

Craig Bradshaw

Funded by the ESF Employees Support in Skills programme being delivered in Cumbria, Craig Bradshaw and his employee has benefited from over £2000 of fully funded training courses since December 2017.

Craig Bradshaw, based in South Cumbria, is a grounds maintenance contractor and looks after local Rugby Clubs, holiday cottages and schools.

In being able to prove he is completing additional training courses he has been successful in winning the 2 year maintenance contract for a local Town Council.

The courses undertaken covered Sit astride All-Terrain Vehicles, Pesticides Safe Use & Application and Chainsaw Maintenance & Cross Cut and Felling up to 380mm trees.

Award in Sit Astride All-Terrain Vehicle Handling

The qualification provided the delegate with the knowledge, skills and understanding to ride or drive their ATV's safely in the work place. The qualification covered pre-use checks, instrument and control recognition, safe driving and manoeuvring the vehicle on various types of terrain including slopes.

The qualification has been specifically designed to meet the diverse needs of learners who use ATV's in a variety of circumstances.

This course provided the delegate with the skills at which industry recognises learners have achieved competence to use these machines.

Award in Chainsaw Maintenance and Cross-Cutting & Felling and Processing Trees up to 380mm

These practical qualification has provided the delegate with the knowledge, skills and understanding, valued by employers, enabling learners to work within the forestry and arboriculture industry.

The mandatory Chainsaw Maintenance and Cross Cutting qualification is a benchmark for those wishing to enter the industry and enables learners to progress onto other optional qualifications to acquire the specialist skills and knowledge for their job.

The Felling and Processing of trees up to 380mm course has enables the learner to: fell trees with the use of wedges and felling bars; to carry out at least three different types of cut; to identify potential hazards and stresses, and select the appropriate techniques to assess and work with timber in compression or tension. In addition the learner now also knows how to take down hung up trees safely and in line with relevant legislation, however they will also be able to recognise situations where specialist assistance might be required.

The training course had many physical demands and required the carrying and movement of equipment in woodland and forest environments.

The skills learnt by the delegate in undertaking these qualifications shows the learner has developed their skills to the highest standards as required by the industry.

Award in the Safe Application of Pesticides Using Pedestrian Hand Held Equipment, and near water and with Injection Gun

This qualification has provided the delegate with the skills and knowledge to safely use pesticide application equipment and pest controls. This module covers pesticide application equipment and pest controllers, using hydraulic nozzle or rotary atomiser type sprayers.

In addition the delegate has learnt to safely apply pesticides near water and with an injection gun into invasive herbaceous perennial plants such as Japanese Knotweed.

The course confirms occupational competence and is specified by the Chemical Regulations Directorate (CRD) where appropriate as the recognised Licence to Practise for the industry.

