

Forest or Wildlife Ranger

Forest or wildlife rangers protect and conserve wildlife in the forest. They also give information to visitors and lead guided walks. In Forestry and Land Scotland they are called wildlife rangers.

The Work

You could be:

- looking after habitats in the forest to protect existing birds and animals and encourage others to settle
- identifying tree diseases and areas of damage caused by pests
- controlling pests which might damage habitats, possibly using pesticides
- controlling numbers of animals, such as deer, possibly using a gun
- working with the police to catch poachers or anyone disturbing or killing wildlife or stealing birds' eggs
- checking footpaths, gates, stiles or signposts for damage and arranging any repair work
- assisting with environmental surveys, such as habitat monitoring or plant disease
- raising awareness of conservation and the environment through events and activities.

Pay

The figures below are only a guide. Actual pay rates may vary, depending on:

- where you work
- the size of company or organisation you work for
- the demand for the job.

Salaries for assistant rangers are around £17,000 a year.

The Forestry and Land Scotland salary for Forest or Wildlife Rangers on pay band 6a is around £28,000 to £30,000 a year.

With a local authority you might earn around £30,000 a year.

Conditions

- Although you would work from an office or visitor centre, most of your time would be outdoors.
- The conditions would often be wet, muddy, cold or windy.
- You would usually work a 40-hour flexible five-day week.
- Shifts may be worked over a 24-hour period and you may have to work evenings and weekends.
- Many jobs are based in country areas, away from major towns, and some may be in remote locations.

Getting In

- Entry can be competitive and some forest or wildlife rangers start as forest workers. Trainee posts are sometimes available. A good general education is useful, and it can also be helpful to have some subjects

at National 4 or 5.

- You could take a full time course leading to NC/NQ (SCQF Levels 4-6), HNC (SCQF Level 7) or HND (SCQF Level 8) before applying for a job. Entry requirements for NC vary from no formal qualifications to 5 subjects at National 4 or 5. For an HNC or HND it is usually 1-2 Highers or an NC.
- West Highland College offers an NQ in Countryside Skills with Ranger Training (Level 5).
- Previous experience, usually as a forest worker, is necessary. You could do relevant voluntary work to get experience, for example with [Forestry and Land Scotland](#), the [National Trust for Scotland](#) or [The Conservation Volunteers \(TCV\) Scotland](#).
- For wildlife ranger posts a qualification in wildlife management or gamekeeping may be helpful.
- You usually need a full, clean driving licence.
- You should be fit as there is a lot of active outdoor work, usually over rough ground.
- You will require a satisfactory criminal record check from Disclosure Scotland to show that you are suitable for this type of work. Contact [Disclosure Scotland](#) for details on the type you would need.
- You would need to obtain the necessary licence in order to use a shotgun.

You would work for Forestry and Land Scotland, Scottish Forestry, a forestry company or private estate, a local authority, a government agency or a conservation organisation.

What Does It Take

You should be:

- interested in wildlife and the environment
- willing to work outdoors in all weathers
- practical and good with your hands
- observant
- aware of health and safety issues
- aware of laws and regulations relating to wildlife management and conservation
- able to work alone and as part of a team
- willing to carry out tasks necessary for controlling pests and animal numbers
- good at communicating.

Training

- Training is normally on the job through an employer's training scheme.
- You may also do various short courses, for example on the law regarding wildlife.

Getting On

- With experience you may be able to become a head forest or wildlife ranger in a large forest or on a big estate.
- You may move into other related jobs in the environmental and conservation fields.

More Information

Forestry and Land Scotland is the biggest employer of forest or wildlife rangers in Scotland. Vacancies are posted

on the [Forestry and Land Scotland](#) website.

Contacts

Forestry and Land Scotland

Tel: 0131 370 5541

Email: enquiries@forestryandland.gov.scot

Website: forestryandland.gov.scot

X: [@forestryls](#)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/forestryandlandscotland

Lantra Scotland

Tel: 024 7669 6996

Email: scotland@lantra.co.uk

Website: www.scotland.lantra.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/lantrascotland

Royal Forestry Society (RFS)

Tel: 01295 678588

Email: rfshq@rfs.org.uk

Website: www.rfs.org.uk

X: [@royal_forestry](#)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/RoyalForestrySociety

Royal Scottish Forestry Society (RSFS)

Website: www.rsfs.org.uk

X: [@RSFS1854](#)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Royal-Scottish-Forestry-Society-1629037513991659

Scottish Forestry

Tel: 0131 370 5250

Email: Scottish.Forestry@forestry.gov.uk

Website: forestry.gov.scot

X: [@scotforestry](#)

Woodland Trust Scotland

Tel: 01738 635544

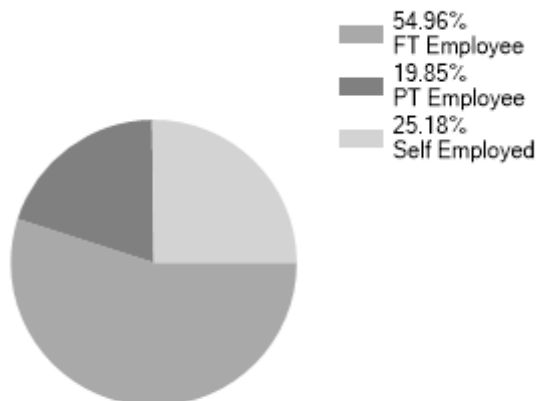
Email: scotland@woodlandtrust.org.uk

Website: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/thewoodlandtrust

Statistics

Employment Status UK %

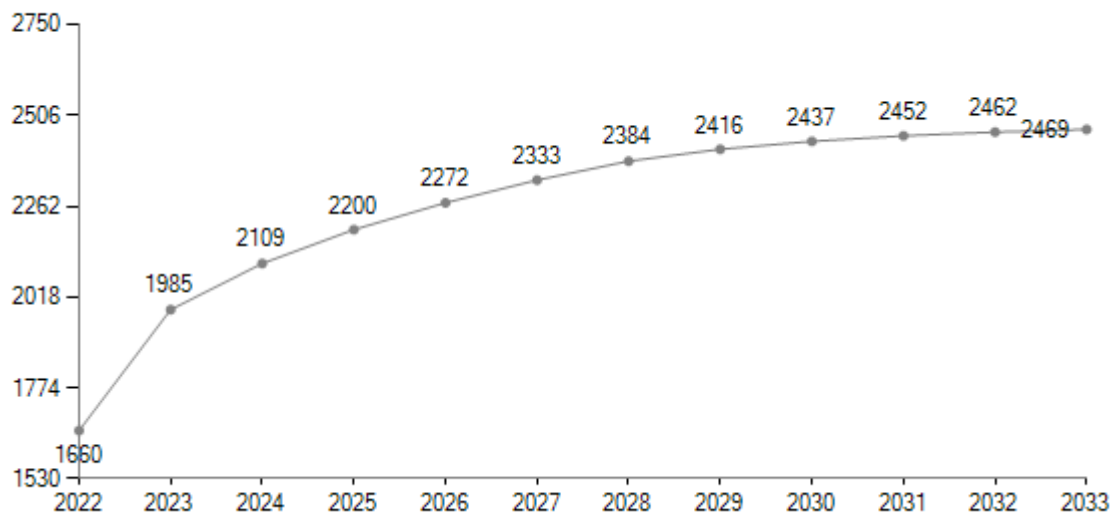


Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

LMI data powered by [LMI for All](#)

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [Lightcast](#)