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Environmental Policy



COVER SHEET.

<i>Version No.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Revisions to sections and next programmed review date</i>	<i>Signed</i>
5	12/07	Addition of 'cover sheet' Additions to references section 3. Next programmed review – 12/08	<i>R.K.</i>
6	12/08	Reviewed,	<i>R.K</i>
7	4/09	Reviewed, section 2 inserted & document reformatted	<i>R.K</i>
8	4/10	Reviewed, additions to section 1 & 3.1 Next programmed review 4/11	<i>R.K</i>
9	4/11	Programmed review, additions to section 3.8 Next programmed review 4/12	<i>R.K</i>
10	4/12	Programmed review, Section 3.9 added Next programmed review 4/13	<i>R.K</i>
11	4/13	Programmed review, no additions Next programmed review 4/14	<i>R.K</i>
12	4/14	Programmed review, no additions Next programmed review 4/15	<i>R.K</i>
13	4/15	Programmed review, no additions Next programmed review 4/16	<i>R.K</i>

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14	7/15	Remove section 3.6 and include in separate Wildlife and Ecology Policy v1 2015. Renumber Next programmed review 7/16	R.K.
15	7/16	Reviewed with no changes Next programmed review 7/17	R.K.
16	7/17	Reviewed with no changes Next programmed review 7/18	R.K.
17	04/18	Reviewed early to bring in line with other policies with no changes. Next review 04/19	D.W
18	04/19	No changes. Next review 04/20	DW
19	04/2020	No Changes. Next Review 04/21	DW

1. GENERAL STATEMENT

- This document is a company policy as such it has equal standing in the companies priorities along with Health & Safety, Equal Opportunities, Training and Quality.
- It is the policy of Rob Keyzor Tree Surgeons and all its' employees to be fully aware of the potential impact that the arboriculture industry has on the environment and to take the utmost care to avoid damage or unnecessary disturbance.
- Every opportunity to recycle or sustain the environment will be taken where it is proportional to any potential detriment.
- We will cooperate fully with main contractors policy and procedures. All subcontractors will be issued with our environmental policy, which will be the minimum standards required.
- This policy is subject to review through consultation with staff and other stakeholders, where contracts have environmental specifications.

1.1 MANAGEMENT HEIRARCHY

- This policy is a statement of the position the company takes on many of the Environmental Issues that are faced by our day-to-day activities.
- All staff are required to adhere to the contents of this policy and the legislation that governs it. Consequently all staff must take individual responsibility to minimise potential for environmental harm and act professionally and efficiently where incidents occur.
- Rob Keyzor is ultimately responsible for company Environment related issues and is the point of contact where there is a requirement for an appointed person or an emergency.

2. RISK ASSESSMENT

- We will review 'all' our activities including in the office, workshop, when travelling and on-site and carry out a risk assessment to identify activities that might be hazardous to the environment. If it is a significant hazard we will then look at the risk of that hazard occurring. If there is a likelihood of it happening we will either change the way we do things to avoid those activities all together, or to reduce the frequency of the problem or we will seek to manage the magnitude of the risk.
- The Environmental Risk Assessment forms part of the Generic Risk Assessment is available in the office and each company vehicle and is reviewed at regular intervals. All staff and other stake holders are actively encouraged to participate in this process at any stage.

3. SITE CONDITIONS

3.1 VEHICLES AND PLANT.

- All site boundaries will be respected.
- All vehicle or plant movements will be on authorised routes, using all the relevant site codes of practice.
- All site speed limits will be adhered to.
- Vehicles and plant will be washed with water only, should degreasing be required it will be done at a suitable outsourced licensed facility.
- All vehicles will be inspected prior to use and checked every week to keep vehicles and plant in the optimum safe and efficient condition to reduce fuel consumption and prevent accidents that might have environmental impacts such as broken hydraulic hoses etc.
- All vehicles will carry spill packs and the Environment Agency number printed in the truck cab in case of environmental emergencies.

3.2 REFUELLING.

- The Company is able to use biodegradable chain oil where specified or contractually required.
- Hydraulic oils will be replaced with a biodegradable alternative, as replacement is required.
- The company will discharge all its duties under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health 2002(COSHH)

3.3 USE OF PESTICIDES.

- The company will discharge its duty under COSHH and the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1985.
- Operators will be NPTC qualified to a minimum of PA1 & PA6A with regards to PPE, on-site storage of pesticides, maintenance of equipment, application and disposal of waste as outlined in the 'Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Pesticides in Non-Agricultural applications', and the Schedule of Assessment Certificates of Competence in the Safe Use of Pesticides.

3.4 NOISE.

- All chainsaws, plant and vehicles will only be used if their exhausts are in a serviceable condition.
- Use of such equipment will be kept within 'sociable hours' whenever possible.
- All equipment conforms to European Directives on noise emissions and equipment has been tested in accordance with the Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 (Assessment of Occupational Noise for WCE Network Services Ltd.).

3.5 ARISINGS

- All arisings will be dealt with according to each individual contract.

- Timber left on site will be stacked in a stable condition, no higher than 1.00m unless signposted, in accordance with AFAG. leaflet 304.
- No brash or timber will be left in any watercourses.
- We will encourage clients to have brash stacked and cut down into habitat piles and to leave standing deadwood wherever possible.

3.6 WATER COURSES.

- At the planning stage and during the contract phase we will consult with the water body owners and pollution prevention authorities to plan our works to avoid environmental damage and to regularly review any prevention measures.
- Any timber stacks should be on dry ground away from watercourses and potential flood levels.
- Avoid or minimise extraction across streams.
- Keep brash out of streams.
- Plant should not be positioned or operated close to a watercourse or drain unless absolutely necessary

3.7 PURCHASING.

- When buying tools, equipment or services we will consider the environmental impact of that item and its operation, service requirements and end of life disposal as part of the purchasing process.
- As well as the item or service itself we will take into account incidentals such as packaging, transport etc.
- Where possible we will source items or services from the local area to encourage the rural economy and maximise the social value of the enterprise.
- We will endeavour to buy products only from sustainable sources. Any timber products used will be part of the FSC registration scheme.

3.8 WASTE

- We will aim to minimise waste in all aspects of our operation.
- Waste produced in the office and yard will be sorted into the recycling bins provided.
- Disposal of specialist wastes such as waste oil and electrical appliances will be via appropriately approved waste contractors.

3.9 REDUCTION OF CO₂ EMISSION

- Office will be heated with timber from jobs which is carbon neutral, reduces waste and reduces electrical use in office.

- An increase in the use of hand tools will be encouraged, and the chipper and stump grinder will only be utilised when absolutely necessary.
- Wood chip is sold to a Biomass-fuel heat and power station which is less than ten miles away
- The most efficient route to site will be planned, to reduce the running time of vehicles and in some cases reduce the number of trips to site
- Clients will be encouraged to keep raw stumps and not burn brash piles

3.10 BIOSECURITY

- We will take a precautionary approach to biosecurity in as much as we are likely to be in very early contact with any new or spreading biosecurity hazard due to the nature of our business.
- The following simple precautions will be taken on all sites
 - Cleaning footwear and outerwear regularly; ensuring they are visually free from soil and organic debris
 - Cleaning vehicles regularly; not letting mud and organic debris accumulate on tyres, wheels or under wheel arches.
 - Restricting the equipment taken onto a site – taking only what you need for the task
 - Prior to leaving a site ensuring all tools and equipment are clean, serviceable and free from organic debris.
- Where there is high biosecurity hazard we will formulate a method statement in conjunction with the client that will detail our response to the particular hazard in question and the specification for works to be carried out. This may include the following precautions;
 - Planning to visit highest risk sites last.
 - Cleaning footwear and outerwear between site visits by removing leaves, soil and other organic material.
 - Spraying cleaned footwear and outerwear with disinfectant until it runs off (boots can be dipped in disinfectant).
 - Avoiding vehicular access to high-risk sites – park off-site if possible .
 - Keeping to established hard tracks.
 - Removal of mud and organic debris from tyres, wheels and wheel arches.
 - Cleaning and disinfecting tyres and wheels.
 - When taking samples, cleaning and disinfecting cutting tools after each sample
 - Cleaning and disinfecting other tools and equipment before leaving the site.

4. REFERENCES and RESOURCES:-

see file in office titled 'ecology'

also

- Company Generic Environment Risk Assessment
- Bats by Phil Richardson
- *Bats in the context of tree work operations*
- *Protected species and arboriculture.*

- *RSPB Enquiry Service – Nesting information for birds in UK – fact sheet.*
- *The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981*
- *The Conservation Regulations 1994*
- *The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2001*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1990*
- *Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994*
- *Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005.*
- *Control of Pesticides Regulations 1985*