 Years). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grade C or above, to include English and a science based subject, or successful completion of the Level 2 National Certificate in Horticulture, together with a tutor’s recommendation. This range of courses provides the opportunity to follow your specific area of interest and to develop knowledge and practical skills related to specific parts of the industry.

Horticulture – Advanced National Diploma (18 units of study)

(2 Years). Entry requirements are 5 GCSEs grade C or above, to include English and a science based subject, or successful completion of the Level 2 National Certificate in Horticulture or Advanced National Certificate in Horticulture, together with a tutor’s recommendation. A minimum of Level 1 Literacy and Numeracy is required. This range of courses provides the opportunity to follow your specific area of interest and to develop in-depth knowledge and practical skills related to a specific part of a diverse industry.

Sports Turf – City and Guilds Levels 2 and 3 Apprenticeship in Amenity Horticulture

(2 Years). Entry requirements at Level 2 are NVQ Level 1 or equivalent; an acceptable level of English and Mathematics; an interest in the subject; (Level 3) a Level 2 Horticulture qualification or supervisory Horticulture experience. These courses involve attendance at college for one day per week and four days at an appropriate work placement. They combine lectures and practical work with employment experience and reflect the skills and knowledge needed to pursue a career in sports turf.

Arboriculture – City and Guilds / NPTC Level 2 National Certificate

(1 Year). Entry requirements are 3 GCSEs grade D or above or successful completion of the Woodland Skills NVQ level 1 in Land-based Operations, with a tutors recommendation. A Level 3 Literacy and Numeracy qualification is required. The National Certificate in Arboriculture Level 2 is a one year full-time

course. It is suited to school leavers or mature students who wish to study for a recognised qualification in arboriculture and who want to start a career in the arboriculture profession.

Arboriculture – City and Guilds / NPTC Level 3 Advanced National Certificate in Horticulture (Arboriculture)

(1 Year). Entry requirements are 5 GCSEs grade C or above; or successful completion of the National Certificate in Arboriculture Level 2, with a tutor's recommendation. A minimum Level 1 Literacy and Numeracy is required. The Advanced National Certificate in Arboriculture Level 3 is a one year full-time course. It is suited to school leavers (at 17 or over) or mature students who may wish to study for a recognised qualification in Arboriculture. It has been designed to provide the learners with all the necessary skills and knowledge for entry into the profession.

Arboriculture – City and Guilds / NPTC Level 3 Advanced National Diploma in Horticulture (Arboriculture)

(2 Years). Entry requirements are 5 GCSEs grade C or above; or successful completion of the Advanced National Certificate Level 3, with a tutor's recommendation. A minimum Level 1 Literacy and Numeracy is required. This course is aimed at learners who want to start a career in the arboriculture profession. The course has been designed to provide the learners with all the necessary skills and knowledge for entry into the profession and will provide a good grounding in all technical aspects of tree management.

Arboriculture – Woodland Skills City and Guilds NVQ Level 1 in Land-based Operations

(1 Year). Entry requirements: to have performed credibly at GCSE level and attained a minimum of four GCSEs Grade E or above or be recommended by your school. This is a one year course aimed at learners who are under the required minimum age to operate chainsaws. It has been designed to provide learners with an introduction to woodland and the related tree care industries.

SPARSHOLT COLLEGE

Sparsholt, Winchester, Hampshire S021 2NF

Tel: 01962 776 441

Website www.sparsholt.ac.uk

Agriculture – City and Guilds Level 1

(1 year). Entry requirements are GCSEs at grades E and F although all applications will be considered. Course includes: operation and maintenance of tractors and farm machinery, care and movement of farm livestock, working with farm staff and others, maintaining farm buildings and equipment. On completing this course, many students continue on to higher level courses such as the First Diploma or National Diploma in Agriculture.

Agriculture – First Diploma – Level 2

(1 year). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs at grade D or above to include English and Maths. Course modules include: tractor and farm machinery operation and maintenance, farm livestock husbandry including pigs, sheep and dairy, arable crop, grassland and forage crop husbandry. Progression from this course includes both employment in general farm work and animal husbandry. Some students go on to take the National Diploma in Agriculture.

Agriculture – National Diploma – Level 3

(2 years). Entry requirements are 5 GCSEs at grades A - C (Maths, Science & English desirable) or a First Diploma or a National Certificate or NVQ Level 2. Course modules include: principles of agricultural production, farm machinery, livestock management, grassland & crop management and farm business management. Students also spend time on employer-based training. Progression can include both employment and higher education.

Arboriculture – City and Guilds National Certificate – Level 2

(1 year). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs at grades A - D including English and Maths, or equivalent. Course includes: tree climbing, tree surgery and pruning; tree planting and management; horticultural science; machinery operations and tree felling. On completing this course, many students continue on to higher level courses such as the National Diploma in Arboriculture or related subjects.

Arboriculture and Forestry – National Diplomas – Level 3

(2 years). Entry requirements are 5 GCSEs at grades A - B (Maths, Science & English desirable) or a First Diploma or a National Certificate or NVQ Level 2. Progression can include both employment and higher education.

Conservation and Wildlife Management – BTEC National Diploma – Level 3

(2 years). Entry requirements are 5 GCSEs at grades A - C including Maths, a Science and English or First Diploma or National Certificate. Course includes: habitat management; pollution; farming systems, ecology and conservation.

Conservation and Wildlife Management – BTEC National Certificate – Level 3

(2 years). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs at grades A - C including a Science or equivalent qualification. The course covers the range of knowledge and skills needed for a career in countryside management, ecology or nature conservation, including all the major habitat types in Britain, their ecology and management.

Environmental and Land Based Studies – Advanced Diploma – Level 3

(2 years). Entry requirements are 5 GCSEs at grades A - C including Maths, science and English Language or First Diploma or National Certificate. Course includes: productive and working environments, plants and animals, and developing the sustainable environment..

Fish Management (Sport Fisheries) – BTEC National Diploma – Level 3

(2 years). Entry requirements are 5 GCSEs at grade A - C, including English and ideally Maths and a Science, or an appropriate BTEC First Diploma or equivalent. Course includes: all aspects of fishery studies (including angling), building, engineering and business management.

Fish Management (Ornamental Fish) – BTEC National Diploma – Level 3

(2 years). Entry requirements are 5 GCSEs at grade A - C, including English and ideally Maths and a Science, or an appropriate BTEC First Diploma or equivalent. Course includes water quality and environmental studies, plant and fish biology and husbandry, construction techniques, business management, health and in the workplace, fish health, aquatics systems and technology, pond and aquarium design and installation, and ornamental aquaculture.

Fish Management – National Certificate – Level 3

(2 years). Entry requirements are at least 5 GCSEs at grades A-C including English and ideally maths and a Science. Course includes practical training for those who wish to work in the technical areas of sport fisheries (including angling), fish farming and related industries.

Fishery Management – BTEC First Diploma – Level 2

(1 year). Entry requirements are at least 4 GCSEs at grade D or better is normally required (including English). Course includes: sport fisheries (including angling), fish farming and aquatics, ornamental fish management and estate maintenance.

Forestry – City and Guilds National Certificate – Level 2

(1 year). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs at grades A - D including English and Maths, or equivalent. Course includes: basic plant and soil science, plant nutrition and protection; basic engineering principles; forest establishment and maintenance; chainsaw and harvesting operations; timber processing. On completing this course, many students continue on to higher level courses such as the National Diploma in Forestry or related subjects.

Game and Wildlife Management – BTEC National Diploma – Level 3

(2 years). Entry requirements are 5 GCSEs at grades A - C including Maths, a Science and English or First Diploma or National Certificate. The purpose of this broad-based course is to equip students with the knowledge, understanding and practical skills necessary to effectively manage a wide range of game species and their associated habitats.

Gamekeeping – BTEC National Certificate – Level 3

(2 years). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs at grades A - C including Maths, a Science and English or First Diploma or National Certificate. The course covers a wide range of topics relevant to the needs of the industry, including game bird ecology, encompassing their habitat management, pest and predator control. Other areas included are the planning and running of shootdays and the use of dogs, deer management and the use of firearms.

Game Management – First Diploma – Level 2

(1 year). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs at grade D or above or equivalent. The course includes the management of game and deer including the management of the associated habitats, along with practical skills required to carry out the management. There are also investigations into the countryside industry and the organisation associated.

Horticulture – First Diploma – Level 2

(1 year). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs at grade D or above - no previous experience is necessary. The course will cover a very wide range of amenity horticulture and landscaping subjects at an introductory level.

Horticulture – National Diploma – Level 3

(2 years). Entry requirements are 5 GCSEs at grades A - C including English, Maths and a Science or a First Diploma qualification. The course can be split into three options. Landscaping, amenity and decorative horticulture or sports turf management.

Horticulture – National Certificate – Level 3

(2 years). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs at grades A - C including English, Maths and a Science or a First Diploma qualification. The course can be split into three options. Landscaping, amenity and decorative horticulture or sports turf management.

Land and Environment (Game and Wildlife) – BTEC Introductory Diploma – Level 1

(1 year). Entry requirements are some qualifications at entry level or GCSEs at grades D - G. Course includes fish farming, fisheries management and ornamental fish.

Land and Environment (Horticulture) – BTEC Introductory Diploma – Level 1

(1 year). Entry requirements are some qualifications at entry level or GCSEs at grades D - G. Course includes: plant structures, growth, propagation and soils; planting, staking and maintaining plants; maintenance of grass surfaces; use of land based machinery.

Land and Environment (Fishery Studies) – BTEC Introductory Diploma – Level 1

(1 year). Entry requirements are some qualifications at entry level or GCSEs at grades D - G. Course includes gamekeeping, deer management and estate and habitat skills.

Woodland Skills – Level 1

(1 year). Entry requirements are some qualifications at entry level or GCSEs at grades D - G. This course gives an introduction and insight into the woodland and tree care related industries and covers habitat establishment and maintenance, machinery skills, soils, plants and conservation, forestry and tree care practice.

Section 2

Year 12 (Sixth Form)

- Choose from a wide range of courses including AS/A2 Levels, GCSEs, Diplomas, National Diplomas, NVQs and other work related courses.
- Contact sixth forms for information and an application form. They all have websites.
- Go to open evenings and information events. See page twelve – Easy ways to get useful information.
- Ask sixth forms how well previous students have done on their courses.
- Use your school's Connexions Information Centre for information about local sixth forms.
- Additional further education, higher education, Apprenticeships, a job with training, self-employment or time out to travel or do voluntary work are all options after the sixth form.
- Educational Maintenance Allowance is a weekly payment to help you continue to learn or train. EMA is worth up to £30 a week. Other financial support exists to help with travel, specialist courses, books and equipment and childcare. Terms and conditions apply to all. For more information – <http://moneytolearn.direct.gov.uk>

Section 3

Apprenticeships and Jobs

Both of these options allow you to learn new skills with an employer and get some real work experience – but only an Apprenticeship will **guarantee** you training and the chance to gain qualifications. You will receive a wage, or, if you are eligible, an Education Maintenance Allowance of up to £30 a week. See page twelve – Easy ways to get useful information.

Local Apprenticeships:

BICTON COLLEGE

East Budleigh, Budleigh Salterton, Devon EX9 7BY

Tel: 01395 562400

Website: www.bicton.ac.uk

Agriculture – Apprenticeship Level 2

(15-18 months). Entry requirements GCSEs and Initial Assessment Level 1 would be an advantage along with relevant experience and knowledge of your chosen industry. Entrance to the course is by interview. You will require a good reference and a suitable work placement. Bicton College can help you to find one. Home Farm is a real-life working environment on site, suitable for applying theoretical studies to practical experience.

Agriculture – Advanced Apprenticeship Level 3

(2 years). Entry requirements GCSEs and Initial Assessment Level 2 would be an advantage along with relevant experience and knowledge of your chosen industry. Entrance to the course is by interview. You will require a good reference and a suitable work placement. Bicton College can help you to find one. Home Farm is a real-life working environment on site, suitable for applying theoretical studies to practical experience. Home Farm is a real-life working environment on site, suitable for applying theoretical studies to practical experience.

Arboriculture – Apprenticeship Level 2

(12-15 months). Entry requirements GCSEs and Initial Assessment Level 1 would be an advantage along with relevant experience and knowledge of your chosen industry. Entrance to the course is by interview. You will require a good reference and a suitable work placement. Bicton College can help you to find one. Arboretum and college estate provide a real-life working environment on-site, suitable for applying theoretical studies through practical experience.

Floristry – Apprenticeship Level 2

(1 year). Entry requirements GCSEs and Initial Assessment Level 1 would be an advantage along with relevant experience and knowledge of your chosen industry. Entrance to the course is by interview. You will require a good reference and a suitable work placement. Bicton College can help you to find one.

Floristry – Advanced Apprenticeship Level 3

(2 years). Entry requirements GCSEs and Initial Assessment Level 2 would be an advantage along with relevant experience and knowledge of your chosen industry. Entrance to the course is by interview. You will require a good reference and a suitable work placement. Bicton College can help you to find one.

PERSHORE COLLEGE

Avonbank, Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 3JP

Tel: 01386 552 443

Website www.warkscol.ac.uk

Apprenticeship in Amenity Horticulture (Landscaping) – City and Guilds Level 2 and 3

(2 Years). Entry requirements for Level 2 are NVQ Level 1 or equivalent; an acceptable level of English and Mathematics; an interest in the subject; (Level 3) a Level 2 Horticulture qualification or supervisory Horticulture experience. These courses involve attendance at College for one day per week and four days at a work placement. They combine lectures and practical work with employment experience and reflect the skills and knowledge needed to pursue a career in amenity and landscape horticulture.

Apprenticeship in Production Horticulture – City and Guilds Level 2 and 3

(2 Years). Entry requirements for Level 2 are NVQ Level 1 or equivalent; an acceptable level of English and Mathematics; an interest in the subject; (Level 3) a Level 2 Horticulture qualification or supervisory Horticulture experience. These courses involve attendance at College for one day per week and four days at an appropriate work placement. They combine lectures and practical work with employment experience and reflect the skills and knowledge needed to pursue a career in crop production.

For more on Apprenticeships

- www.apprenticeships.org.uk – visit the National Apprenticeship website for information including the National Apprenticeship Vacancy Matching Service (scroll down and click on the ‘Apprenticeship Vacancies’ link). This service lets you search for Apprenticeship vacancies in a variety of ways, such as by occupational area, provider or by postcode.
- **08000 150 600** – Call the National Apprenticeship Hotline for help and advice.
- If you are still not sure and need help, please contact careers staff in your school/college or your local Connexions West of England Centre (addresses at end of this leaflet).

Time Off for study or training

- The right to Time Off for Study or training is designed to help you if you are aged 16-17, got few if any qualifications at school, and are now employed in a job which offers little or no training.
- For more information – www.connexions-direct.com – look under work>work schemes>time off for study and training.

Easy ways to get useful information

- www.connexionswest.org.uk – information for 13-19 year olds; vacancies; local support agencies; education & training database; publication downloads.
- <http://options.connexionswest.org.uk> – Your Way Forward - Options @ 16 and 17. Post-16 learning, training and work options; qualifications; sources of finance; useful websites.
- <http://workmatters.connexionswest.org.uk> – Information about working in the local area; how much people earn; number of people employed; types of jobs; useful websites.
- **Futures4Me** – explore all post-16 learning and training opportunities available in the West of England.

Connexions West of England Centres are open Monday – Friday. Contact direct for opening hours.

Bristol
4 Colston Avenue
Bristol BS1 4ST
Tel: 0117 987 3700
Fax: 0117 987 3701
Minicom: 0117 907 4514

Bath & North East Somerset
28 Southgate
Bath BA1 1TP
Tel: 01225 461 501
Fax: 01225 465 619

South Gloucestershire
21-23 High Street
Kingswood
Bristol BS15 4AA
Tel: 0117 961 2760
Fax: 0117 960 7838

South Gloucestershire
28 Gloucester Rd North
Filton
Bristol BS7 0SJ
Tel: 0117 969 8101
Fax: 0117 931 2978

North Somerset
45 Boulevard
Weston-super-Mare
BS23 1PG
Tel: 01934 644443
Fax: 01934 644409

www.connexionswest.org.uk

enquiries@connexionswest.org.uk

Connexions Direct (confidential information, advice and support for young people)

Tel: 080 800 13 2 19. Text: 07766 4 13 2 19. www.connexions-direct.com

The information in this leaflet was correct at the time of writing. Please check details - information dates quickly.

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