

Kent Tree Care Ltd

2 Fox Close Green Street Green Orpington BR6 6LR
01689 609644 07957 962694 info@kent-treecare.co.uk
www.kent-treecare.co.uk

Kent Tree Care Environmental Policy

January 2012

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Introduction

Kent Tree Care Ltd understands that all activities carried out by man are potentially damaging to the natural environment.

Kent Tree Care Ltd aims to reduce as far as is reasonably practicable the damaging effects arising from our own activities within the land-based sector in carrying out training and assessment.

The following highlights our commitment to the principle of minimizing adverse environmental impact and shows in some detail what we do to honour this commitment.

Transport

The environmental impact of vehicle use by company employees and sub-contractors is minimized in the following ways:

- Unnecessary journeys by Kent Tree Care staff are avoided by careful planning of operations and grouping of training and assessments in the same locality whenever possible.
- Kent Tree Care vehicles are well maintained, fuel-efficient and have a long service life.
- Within the constraints of finding suitably qualified trainers and assessors for particular tasks, Kent Tree Care select from amongst the most suitable locally based sub-contractors.
- Whenever possible, materials are sourced locally for both office and site use.

Supply and Disposal of Materials

- The consumption of paper is kept to a minimum by making maximum use of electronic means of communication. All paper printed on one side only is re-used as scrap or for drafts and then recycled.
- Ink and toner cartridges are recycled.
- Office supplies are purchased locally to avoid unnecessary packaging.

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Forestry and Woodland Training Operations

General Principles

- Kent Tree Care recognises the UK Forestry Standard as representing current best practice and aims to operate in accordance with this standard.
- All operations are carried out in accordance with the Forestry Commission Guidelines for Water, Landscape, Wildlife Conservation, Archaeology and Soils, as well as relevant Forestry Practice Guides

Operational Standards

All company employees and those carrying out site operations on behalf of Kent Tree Care as sub-contractors must adhere to environmental standards as under the following headings:

1. General

All Company employees and Sub-Contractors shall take the greatest care to carry out the work in such a way that no unnecessary environmental damage is caused by his activities and shall undertake to abide by the provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and 1985 amendment, and the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

2. Protected Species

All Company employees and Sub-Contractors will take all reasonable steps to ensure that his/her activities do not destroy or disturb: birds nests and nesting birds; bats and bat roosts; any other protected, rare or vulnerable species.

The sub-contractor will inform Kent Tree Care if he/she suspects that such species are present on site. See also Kent Tree Care "Best Practice Guidelines for Preventing Damage to Bats and Bat Roosts" attached.

3. Watercourses

All Company employees and Sub-Contractors shall take particular care not to pollute or damage any area of standing or running water. No waste substances of any kind are to be discharged into watercourses and any application of chemicals to surrounding land is to be kept sufficiently clear to avoid the likelihood of run-off into watercourses. Where temporary crossings are erected over watercourses, they shall be constructed in such a way as to avoid damage to or erosion of banks. On no account is any vegetation

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which is cut during a Contract to be allowed to remain in or on the banks of a watercourse, unless specific instructions to the contrary are given.

4. Archaeological Remains

All Company employees and Sub-Contractors will take all necessary measures to avoid damage to archaeological and cultural remains, including wood banks, ditches, old charcoal hearths and sawpits. Any suspected remains not hitherto identified will be brought to the attention of Kent Tree Care.

5. Specified Substances

Other than normal fuels, all Company employees and Sub-Contractors shall use no substances other than those specified in the contract. All substances must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the requirements of the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1988 shall be complied with in every respect.

6. Chain Oil

Unless otherwise specified, only biodegradable chainsaw chain oil is to be used.

7. Fuel Storage and Filling

The Sub-Contractor shall provide adequate fuel storage arrangements if needed. Company employees and Sub-Contractors will make provision under the fuel tank to prevent spillage and seepage into the ground.

Company employees and Sub-Contractors should be aware that petrol vapors are invisible and can travel considerable distances from spillage or fuelling sites. Company employees and Sub-Contractors will maintain a safe distance from all sources of ignition at all times when filling.

Company employees and Sub-Contractors will store fuel to avoid vapour ignition from any source such as fires, people smoking or the chainsaw and select a site shaded from direct sunlight.

Company employees and Sub-Contractors will use fuel containers specifically designed for chainsaw use that incorporates a non-spill spout. Sub-Contractors containers must be clearly labelled and have caps which fit securely.

Company employees and Sub-Contractors will replace all fuel and oil caps securely; ensuring the 'O' ring seals on the fuel and oil caps are in good condition.

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Company employees and Sub-Contractors will move a safe distance (normally at least 5 m) from the fuelling point before starting the chainsaw.

8. Spillage

Company employees and Sub-Contractor shall not discharge oil, fuel or other contaminating liquid from any source onto the surface of the ground. In the event of any accidental spillage on site the area affected shall be dug out, the contaminated material disposed of in a manner approved by the Company and the resulting hole filled with clean material. Spillage kits of the types recommended in F.C. Technical Development Branch Information Note 7\93 appropriate to the machinery and/or work will be carried.

9. Disposal of Waste

All waste material and arisings shall be removed by the Sub-Contractor as they accrue and disposed of in a manner approved by Kent Tree Care.

10. Fires

Company employees and Sub-Contractors shall not light any fires without the permission of Kent Tree Care and only then when they are not likely to cause damage or nuisance. Fires are to be started using approved materials only; in no circumstances are tyres to be used for this purpose. Any fires are to be left in a safe condition at the end of each working day and to be fully extinguished and the ashes scattered before the end of each training/assessment session.

11. Pesticides Regulations

Company employees and Sub-Contractors shall comply with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulations 1986 (under the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985) and shall ensure that all those of his employees using pesticides have received the necessary training and certification. Such certificates to be produced on request.

12. Noise

Any excessively noisy or disruptive operations are to be carried out between the hours of 9am and 5pm only. Noise on site is to be limited in accordance with the Control of Pollution Act and the recommendations contained in BS 5528. Mechanical tools and equipment shall be muffled or silenced or acoustic screen provided so that the noise level of daytime working does not exceed 75dB(A) (as measured outside the nearest window of the occupied room closest to the site boundary).

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Review

All the forestry operations and day-to-day business practices are constantly kept under review in order to minimize the environmental impact that they cause, all policies are reviewed in yearly in January.