

Overview of the role

Maintaining and caring for equine feet.

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Standard in development

L3: Farrier

Version 1.7

Title of occupation

Farrier

UOS reference number

ST0172

Core and options

No

Level of occupation

Level 3

Occupational maps data

Route: Agriculture, environmental and animal care

Pathway: Animal Care and Management

Cluster: Equine groom or farrier

Typical duration of apprenticeship

42 months

Target date for approval

30/09/2025

Resubmission

No

Would your proposed apprenticeship standard replace an existing framework?

No

Does professional recognition exist for the occupation?

Yes

Regulated occupation

Is this a statutory regulated occupation?

Yes

Name of regulator body

Farriers Registration Council

The following needs to be approved by the statutory regulator

Training provider

EPAO

Occupational summary

The farrier occupation is found predominantly within the equestrian sector, but it also interacts with various other industries such as veterinary services and agriculture.

Farriers operate in a variety of contexts and applications. They work in stables, equestrian centres, and racecourses, providing services for everything from leisure horses to high-performance equine athletes.

Farriers may also be found at veterinary clinics, assisting with medical hoof care and corrective shoeing.

Employers range from independent practitioners and small, specialised farriery businesses to larger organisations such as racing stables, horse breeding facilities, and equine hospitals.

The broad purpose of the occupation is to ensure the health, comfort, and performance of horses through expert hoof care and shoeing.

Farriers combine the art of blacksmithing with an in-depth understanding of equine anatomy to create, fit, and adjust horseshoes. This role involves carefully assessing the condition of a horse's hooves, trimming and shaping them as needed, and designing and forging shoes to meet the specific needs of each individual horse.

By maintaining hoof health, farriers contribute significantly to the overall well-being and performance of horses in various settings, from racing and show jumping to casual riding and workhorses in agriculture.

Farriers typically work in outdoor environments such as stables, farms, racetracks, and equestrian centres, often traveling to different locations to provide on-site services.

In their daily work, a farrier interacts with a variety of organisations and functions. They often engage with horse owners, trainers, and veterinarians to discuss hoof care and treatment plans, ensuring the well-being and performance of the horses.

Farriers may also coordinate with stable managers and equine facility staff to schedule appointments and maintain a regular hoof care regime.

A farrier will be responsible for providing hoof care and shoeing services with a high degree of autonomy. Typically, farriers work independently, assessing and addressing the hoof health needs of each horse without direct supervision.

In larger organisations, such as equine hospitals or racing stables, they might report to a veterinary surgeon or stable manager, while in smaller setups or as independent practitioners, they often manage their own schedules and client interactions. The level of oversight may vary depending on the size and structure of the organisation they work for.

Farriers are responsible for managing their own tools and equipment, ensuring they are in good condition and ready for use.

Key requirements include adhering to industry-specific regulations and safety standards, maintaining professionalism and ethical conduct, and ensuring high-quality workmanship.

Farriery is a profession regulated by statute and farriers are required to be admitted on to the Register of Farriers before they may practice lawfully. Once registered a farrier may either practice as an individual or join a farriery practice to work as part of a team.

Typical job titles

Farrier

Are there any statutory / regulatory or other typical entry requirements?

Yes

Entry requirement label

Employers will set their own entry requirements and may typically require a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above (C or above), including English, Maths and one Science.

Occupation duties

DUTY	KSBS
Duty 1 Communicate effectively with the regulator, the public, clients, and other professionals using appropriate methods.	K4 K5 K6 K17 K18 K19 K20 K21 K22 K23 K24 K26 S5 S6 S8 B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6 B7 B8
Duty 2 Maintain appropriate standards of health and safety and promote health safety and wellbeing of yourself, the equine and others.	K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6 K7 K8 K14 K17 K18 K19 K20 K21 K22 K23 K26 S1 S5 S8 S9 S10 B1 B2 B4 B5 B6 B7 B8
Duty 3 Prepare and maintain the working environment, identify hazards and minimise risks.	K1 K2 K3 K6 K26 S1 S2 S3 S5 B1 B2 B7
Duty 4 Use, maintain, and store equipment, tools, and	K1 K2 K3 K6 K7 K26 S1 S4 S5 B1 B7

DUTY	KSBS
materials safely and efficiently.	
Duty 5 Handle secure and restrain the equine using safe and ethical methods.	K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6 K8 K9 K10 K19 K20 K23 S1 S5 S10 B1 B2 B4 B6 B7
Duty 6 Appraise the individual equine using static and dynamic assessment methods.	K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6 K8 K9 K10 K11 K12 K14 K17 K18 K19 K20 K21 K22 K23 S5 S7 S8 S10 S14 S19 B1 B2 B4 B5 B6 B7
Duty 7 Safely remove equine shoes.	K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6 K7 K8 K9 K10 K11 K14 K15 K20 K23 K26 S5 S7 S10 S11 S19 B1 B2 B4 B5 B6 B7
Duty 8 Prepare individual trimming foot care plans for both unshod and shod equines to meet their individual welfare and work needs.	K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6 K8 K9 K10 K11 K13 K14 K19 K20 K23 K26 S5 S7 S9 S10 S14 S19 B1 B2 B4 B5 B6 B7
Duty 9 Prepare and trim the sole, frog, and bars of the hoof.	K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6 K8 K9 K10 K11 K13 K14 K20 K23 S5 S7 S10 S12 S19 B1 B2 B4 B5 B6 B7
Duty 10 Choose the correct shoe material, size, and length based on the equine's individual needs.	K2 K3 K4 K5 K6 K7 K9 K10 K11 K14 K15 K20 K23 K26 S5 S7 S8 S10 S14 S19 B1 B2 B4 B5 B6 B7
Duty 11 Forge, fabricate, and modify shoes for equines.	K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6 K7 K8 K11 K14 K15 K16 K20 K23 K26 S5 S8 S15 S19 B1 B2 B4 B5 B7

DUTY	KSBS
Duty 12 Prepare and trim the hoof wall for unshod horses or those requiring shoes.	K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6 K8 K9 K10 K11 K14 K15 K20 K23 S5 S7 S8 S10 S13 S19 B1 B2 B4 B5 B6 B7
Duty 13 Ensure appropriate fit of shoes prior to affixing.	K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6 K7 K8 K9 K10 K11 K14 K15 K20 K23 S5 S7 S8 S10 S14 S16 S17 S19 B1 B2 B4 B5 B6 B7
Duty 14 Affix the shoe securely with appropriate nailing and clenching techniques.	K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6 K7 K8 K9 K10 K11 K14 K15 K20 K23 S5 S7 S8 S10 S14 S16 S17 S19 B1 B2 B4 B5 B6 B7
Duty 15 Maintain business records in accordance with legislative and regulatory requirement.	K4 K5 K6 K19 K20 K21 K22 K24 K25 S6 S18 B4 B6

KSBS

Knowledge

- K1:** The monitoring and maintenance of health and safety in the workplace.
- K2:** The UK health and safety requirements for health and safety in the workplace.
- K3:** The risk assessment and minimisation of hazards in farriery working environments.
- K4:** The regulatory and legislative requirements of farriery registration.
- K5:** The role of the Farriers Registration Council as the regulatory body for farriery.
- K6:** The application of the code of professional conduct of the Farriers Registration Council.
- K7:** The use and safe handling of the modern materials used in farriery.
- K8:** The ethical and safe methods for handling and control of the equine for the purposes of trimming or shoeing.
- K9:** The anatomy and physiology of the equine limb.
- K10:** The principles of equine biomechanics and balance.
- K11:** The pathologies and clinical features caused by imbalance in the equine limb.
- K12:** The principles of static and dynamic assessment of the equine.
- K13:** The principles of trimming for individual equines including breed type, work and welfare needs.
- K14:** The principles of shoeing for individual equines including breed type, work and welfare needs.
- K15:** The selection of shoe materials, section and type for individual equines including breed, type, work and welfare needs.

- K16:** Principles of forging, shoe fabrication and modification.
- K17:** The diagnostic techniques used by veterinary surgeons to appraise and diagnose equine limbs.
- K18:** The use of veterinary diagnostic images and information by farriers to inform individual equine and trimming and shoeing plans.
- K19:** How to recognise personal and professional limitations.
- K20:** The principles of using an evidence based approach to inform continuous professional development.
- K21:** When to refer or seek advice from colleagues, including approved training farriers, higher qualified farriers, other professionals, veterinary surgeons or paraprofessionals.
- K22:** How to recognise the pathologies and abnormalities that may predispose lameness in equines.
- K23:** Remedial farriery options available for a variety of pathologies and abnormalities.
- K24:** The principles of effective communication with colleagues and stakeholders.
- K25:** The principles of business administration, planning and legislation.
- K26:** The principles of sustainability in the farrier profession.

Skills

- S1:** Maintain the work environment in accordance health and safety legislation and regulations.
- S2:** Safely prepare and maintain the working environment.
- S3:** Identify hazards and minimise risks in the working environment.
- S4:** Use, maintain and store equipment, tools and materials safely.
- S5:** Make the most efficient and effective use of resources.
- S6:** Communicate appropriately with the regulator, members of the public, clients and other professionals.
- S7:** Assess the equine using static and dynamic methods to inform the approach to trimming and shoeing.
- S8:** Interpret imaging and information provided by a veterinary surgeon to inform the approach to trimming and shoeing.
- S9:** Prepare foot care plans for individual equines taking account specifics, breed type, work and welfare needs.
- S10:** Handle and control the equine safely and ethically for the purposes of shoeing and trimming.
- S11:** Remove equine shoes.
- S12:** Prepare and trim the sole, frog and bars.
- S13:** Prepare and trim the hoof wall.
- S14:** Select shoe material, section and type appropriate for the individual equine.
- S15:** Forge, fabricate and modify shoes as selected for the individual equine.
- S16:** Nail or affix the shoe in an appropriate and safe manner.
- S17:** Produce clenches from the nail tips or finish the method of adhesion in an appropriate and safe manner.
- S18:** Apply business planning and invoicing principles.
- S19:** Assess the effectiveness of the shoeing or trimming work on the individual equine.

Behaviours

- B1:** Acts in a professional and ethical manner and recognises professional and personal requirements and limitations.
- B2:** Demonstrates the self-discipline, flexibility and positively to prioritise equine welfare.

B3: Considers equity, diversity and inclusion in communication with stakeholder.
B4: Committed to continual learning and professional development.
B5: Committed to compliance with the Farriers Registration Council regulatory requirements related to the profession.
B6: Committed to upholding and contributing to the reputation of the profession.
B7: Committed to the evidence based advancement of farriery.
B8: Open to collaborating with other professionals to ensure the health and welfare of equines.

Qualifications

English and maths

English and maths qualifications must be completed in line with the apprenticeship funding rules.

Does the apprenticeship need to include any mandated qualifications in addition to the above-mentioned English and maths qualifications?

No

Regulated occupation

This is a regulated occupation.

Regulator body:

Farriers Registration Council

Training provider must be approved by regulator body

EPAO must be approved by regulator body

Progression routes

Supporting uploads

Mandatory qualification uploads

Mandated degree evidence uploads

Professional body confirmation uploads

Involved employers

To be added

Other involved stakeholders

Subject sector area

3.3 Animal care and veterinary science