

Environment & Ecology policy

This document sets out Tommy Plummer Tree Service's standard of care and how it is maintained.

It lets customers know:

- that we do care about the environment and our ecological surroundings
- our commitment to providing arboriculture in a sustainable way

Defining the standards

Our standards are defined by what is achievable to minimise environmental impacts in the context of the work undertaken and by relevant environmental law. We will:

- Adhere to current legislation and use it to shape the service we provide (including Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000, Food & Environmental Protection Act 1985, Environmental Protection Act 1981, Pollution Prevention & Control Act 1999 and their secondary legislation)
- Stay abreast of developments in environmental legislation
- Be aware of new product developments with lower environmental impact and, where practicable, use these in our everyday work
- Find uses and markets for all arisings
- Seek to remove, reduce or mitigate the impacts as far as possible where our work negatively impacts the environment.

Delivering the standards

In achieving these standards we will:

- Recycle or re-use as much of the arisings as possible, and ideally 100% of it. This will include:
 - Timber processed for fire logs or other useful timber products
 - Brash chipped and used to produce biomass-derived energy
 - Rakings and otherwise unsuitable wood waste recycled/composted at green waste plant
- Undertake a site inspection prior to commencement of work to detect the presence of nesting birds, or other protected wildlife and habitats
- Instruct an ecological survey, before any work is undertaken, where the potential for protected wildlife is high and further investigation is required

- Halt all works on site where a European Protected Species is found and seek further Ecological advice as appropriate
- Not use chainsaws, chippers or other noisy machinery before 8.30 am or after 6.00 pm
- Use bio-degradable chain oil in all our chainsaws for work near watercourses, in Sites of Specific Scientific Interest or other environmentally sensitive areas
- Not make unnecessary journeys in vehicles and try to combine visits to similar locations
- Maintain a waste carriers license appropriate to the waste being carried and register relevant waste treatment and storage exemptions with the Environment Agency

Operational/Ecological Conflicts

- Exhaust fumes from vehicles, saws, chippers – These may cause localised pollution of the area or scorching of foliage. Exhausts, mufflers and catalytic converters will be maintained and inspected in PUWER checks
- Fuel & Oil leaks – Leaks may cause reduction in organisms local to spills. Designated fuelling areas will be used on site and located at sufficient distance to sensitive areas. Fuel/Oil caps/seals will be maintained and inspected in PUWER checks. Spill kits are kept in all vehicles.
- Noise – Noise may cause disturbance to the natural behaviour of some animal life. Noise will be kept to a minimum and powered machinery only used when necessary. Use of powered machinery will be restricted to 8.30am-5.30pm.
- Movement on ground & in tree – Trampling on ground or movement within or around trees may cause disturbance and/or damage to the natural behaviours of animals (including nesting), and may damage/destroy sensitive plants/fungal matter. Vigilance will be exercised in sensitive sites and pre-work site/tree inspections will identify the likelihood of the presence of sensitive or protected species and additional site specific control measures will be executed.
- Sensitive sites – Riparian (river-side) and woodland habitats and Ancient/Veteran trees are examples of these. Generally they support great biodiversity and are often important habitats to protected species. Extra vigilance and special site-specific controls must be exercised.
- AONBs, SSSIs, LNRs etc. – Where sites are designated a special status by legal control advice should be sought from the controlling authority or Natural England prior to works commencing.

Signed.....



Tommy Plummer

Dated:.....13th of May, 2024