

Maiden Erlegh Trust Careers Fair 2025

Thursday 6 March 2025

6pm to 8pm

Sports Hall, Maiden Erlegh School, Silverdale Road, RG7 6HS

Exhibitor Directory

Arboricultural Association

AWE

Army

Beechwood Tree Care Ltd

Enterprise Advisor – Mr Alex Tatham

Funtastic Kids Ltd

Heidelberg Materials

Housing Solutions

Institution of Civil Engineers

MERL

Microsoft

Reed

Royal Navy and Royal Marines Careers

Royal Air Force

Savills

Specsavers

SSE plc

STFC

Thames Valley Police

The Forbury Group of Nurseries

UK Atomic Energy Authority

Virgin Media

Wood PLC

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Arboricultural Association

Mrs Sarah Hanson & Dr Jon Banks

I am a local council tree officer and a Fellow of the Arboricultural Association who I am representing at the MET Careers Fair 2025. As the leading voice on all matters arboricultural in the UK, the Arboricultural Association provides a home and membership for all those employed within the sector; championing the sustainable management of trees in places where people live work and play – for the benefit of Society. It is increasingly recognised that trees are good for us, and provide a wide range of environmental, social and economic benefits to society. However, not everyone knows about the profession which is responsible for these amenity trees: arboriculture.

What is Arboriculture? Watch this video to find out: <https://www.trees.org.uk/Help-Advice/What-is-Arboriculture>

Information about study and careers in this profession can be found at: <https://www.trees.org.uk/Careers>

Dr. Jon Banks is the research lab manager for the UK Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory. He has been involved in Bartlett tree research and diagnostics at the University of Reading since 2010. He was awarded a Gatsby Bursary and the R. F. Addey Memorial Prize for Horticulture during his undergraduate degree. He is chair of the Research Advisory Committee for the charity Fund4Trees and a member of the London Tree Officer's Associations Pest and Disease Working Party. He has presented his research at numerous conferences including the International Society of Arboriculture Hong Kong chapter, Arboricultural Association annual conference (2019), International Urban Tree Diversity Conference in Alnarp, Sweden, and a keynote address at the 2018 Myerscough research conference. In addition, he chaired the tree health session at the 2016 Arboriculture Associations conference and managed the companies commercial CAA drone license for two years. Jon's PhD assessed drought and variations in drought tolerance within the Acer genus in 2019. In addition to research, his role also includes keeping Bartlett representatives informed and updated of recent developments in tree pests and diseases, management and maintenance.

AWE

Mrs Sam Earl

AWE are at the forefront of nuclear technology and innovation – always delivering to keep our nation safe and secure. For over 70 years, we have proudly played a role of critical national importance: helping deliver the UK's nuclear deterrent, preserve peace, prevent coercion and deter aggression. Our apprenticeships, vary from Level 3 Advanced to Level 6 Batchelors Degree covering a broad spectrum of skills: from Engineering to Project Management. Regardless of your chosen path, from day one you will be on a programme that develops not just your technical capability, but also the skills required to be successful in your future roles. You will receive 1-2-1 support and training that will provide you with both the knowledge and understanding of the role and also the work placements, giving you the opportunity to develop whilst in the role.

For more information, visit: www.awe.co.uk

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Army

LCpl Deon Owen

The Army is distinct from the RAF and Royal Navy in that our tasks are always delivered directly by soldiers through human interaction. They are our greatest asset. We are an inspirational employer who embraces diversity, inclusivity and contributes to society in everything we do. We are leaders in leadership with skills for life and the opportunity for all. We have to make life-critical decisions and take purposeful action in sometimes hostile, confusing and unclear situations that occasionally test us to the limit of human endurance. Our training, development and preparation is personally rewarding but also ensures we are united by common values and strong bonds and will do the right thing, even under the most difficult circumstances.

<https://www.army.mod.uk/>

Beechwood Tree Care Ltd

Mr Fred Preston

Beechwood Tree Care Ltd is the UK's No 1 Tree Surgery company. We have a strong ethos of recruiting and training young people. We recruit a minimum of 4 apprentices every year and strongly believe it is a fantastic route to develop the next generation of first class tree surgeons. Visit our vacancies page to find out more <https://www.beechwoodtreecare.co.uk/vacancies/>

****Please note that there will be a practical demonstration where students will have the opportunity to climb ropes. Only students who attend with a parent/guardian will be able to take part****

Enterprise Advisor

Mr Alex Tatham – CEO, 4 Tay Consulting Limited

Alex Tatham is one of the most recognised faces of the UK IT industry, having worked in the IT channel for 30 years. Having qualified as a chartered accountant with EY, he joined Ideal Hardware – then an innovative data storage distributor, as Head of the Ideal Institute – the company's training arm. Progressing into a Sales Manager role, the business caught the internet wave perfectly and was one of the first to trade its live stock to business customers via an internet trading tool. The business was sold to a US business – Bell Micro in 2001 with Alex running the commercial side of the business and developing a strong software business. Bell Micro took Alex all round the world as Head of Global Software which Alex turned into a £1bn revenue business. After Bell Micro was sold in 2007 Alex soon joined Westcoast, the UK's largest privately owned technology business, initially as Sales & Marketing Director and then as MD. The business grew dramatically in the 16 years Alex was with Westcoast from £600m in 2007 to £4.2bn in 2024. The business has been recently sold, and Alex has now taken up a portfolio of IT related businesses as a consultant or non-Executive Director. Alex has always had a passion for education and promoting the IT industry as a career to future generations – particularly girls who are under-represented in IT. He chairs the Thames Valley's Cornerstone Employer Group and is an active Enterprise Adviser to schools in the area.

He graduated from Durham University with a degree in Zoology and is most famous for meeting his wife on the UK's first ever reality TV show – Blind Date in 1988. They are still married and have two children.

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Funtastic Kids Ltd

Mrs Louise Holloway

Childcare providers offering before and after school club work and school holiday work. Also for opportunities to do an apprenticeship with us for Early Years Level 2/3.

Heidelberg Materials

Mrs Maria Mason

Start a higher apprenticeship with Heidelberg Materials and embark on an exciting and rewarding career in the construction industry. We're one of the world's largest suppliers of heavy building materials, employing 51,000 people at around 3,000 sites in over 50 countries. Our core products are aggregates, cement, concrete, asphalt, which are used in some of the largest construction projects across the globe.

<https://www.careers.heidelbergmaterials.co.uk/en/apprenticeships/higher-apprenticeships>

Housing Solutions

Mr Drew Mann

DETAILS TBC SOON!

Institution of Civil Engineers

Mr Charles Spedding

The Royal Charter of the Institution of Civil Engineers includes the purpose of harnessing the resources of Earth for the benefit of mankind. Civil Engineers shape our world and transform lives by designing and building safe structures and providing essential life-giving services. They also tackle global environmental problems like climate change and pollution and take part in disaster relief efforts. The Institution provides support for all grades between Students, through Apprentices and Technicians to Chartered members and Fellows. The Qualifications are monitored and Universities and Employers may be working to agreed schemes of training and experience to enable engineers achieve their targeted aims. Please refer to the website www.ice.org.uk for further information.

MERL

Emma Watkins

MERL will be representing and showcasing careers in Arts and Heritage as part of our Widening Participation programmes. Emma will be able to talk about careers in museums, the different roles in the sector and routes to employment. The Museum of English Rural Life (The MERL) is owned and managed by the University of Reading. We use our diverse and surprising collection to explore how the skills and experiences of farmers and craftspeople, past and present, can help shape our lives now and into the future. We work alongside rural people, local communities and specialist researchers to create displays and activities that engage with important debates about the future of food and the ongoing relevance of the countryside to all our lives.

The MERL and Reading Museum are currently in a strategic partnership as an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation. As Museums Partnership Reading, we work together to provide cultural opportunities for Reading's young people and diverse communities, through schools, volunteering, digital engagement and exhibitions.

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Microsoft

Mr Stephen Adams - Alumni

At Microsoft, we empower individuals and businesses with cutting-edge cloud and AI solutions. As a Cloud Solution Architect, we help organizations in retail, media and professional services leverage cloud technologies to innovate and grow.

Microsoft offers various apprenticeships, internships, and early-career programs, providing hands-on experience in technology.

To explore opportunities, visit:

<https://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk/Discover/Employers/VirtualWorld/228/microsoft/microsoft-apprenticeships>

Reed

Miss Lorna Mc Geever

Our ethos is to ensure every jobseeker we place will make a difference in the classroom and we provide services to schools – from recruitment to managed services as well as careers advice, employability skills and labour market intelligence. One of our main services is interview prep and creating the perfect CV.

Royal Navy and Royal Marines Careers

Mr Paul Ashworth

Actively recruiting for over 103 Roles within the Royal Navy with opportunities for Scholarships, Bursaries and Apprenticeships.

Royal Air Force

Sergeant A S Mears

There's nothing like a career in the RAF, it's not just a job but a way of living. We give everyone access to training and activities so they can reach their potential and grow alongside the RAF in the UK and abroad.

Between work, travel and sport no two days will be the same.

Savills

Mr Jonathan Sebbage

Savills is one of the world's leading property consultants. We specialise in giving expert advice and providing market-leading research on the real estate industry and its various subsectors, including development, planning, urban design and investment.

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STFC - Science and technology facilities council

Mr Matteo Guarnaccia - Alumni

Mr Kalibh Halford

Mr Oliver Silcock

STFC's mission is to deliver world-leading national and international research and innovation capabilities and, through those, discover the secrets of the Universe. Our major research and innovation campuses at Harwell, Daresbury and research facilities across the UK and overseas support fundamental research in astronomy, physics, computational science and space science. STFC is trusted to support, enable, and undertake cutting-edge projects in an amazing diversity of fields that you could be a part of. With access to our world-class facilities, people like you are helping us to drive ground-breaking advances in science, engineering, computing, and technology. Our work is focused on inspiring impact – to make a real-world difference to people's lives and the environment around us. Whether it's sending probes into space or finding new ways to treat cancer, everyone here plays a vital role in making a positive difference to society.

Oliver Silcock - I am an apprentice electronic engineer at STFC. I am rotational which means I go between the different departments to receive training and experience.

Our early careers information can be found at: <https://stfccareers.co.uk/early-careers/>
<https://stfccareers.co.uk/early-careers/>

SSE plc

Mr Sofiane Goudjil

SSE is made up of many different business areas, all helping to deliver low carbon energy. 1- Renewables, 2- Thermal, 3- SSEN Transmission, 4- SSEN Distribution, 5- Enterprise (Distributed Energy) 6- Energy Customer Solutions. We recruit across UK, Ireland and Internationally. We have over 200 sites and depots in the UK and Ireland. There are over 12,000 people working in a wide range of exciting roles across our business units and locations.

Craft apprenticeships (36 vacancies) Based Oxford, Swindon, Aldershot, Basingstoke, Portsmouth, Isle of Wight, Petersfield, New Forest, Yeovil, Poole, Salisbury, Melksham, Reading, Slough, West London, Andover, Bracknell, Theale

<http://careers.sse.com/caw/en/job/551476?ApplicationSubSourceID=12094>

Higher Apprenticeship - Electrical Power Network Engineer - Based Slough, Reading or Portsmouth

<http://careers.sse.com/caw/en/job/551479?ApplicationSubSourceID=12094>

Trainee Engineers - Based West London, Reading, Slough, New Forest, Salisbury, Oxford, Melksham, Aldershot, Basingstoke, Petersfield, Hayes, Portsmouth, Oxford or Swindon

<http://careers.sse.com/caw/en/job/551477?ApplicationSubSourceID=12094>

Data Analyst Higher Apprenticeship - Based Reading or Portsmouth

<http://careers.sse.com/caw/en/job/551475?ApplicationSubSourceID=12094>



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Specsavers

We've been a family-run business for 40 years, working together with our store partners to provide the best value optometry, audiology and other healthcare service for our customers. You'll find us in the UK, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Australia, New Zealand and Canada, employing more than 40,000 people who work across over 2,800 Specsavers stores and businesses, as well as in our support offices and throughout the supply chain.

Thames Valley Police

PC 6109 Mr Yasser ZUBAIR

Myself and a colleague are Police Officers who are part of the Positive Action and Engagement Team, we focus on increasing representation from ethnic minorities and all protected characteristics within the Policing family. We want to not only increase visible diversity but also diversity of thought, we will be providing information on entry routes into policing and also be willing to give our lived experiences.

We focus on a number of facets, including attraction and engagement of new police officers and staff, Thames Valley Police (TVP) is the territorial police force responsible for policing the counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire in England. It's one of the largest police forces in the UK, both in terms of geographic area and population served. Here's a comprehensive overview of Thames Valley Police:

1. Geographical Area & Population

Region: Thames Valley Police covers three counties: Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire.

Area Size: It covers a diverse range of urban, suburban, and rural areas, making it one of the largest territorial police forces in England.

Population: The force serves a population of over 2.3 million people.

For further information about positive action please visit - <https://tvpcareers.co.uk/supporting-you> For careers information please visit the following: <https://tvpcareers.co.uk/roles/>

The Forbury Group of Nurseries

Mrs Claire Little

We are a small group of day nurseries based in the Berkshire area. We provide high quality childcare and education for young children aged from 3 months old to 5 years old. We provide Apprenticeship opportunities post year 11 upwards, come and speak to us about the next steps for your future in an exciting career in childcare!

Find us on Facebook and Instagram... <https://www.facebook.com/forburygroupcareers>
@forbury_group_careers

UK Atomic Energy Authority

Mr Yogesh Bhide & Mr Aditya Sinha

UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) is a leader in nuclear fusion research, aiming to develop fusion as a safe, sustainable energy source. Key programmes include running Joint European Tokamak (JET)- the world's largest fusion experiment, MAST Upgrade, and STEP, which aims to build the UK's first prototype fusion power plant. UKAEA also operates RACE, which develops robotics for extreme environments, H3AT, focusing on tritium research, and MRF, which tests

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materials for reactor conditions. UKAEA offers educational programs, including school visits, workshops and importantly apprenticeships and internships, to inspire and train the next generation of scientists and engineers. Their work is crucial for creating a sustainable energy future and combating climate change.

Virgin Media

Mrs Georgina Perry

Virgin Media O2 – We're two of the UK's most iconic brands, combining 46 million+ broadband, mobile and home phone customers subscribers and 18,700 employees. We've come together to give the UK more choice and better value – it's good news for customers, communities and businesses all over the country.

We offer apprenticeships in this area on a rolling programme so check our website regularly for openings. https://jobs.virginmediao2.co.uk/en_US/careersmarketplace/Apprenticeschemes

Wood PLC

Mr Chris Ward – Engineering Manager

Mr Jason Collins-Webb – Executive Consultant – Decarbonisation

Ms Paula King – Engineering Manager

Wood has 35,000 professionals across 60 countries and provides performance-driven solutions throughout the asset life cycle, from concept to decommissioning across a broad range of industrial markets. Wood is one of the world's leading consulting and engineering companies operating across Energy and Materials markets including oil & gas, wind, hydrogen, solar, infrastructure, clean energy, mining, minerals, life sciences and general industrial sectors.

The following website provides information about Wood as a company:

<https://www.woodplc.com/home> and externally to Wood the following website has inspiring videos about different types of engineering: <https://thisisengineering.org.uk>

The early careers section of our website would also be useful for students to see typical roles available at Wood early in their career: <https://careers.woodplc.com/early-careers>

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Choose a career that interests you, and use the starter questions below to find out more about it. We will be asking our representatives if there are any students who stood out at the careers fair and asked interesting questions and went above and beyond in their interactions. Those students will be put in a prize draw to win a £10 Amazon Gift Voucher! Good Luck!

What academic qualifications will I need?

Do I need to go to university?

Could I train via an apprenticeship route?

What is the starting age?

If training is needed, how long will it take?

What salary could I expect to earn (a) Initially? & (b) ten years after starting?

What are the chances of promotion?

Is there much demand for people doing this job?

What are the different aspects of your job?

What do you enjoy the most and least about your job?

Does the job require travelling/living away from home?

What surprised you most about your company or role?

Some more examples of questions:-

What are the primary responsibilities for this position?

What does a typical day look like in this role?

What are the key skills and qualifications needed for this job?

What are the most challenging aspects of this position?

What are the opportunities for career advancement within the company?

How does the company support employee development and training?

What are the typical career paths for someone starting in this role?

What is the company culture like?

What are some of the benefits of working at your company?

How does your company promote work-life balance?

Are there any internship or work experience opportunities available at your company?

How relevant is my current subject choices to this role?

What are the most important skills you look for in a recent graduate?

What are some of the exciting projects your company is currently working on?

What are the latest trends in your industry?

How is your company adapting to recent changes in the market? (Think about AI and how this is changing your life and how this could change companies and industries in the future.)

What is a typical workday like?

What do you like best/least about your job? Why?

What led you to your current career/job?

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What type of interests, abilities, and skills would help a person to be successful in your occupation?

What type of education/training, technical knowledge, or experience is necessary for this kind of work?

How do you use math, reading, writing, business, technology, science, and foreign language skills in your daily work?

What advice would you give a student interested in this career?

What type of starting position and salary would someone entering this field be most likely to find?

Do you spend more time working in teams or by yourself?

Has technology changed your job? What changes do you see in the future?

Are there other industries or positions where you could work with your skills/expertise?

Are certain times of the month or year busier than others times?

What are the opportunities for advancement in this occupation?

What part-time jobs, internships or extracurricular activities would best prepare a student for this occupation?

Think about jobs that didn't exist 20 years ago and what else would have changed in 5, 10 or 20 years time:-

- **Social media manager:** A job that has become more common in recent years
- **SEO specialist:** A career that has emerged as businesses compete for visibility in search engines
- **App developer:** A job that has become more common as mobile apps have become more popular
- **Cloud architect:** A job that has emerged as cloud platforms have become more common
- **Data scientist:** A job that has become more common as data has become more important in business
- **Drone operator:** A job that has become more common as drones have become more common in creative industries and construction