

September 2026

Level 2 | Horticulture/Landscape Construction Operative Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship Description and Job Overview

Many businesses will be specialised in their activities, such as grounds maintenance (soft-landscape) or landscape construction (hard-landscape). Soft landscaping includes the establishment and maintenance of plants and cultivated areas. Hard landscaping includes establishment of hard surfaces and structures in addition to the establishment of plants in cultivated areas.

The distinct nature of these two specialisms means very few businesses can offer the full breadth of skills and therefore two options are available for this occupation: horticulture and landscape construction. The employment area will dictate the option pursued. The horticulture option focuses on plant propagation and plant growth. The landscape construction option focuses on the installation of features and structures; application of landscape materials as well as supporting site management.

Work is generally based outside and undertaken throughout the year, so apprentices will frequently work outside in all weathers, often people new to the industry will start in a 'hands-on' role covering a range of practical tasks, with specialist (environmental) skills being learnt through progression. A wide range of machinery and tools are used, and additional training may be required depending on the nature of the works undertaken

Level 2 | Horticulture/Landscape Construction Operative Apprenticeship

Qualification Level 2 Horticulture/Landscape Construction Operative (Standard ST0225)

Training Delivery Campus NKC Hadlow College
Tonbridge Road, Hadlow
Kent
TN11 0AL

Duration of Apprenticeship 24 Months
Typical EPA period 3 months

Apprenticeship Entry Requirements Maths GCSE Grade 3/D or equivalent Functional Skills
English GCSE Grade 3/D or equivalent Functional Skills

Mandatory Qualification details

For both Landscape and Horticulture pathways
Level 3 award in Emergency First Aid at Work

Horticulture Pathway
Level 2 Award in the Safe Application of Pesticide Using Handheld Equipment

Level 2 Principles of Safe Handling and Application of Pesticides

Landscape Pathway
Level 2 Certificate of Competence in the Safe Use of Abrasive Wheel Machines

End Point Assessment Organisation and EPA components

Lantra | The EPA consists of 3 x assessment methods:

1. Multiple-choice test.
2. Practical Assessment
3. Professional discussion

Progression Routes

Upon completion candidates can move into roles such as Horticulturist, Landscaper, Garden centre operative, Organic grower, machinery operative, glasshouse technician, commercial Horticulturist.