



Environmental and Land-Based



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). A wide variety of career opportunities are available in land management and production, animal health and environmental industries.

What's happening?

- Only 7% of the population in the West of England live in rural areas. The number working in environment and land based jobs is small.
- 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.
- 80% of the workforce are self-employed.
- Although the sector has suffered from an image of low pay and long hours, a highly skilled and motivated work force is required if it is to compete in the global market.
- The rural economy is vulnerable, facing change and uncertainty.
- The decline in agriculture has a knock-on effect on other rural industries such as animal care, agricultural engineering and land management.
- Learning new skills is important. The focus of land use and management is moving away from food production towards maintaining the environment, enabling access, diversifying into leisure and tourism.
- Voluntary workers are a significant source of labour. Up to 500,000 regular and casual volunteers work within the sector across the UK.

How much could I earn?

	Average annual salary (£s)
Conservation and Environmental Protection Officer	£28,199
Countryside and Park Ranger	£20,911
Farm Manager	£26,525
Farm Worker	£16,637
Forestry Worker	£19,535
Natural Environmental and Conservation Manager	£40,856
Vet	£38,762
Veterinary Nurses and Assistants	£14,416

Salary rates have been calculated using the average gross pay for full-time workers. Figures are for the United Kingdom. Averages can hide higher earnings. With training and career development, higher salaries can be achieved. Source: Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings 2008, ONS, © Crown Copyright.

What we think will happen

- Although employment in agriculture will continue to decline, 97,400 employees will be needed across all occupations (due to retirement and other reasons).
- Some 73,000 workers will be needed in skilled trades occupations.
- This sector will continue to cover more than one area. This may include offering products and services linked to leisure, tourism, recreation, wildlife tourism or organic foods.
- It's thought that 25,000 recruits in skilled agricultural trades will be needed by 2012. (Lantra).

Do you want to work in Environmental and Land-Based? Is this you?

- Can work outside in all types of weather
- Work alone for long periods of time
- Physically fit and active
- Good with your hands
- Enthusiastic

Some job suggestions

- Countryside /Conservation Officer
- Farm Worker/Manager
- Forest Worker/Ranger
- Garden Designer
- Greenkeeper
- Groundsman/woman
- Horticulture Worker/Manager
- Kennel Worker
- RSPCA Inspector
- Veterinary Nurse/Surgeon

Routes into Environmental and Land-Based

Level 1 (Foundation)	Level 2 (Intermediate)	Level 3 (Advanced)	Level 4 (Higher)
GCSE Grades D – G BTEC Introductory Diploma NVQ 1 Foundation Diploma	GCSE Grades A* – C BTEC First Diploma NVQ 2 Apprenticeship Higher Diploma	A Level BTEC National Diploma NVQ 3 Advanced Apprenticeship Advanced Diploma	HND Foundation Degree First Degree NVQ 4

The Diploma in **Environmental and Land-Based** focuses on three main themes. Productive and working environments (looking at the limited resources of the natural environment, our impact on it, how it influences us and how these resources are used). Plants and animals (exploring how we use plants for commercial, recreational and conservation purposes and animals for food production, recreation, work or companionship). Developing the sustainable environment (exploring the impact we have on our environment, and how important it is to use environmentally friendly 'green' practices).

See: www.diplomaelbs.co.uk

Check with your school or Connexions Personal Adviser when this will be on offer in your local area.

Note: there are a number of ways of training for this area of work; the new Diploma is just one of these. See Routes into Environmental and Land-Based for the options.

" Land-based industries have been, and will continue to be, integral to the UK and it is therefore important that they are catered for by the National Curriculum. The Diploma's applied learning aspect is completely in tune with our industry and will give students a realistic picture of the careers on offer here."

Bob Fiddaman, Farmer and President of European Agriculture Social Dialogue Committee

Want to know more?

A Future in Environmental and Land-based Careers – www.afuturein.com

A Job in the Environmental and Land-based Sector (Careers advice for 14-19 year olds) – www.ajobin.com

Apprenticeships – www.apprenticeships.org.uk

or call the **helpline on 08000 150600**

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (good experience and skills building opportunities) – www.btcv.org.uk

Institute of Horticulture – www.horticulture.org.uk

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons – www.rcvs.org.uk

The Diploma – www.direct.gov.uk/diplomas

The Sector Skills Council for the Environment, Animals and Plants sections – www.lantra.co.uk

Want to speak to somebody?

Go to www.connexionswest.org.uk for addresses of Connexions West of England local centres or contact Connexions Direct. Connexions Direct can offer you all the information and advice you need to make the decisions and choices in your life.

Connexions Direct: **080 800 13 2 19** Text: **07766 4 13 2 19**

Webchat/Email: www.connexions-direct.com