

### **Qualifications and Achievements**

National Diploma in Arboriculture (1996)  
Arboricultural Association Registered Consultant (2006)  
Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF) Chartered Arboriculturist (2007)  
Cardiff University Law School Expert Witness (2008)  
LANTRA Professional Tree Inspector (2016)

### **Personal Statement**

I have a keen interest in the protection and enhancement of our environment and the past 30+ years have allowed me to play a pro-active role in this industry. More specifically, this time has allowed me to gain a wider understanding of modern-day practices, which in turn have helped me to adopt a more mature and practical common-sense approach to the management of trees. Overall, I believe my experiences have taught me to always consider the bigger picture when being set new challenges!

### **Career Summary**

I began working with trees in the late 80s as a forestry contractor, obtaining useful experience in the practical aspects of forestry practice and woodland management. After several years, I moved into arboriculture as an apprentice tree climber to gain valuable practical experience in managing trees. Another seven years later, I found myself in the role of an Arboricultural Officer at The Borough of Poole, dealing with all aspects of municipal tree management. This gave me a comprehensive insight into the social, legal and safety aspects associated with the management of urban trees in the planning system. It also led onto an offer of employment from one of the world's leading experts in the field of Arboriculture, which I moved to in 2002. For 16 years I worked as a consultant gaining vast experience and knowledge, becoming an Associate Director in this well-respected company. This also afforded me the opportunity to become an Arboricultural Association (AA) Registered Consultant and Chartered Arboriculturist, reaching the top of the profession. In my existing role, I help to manage a large established AA approved tree contracting company with many high-profile clients and projects around the country, offering a diverse range of new tree management challenges.

### **Work Experience**

#### **December 2018 – present – Apex Group**

##### **Consultant/Manager**

Working as a manager and consultant, I have transferred my consultancy skills into the practical side of arboriculture, adopting a hands-on approach. I am actively involved with quoting for tree works, making tree work applications, advising on soil amelioration projects around trees, installing tree protection on development sites and generally advising on technical tree risk matters to our wide-ranging client base. I can be dealing with contractors, small property owners, developers or large estate managers at any time.

### **Key accomplishments:**

Much of my time is spent developing new systems and establishing a consultancy element for the business. This has included projects such as:

- Developing a marketing strategy and methodology for assessing tree risk that incorporates existing and new clients
- Working on an existing marketing strategy for the Geo-injector and producing practical guidance for the industry that includes specifications and consultancy advice for clients and other professionals
- Working with the office staff to establish/improve internal processes for diary management, HR procedures and health and safety policies

- Toolbox talks for the arborist department
- Establishing tree pruning guidance for the arborists, especially when undertaking difficult technical tasks, such as habitat tree management projects
- Working in many high-profile locations on tree work projects that involve many aspects of tree management such as: risk/woodland management reports, implementation of tree works and advice on soil amelioration works around heritage/veteran trees.

## **2002 – 2018**

### **Associate Director, Barrell Tree Consultancy**

Whilst working as an Associate Director, I had full autonomy over managing my client base. I was responsible for all aspects of my client's requirements, ranging from advising on technical matters involving trees on development sites, tree risk management and giving evidence at planning appeals where trees have been implicated.

#### **Key accomplishments:**

Many of my projects were unconventional, requiring innovation and out of the box thinking such as:

- the installation of a new water feature around two mature plane trees in Mayfair, London
- the construction of a timber framed house in a protected woodland site in the quiet Dorset village
- a large infrastructure/residential project on the outskirts of Winchester that included advising on technical issues involving level changes for sports facilities close to trees and the installation of new structural landscaping around the whole site
- involved with researching and producing guidance for identifying and assessing heritage trees (TreeAH methods of tree assessment).

Managing these types of projects gave me an excellent insight into understanding the requirements of all other professions involved, especially architects, engineers, tree officers and planners.

## **1996-2002**

### **Tree Officer, The Borough of Poole Council**

My responsibilities as an Arboricultural Officer included setting up and managing a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) review team, administering TPOs and processing applications to work on protected trees. Other aspects of the role included writing reports and giving presentations to the Planning Sub-Committee, writing consultation letters for the general public, dealing with tree work and planning applications, attending enforcement visits relating to trees, giving evidence at planning appeals and attending court to represent the Local Planning Authority. I worked closely with the other tree officers and planners in a very busy organisation to give advice on the varied tree related matters that arose.

#### **Key accomplishments:**

Other than my day to day duties, I found time to organise and manage several tree related projects within the Borough that I felt made a real difference to the community and my work colleagues such as:

- promoting arboriculture locally by helping to organise tree planting events during National Tree Week
- being heavily involved with the production of a booklet, 'The Great Trees of Poole', to enable the public to find local remarkable trees, which is still being used by visitors to the Borough
- helping with the development of good practise and policy for the arboricultural team, including the start of a local tree policy
- working on the production of several guidance leaflets for the general public to use relating to the planning application process
- developing a TPO evaluation system that was used internally by the tree team as part of the procedure for making new TPOs

- organising professional development sessions for the arboricultural team relating to current issues, such as the installation of hard surfaces, guidance on writing local plan policies and tree impact assessments.

## **1989-1995**

### **Tree Surgery Contractor, Lindsey Tree Services**

As a climber arborist/foreman, I gained practical experience in the day to day running of a commercial company. This involved climbing trees, working on planting projects, organising the arborist teams and having an understanding of the practical elements of the role, complying with health and safety regulations, as well as maintaining machinery and pricing for works. The client base was extensive, including local authorities and a wide range of private customers.

#### **Key accomplishments:**

Learned early on in my career how to undertake the practical aspects of tree work, manage other people and organise workloads.

## **1986-1988**

### **Forestry contractor in West Sussex**

My early involvement with trees started in forestry where I learned to use a chainsaw and gain first-hand experience in traditional forestry techniques and practices. It was during the 1987 storm clear up where I obtained a real insight into dealing with dangerous trees, which was a steep learning curve early in my career!

#### **Key accomplishments:**

Realised very quickly that I wanted to have some form of career in tree management.

#### **Additional accomplishments**

In 2009, I was invited by the Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF) to sit on their Professional Standards Committee and attend meetings where decision making and connecting with other members of the profession is required at the highest level. Since 2012, I have been involved as an assessor for the Arboricultural Association Registered Consultants scheme which requires thorough assessment of work undertaken by the country's leading experts. I have also given lectures in Australia, America, Canada and audiences around the UK about heritage tree management and protection on development sites.

#### **Continuing professional development (CPD)**

Being a member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF) and Arboricultural Association (AA), I regularly maintain my professional development. For the last 20 years I have attended annual AA conferences and relevant training workshops, where they are appropriate to my current learning. I also attend ICF seminars and regularly read new research material to keep me on top of changes within the industry.

#### **Interests outside of work**

I own a VW camper van which allows my partner and I to travel around the country, visiting different places. We always take our dog Monty, who enjoys long walks and the odd Bonio snack to keep him going. I regularly attend Bournemouth home football games with my Son, and have recently decided (at the age of 50) to pick up a guitar and start learning to play. That's not going so well!