

# **Landscape Manager**

## **What is the work like?**

Landscape managers specialise in planning, developing and maintaining open spaces. They ensure that developments are suitable for their intended purpose and advise on the long-term care and development of the landscape.

They work on a wide range of landscapes, including:

- nature conservation areas and wildlife parks
- historic gardens
- woodlands (including those used for recreation)
- motorway verges
- public parks
- housing estates.

Depending on their employer and the type of landscape they specialise in, landscape managers may be known by different job titles including countryside and green space parks and woodlands officers, reserve wardens or rights of way officers.

Landscape managers rarely carry out the practical work involved in caring for the land, but they use their knowledge of plants and the environment to advise on the long-term care and development of the landscape. Tasks vary from job to job, but may include:

- deciding on appropriate sites for features such as footpaths, seating, litter bins, picnic areas and play areas
- devising maintenance and management plans to make sure essential jobs, such as clearing vegetation from footpaths, are carried out on a regular basis
- overseeing the work of employees and contractors
- financial planning and budget management
- keeping up to date with relevant legal issues
- conducting surveys and tests to monitor the quality of the environment
- assessing the impact of any proposed change of land use
- advising on planning applications and public enquiries (for example giving an opinion on the environmental impact of a new road)
- meeting landowners to discuss plans for land with shared borders
- promoting the use of open spaces to the public
- applying for grants and other funding
- writing reports and giving presentations.

Landscape managers may work closely with landscape architects and landscape scientists, town planners, conservation officers, engineers, parks officers and horticulture specialists.

## **Hours and environment**

Landscape managers working in the public sector usually work around 37 hours a week, Monday to Friday. This may include evening meetings, and additional hours

may be required to meet deadlines. Those working in private practice may work longer, more irregular hours. Part-time or flexitime work may be available.

Landscape managers are usually based in an office and may spend a lot of time attending meetings. Some jobs involve travelling to sites and working outdoors in all weather conditions. Walking, often over rough ground, and some climbing may be required.

It may be necessary to spend periods of time away from home. A driving licence may be useful.

### **Salary and other benefits**

These figures are only a guide, as actual rates of pay may vary, depending on the employer and where people live.

- The starting salary for a landscape manager in the public sector may be around £20000.
- With more experience this could rise to between £24,000 and £30,000 a year.
- A successful, experienced landscape manager may earn around £38,000 a year.

Salaries in private practice may be higher.

### **Skills and personal qualities**

A landscape manager needs:

- to be knowledgeable about plants and the environment
- excellent communication skills
- to be well organised and able to prioritise a number of different tasks
- leadership and management skills
- a practical approach to work
- to understand the law in relation to the environment and countryside
- good negotiation skills
- business and budgeting skills
- physical fitness if they are involved in outdoor work.

### **Interests**

It helps to:

- be interested in conservation issues and the environment
- enjoy working with a wide range of people from a variety of backgrounds.

### **Getting in**

Landscape managers are employed by a number of organisations, including local and national government, and charitable organisations such as the National Trust and Natural England. Some work for companies involved in building, civil engineering,

mining, power supply and land reclamation. Landscape managers also work in private landscape practices. There are opportunities throughout the UK.

Vacancies are advertised in the local and national press, on the websites of the Landscape Institute (LI), the Landscape Design Trust and the British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI), and in specialist sector publications. Local government jobs are advertised in the jobs bulletins and on the websites of individual local authorities, and at [www.lgjobs.com](http://www.lgjobs.com).

### ***Entry routes***

The requirements for getting into a landscape management role may vary.

There are no specific qualifications required for a role such as a local government conservation and woodlands officer, but because competition is high many have a degree or HNC/HND in a subject such as environmental science, biology, surveying, geography, ecology or countryside/environmental management. Candidates may also benefit from experience gained through voluntary or temporary work. It may be possible to start in a more practical role (for example, as a landscape assistant) and, after training and experience, apply for jobs in landscape management.

The Diploma in environmental and land-based studies available at Levels 1, 2 and 3 may also be advantageous. These new qualifications for young people focus on practical skills, knowledge and understanding in environmental and land-based studies and may prepare you for a career or further study (at college or university) within the sector. To find out more about the new Diploma in environmental and land-based studies visit [www.diplomaelbs.co.uk](http://www.diplomaelbs.co.uk).

The Diploma in environmental and land-based studies will be available nationally from 2013. However, from 2009, it will be available in a number of different areas of the country.

For more information on the new Diplomas visit <http://yp.direct.gov.uk/diplomas/>

Some landscape managers have a degree or postgraduate qualification accredited by the Landscape Institute. Its website has a list of accredited courses offered by universities and colleges throughout the UK.

The minimum requirements for a degree course are usually two A levels and five GCSEs (A-C), or equivalent qualifications. Subjects such as geography, environmental science, biology, and art and design are particularly useful. Admissions tutors may take previous relevant experience into account.

For a postgraduate course, students need a good first degree. Subjects such as environmental science, biology, geography, land-based sciences, landscape design, planning, soil science, forestry, engineering, agriculture and ecology are useful.

Candidates are advised to check specific course requirements with individual institutions. There may be opportunities for part-time or flexible learning.

## **Training**

Training varies according to the employer, and may be through internal and external courses as well as on the job.

Local government employees have regular job appraisals at which individual training needs are identified.

Licentiate members of the LI may follow the Pathway to Chartership (P2C) to become a full member of the LI. During this time, licentiates are mentored by a fully qualified member of the LI. The Pathway is flexible, so associates can move forward at their own pace. However, it usually requires two to three years' professional experience before licentiates are ready to progress to the oral examination which is the final stage of the Pathway. Upon successful completion of the Pathway, licentiates can become full members of the LI.

Full members of the LI are expected to do at least 20 hours' Continuing Professional Development (CPD) a year to keep their skills up to date.

## **Getting on**

Promotion prospects vary from employer to employer. In local government, there is a structured career path through to supervisory and managerial roles. In other organisations, it may be necessary to move to another employer to progress.

Successful landscape managers working in private practice may be made a partner in their organisation. Some experienced landscape managers become self-employed and set up their own practices. There may be opportunities to work overseas.

## **Related jobs**

Countryside/Conservation Officer  
Ecologist  
Forest Officer  
Landscape Architect  
Landscape  
Town Planner  
Town Planning Support Staff

## **Further information**

British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI), Landscape House, Stoneleigh Park, National Agricultural Centre, Warwickshire CV8 2LG. 0870 770 4971.  
Website: [www.bali.co.uk](http://www.bali.co.uk)

Improvement and Development Agency, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London EC1M 5LG. 020 7296 6681. Websites: [www.idea.gov.uk](http://www.idea.gov.uk), [www.lgcareers.com](http://www.lgcareers.com) and [www.lgjobs.com](http://www.lgjobs.com)

Landscape Design Trust, Bank Chambers, 1 London Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1LY.  
01737 779257. Website: [www.landscape.co.uk](http://www.landscape.co.uk)

Landscape Institute (LI), 33 Great Portland Street, London W1W 8QG. 020 7299  
4500. Website: [www.landscapeinstitute.org](http://www.landscapeinstitute.org)

Lantra, Lantra House, Stoneleigh Park, near Coventry CV8 2LG. 024 7669 6996.  
Websites: [www.lantra.co.uk](http://www.lantra.co.uk) and for careers information [www.afuturein.com](http://www.afuturein.com)

‘GROW your own career in Horticulture’ Website [www.growcareers.info](http://www.growcareers.info)

### **Further reading**

Leaflets from the Landscape Institute

#### ***Magazines/journals:***

*Green Places* - Landscape Design Trust

*Landscape* - Landscape Institute

*Landscape Review*

*Vista* - Landscape Institute

(Some may be priced)

### **Alternate Titles**

Countryside and Woodlands Officer

Reserve Wardens

Rights of Way Officers