



## Recruitment and training opportunities

The Royal Forestry Society is hosting a Forestry Careers Portal, aimed at providing a hub of information for new and existing forestry workers, and those in or seeking to join forestry educational programmes. In addition, it is hoped that the portal will become the go-to site of choice for those advertising and seeking to apply for vacancies in employment and education.

<http://www.rfs.org.uk/forestry-career-portal/>

The new 'forest operative' apprenticeship standard, created under the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) Trailblazer programme, has been approved by BIS and is set to replace the existing Trees and Timber apprenticeship. The Forestry Sub-Group, Chaired by Geraint Richards of the Duchy of Cornwall, which drafted and consulted on the standard, is now working with training providers to draft a plan which will set out how the standard will be assessed. The forest operative standard can be viewed through the link on this page:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/apprenticeship-standards#horticulture-and-landscape-standards>

The current (interim) RDPE skills programme ran until December 2015. ADAS were the main training provider (<http://rdpe.adas.co.uk/>). The new skills programme under RDPE will start in March 2016 – realistically, given the need to procure a provider; delivery is unlikely before summer 2016. In any event, the training on offer will be for higher-level technical subjects which add value for a business, rather than standard fare e.g. basic chainsaw units, which are seen as an operational requirement.

In 2010 a group of key forestry players came together with the aim of increasing the number of new entrants to the sector and driving the skills of the current work force. The result of their work is summarised in an action plan, which tackles the sector's skills issues. See this link for more information.

[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ForestryActionPlan\\_web.pdf/\\$FILE/ForestryActionPlan\\_web.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ForestryActionPlan_web.pdf/$FILE/ForestryActionPlan_web.pdf)

