

# **Treecreeper Arborists**

## **Environmental Policy**

### **Statement**

Treecreeper Arborists (the 'Company') recognises the importance of environmental consideration and protection and is committed to minimising the environmental impact of its activities. It is the Company's declared policy to operate responsibly and in compliance with all relevant legal requirements. It is the Company's objective to take all precautions reasonably practicable to prevent pollution, to avoid habitat damage and to reduce its carbon footprint.

The Company pledges to continually implement, assess and improve its Environmental Policy in order to achieve and maintain its high environmental standards.

Treecreeper Arborists are committed to sustainability and environmental protection and have implemented the following policy points to minimise its environmental impact.

### **Training**

It is the Company procedure to issue all employees with a copy of this Environmental Policy and to fully ensure employees understand and comply with this policy. Treecreeper Arborists is dedicated to providing training to all staff in environmental issues.

### **Recycling**

It is the Company's policy to recycle waste produced as a result of our operations. We promote the re-use of waste materials by selling/donating waste wood as firewood and woodchip as garden mulch. We also encourage customers to recycle green waste in their own properties and can create habitat stacks, process and stack logs for firewood and/or process waste as woodchip which can be composted to be used as garden mulch.

### **Habitat Protection**

Many species which we can encounter are protected by law, including:

- Nesting birds, their nests and eggs
- Badgers
- Newts
- Bats

The Company works within the guidelines set out in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW) at all times. The company also has its own additional procedures in place to maximise specific habitat protection in the course of its operations:

#### ***Nesting Birds***

It is the Company policy to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) before the commencement of any tree or vegetation work including the direct and surrounding habitat. Between early March and late August, special attention is paid to checking trees and vegetation for signs of nesting birds before work commences. If any signs of nesting birds are discovered during the EIA, work is rescheduled to after the nesting season. If any signs of nesting birds are discovered after work has commenced, work is immediately stopped and rescheduled to later in the year, taking care not to leave the nest site exposed.

#### ***Bats***

All staff are trained to recognise potential bat roost sites and an EIA is undertaken prior to the felling or disturbance of any potential sites. It is the Company policy to inform all customers of the possibility of any protected species as early as possible which may prevent work from being undertaken.

#### ***Dormice***

It is Company policy to carry out an EIA which includes dormouse habitat before work begins on any potential habitat. Wherever possible, mitigation measures are implemented to avoid non-essential clearance work between November and April when dormice hibernate and between May and July which is the breeding season. It is Company policy to educate customers about the effects of proposed works on dormice. Customers with large stretches of hedge maintenance are encouraged to operate a rotation system of maintenance work to maintain habitat diversity.

### **Environmental Impact**

Treecreeper Arborists are committed to the implementation of sustainable practices and wherever possible, minimise our environmental impact by the following mitigation measures:

- Using bio-degradable chainsaw oil and recycling oil containers where possible
- Purchasing equipment designed to reduce environmental impact
- Working within guidelines set out in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000, the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 and Part III of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985

### **Noise Pollution**

The Company advocates the use of 'traditional' methods where possible and it is company policy to use hand saws where practicable to minimise environmental impact and noise pollution.

### **Reassessment**

Treecreeper Arborists will regularly reassess our Environmental Policy to ensure the continuation of our high standards and to continually improve on these standards whenever and wherever possible.

