



Tree Life Arboricultural Consultancy Limited

A Guide to our Professional Diploma Courses for 2010

'Life long learning'

Introduction

The Professional Diploma qualification has been offered for approximately 40 years now and is viewed as the premier qualification in arboriculture. The level 6 (NQF) qualification is highly respected and the candidates undertaking the qualification must be of a high calibre. The qualification is regarded as being at a management level, and candidates would normally be expected to have already achieved a Level 3 qualification, such as Technician's Certificate (AA) National Diploma, Higher National Diploma, and/or have spent a significant amount of time engaged in arboricultural management or an allied profession, such as forestry. If you are in any doubt at all about your suitability for the course, or the suitability of the course for you, please feel free to our office to discuss the matter.

As you are hopefully aware this qualification as it currently stands is being replaced due to a government scheme for all vocational qualifications and details of the changes and our updated can be found on our website www.treelifeac.co.uk.

Training will be undertaken as a combination of classroom based lectures and exercises. The tuition will be delivered by highly qualified arboricultural staff who are also trained teachers, who have each spent their working lives in arboriculture, and are dedicated to its continuous improvement as a profession.

The amount of work required from candidates outside the formal learning hours should not be underestimated. Guidance will be given, homework will be set as appropriate, and detailed feedback provided. Mock exams will also be arranged throughout the course duration, not only to consolidate learning, but also to develop exam technique.

Tree Life Educational Statement

Life long learning is key to the company philosophy, widening participation and access to all is important to us.

You may participate in continued learning or have returned to learning in partnership with us.

Tree Life aims to meet your challenge by:

- ✓ *sharing your vision*
- ✓ *delivering valued learning*
- ✓ *strengthening your confidence*
 - ✓ *exploring and stimulating you mind*
 - ✓ *contributing to changing your life thoughts*

and making education work economically for you and your family.

The Tree Life way:

At Tree Life our aim is to prepare candidates in the best way we know possible. All of our teaching team have acquired the qualification they are teaching and so they have all been through the experience. We have the saying, 'once a tree life candidate, always a tree life candidate' because, we don't just teach you for a year, we invest in your future. We are always on hand to help if we can, no matter how long ago you studied with us.

Course content

The course will develop competency and knowledge in the following areas:

- The history of arboriculture and the industry today.
- Plant and soil science and the evolving plant/urban environment.
- Plant health, recognition of disorders, their significance and control.
- Plant supply, plant specifications and selection.
- The planning, planting and maintenance of woody plants.
- Health and safety legislation and management, risk assessment.
- Trees and the law, planning appeals, Tree Risk Management.
- Tree inspections, surveys and trees on development sites.
- Direct and indirect damage – investigations and remedial measures.
- Urban tree strategies and management planning, ecology
- Community woodland management, community involvement.
- Management and Supervision.
- Personnel and organisational management.
- Business Finance and budget control.
- Technical aspects of management.

Locations:

For 2010 we will have two locations in which we will start the Professional Diploma; Westonbirt Arboretum and Barcham Trees PLC.



Westonbirt Arboretum is our national arboretum and will be known by many of you as a wonderful location in which to learn. The Great Oak hall is our teaching venue and provides a quiet environment which should enhance your learning experience. Candidates in the past have told us they feel a benefit in being in this location and many turn up early to be able to visit the arboretum before class starts. The arboretum is open to all of our candidates and car parking charges do not apply on the days of your class. We have come to realise that the location of our Westonbirt course is an added feature candidates appreciate. Westonbirt National Arboretum, Nr Tetbury, Glos, GL8 8QS

The course will run on Tuesdays almost always on a fortnightly basis for 25 sessions over an eighteen month period. The times will be from 1.30 till 8.30pm and will start on the 5th January 2010.



Tree Life is pleased to be associated with Barcham Trees in the delivery of training for the Technician's Certificate and the Professional Diploma. As the leading supplier of containerised trees in Europe, Barcham Trees have a keen interest in ensuring their 'products' are well looked after once they leave the nursery, therefore they are passionate supporters of arboricultural education. As such they have constructed a new training facility which will be utilised for training delivery. Barcham Trees Plc, Eye Hill Drove, Cambridgeshire, CB7 5XF.

The course will run on Thursdays almost always on a fortnightly basis for 25 sessions over an eighteen month period. The times will be from 9.30 – 4pm and will start on the 13th January 2010.

Tree Life Staff Profile:

Tree Life was established in 1997, your programme administrator will be D C Dowson for our course at Westonbirt Arboretum who is a director of TREE LIFE AC Ltd and TREE LEGAL Ltd and is well qualified to assist you in your studies towards a highly prized qualification in Arboriculture. At Barcham Trees the programme administrator will be Andrew Summerley who is also a Director of TREE LIFE AC LTD.

Formally David worked in further education, the majority of working life as a lecturer in Arboriculture, the last 13 years at Brooksby College. During recent years has passed the AA Technicians Certificate (1992) at credit level and the RFS Diploma in Arboriculture (1994), become a Fellow of the Arboricultural Association (AA) following that success, become a Chartered Member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters (2001), a UK registered expert witness having passed the Bond Solon/Cardiff University expert witness examination and become a Registered Consultant of the AA.

The earlier years of his employment were spent as a practising tree surgeon with a local authority in Somerset whilst gaining first qualifications at Cannington College. Subsequently he went to work at the college as a technician supporting the lecturing services and from that came the career of education and training.

As a lecturer he has been responsible for full and part time arboricultural students, teaching at the range of levels from City and Guilds, RFS Certificate, National Diploma, Higher National Diploma, AA Technicians and RFS Professional Diploma. My educational qualifications include a Certificate in Education (F.E.) Certificate of Professional Studies in Education and a 2:1 BA (Hons) degree in Education.

His links with the arboricultural industry are well recognised and very important to him as a lecturer who is also a professional arborist. A continuous programme of Continued Professional Development (CPD) has been followed as required by his category of AA membership, regularly gaining work experience from Local Authorities and AA Approved Contractors, attending seminars, technical work shops and conferences. His work as a consultant and 15 years experience of

preparing candidates for these examinations continues to provide the necessary professional experience at a level to guide those seeking to pass these examinations.

In 2004 Andy Summerley joined Tree Life. Prior to joining, he had spent many years involved in arboriculture, in a variety of roles, most recently as a lecturer in arboriculture at Moulton College. There he taught on both Further and Higher education courses, delivered the entire course content towards RFS Certificate, and delivered practical training for all chainsaw and climbing competences. During his three years there he obtained a formal teaching qualification and on top of course management, was chosen to become a mentor for new staff.

Before joining Moulton, he had spent almost twenty five years in local government, at Kettering Borough Council, starting there in 1977 as an assistant gardener. By 1979 was a Chargehand Arborist and after fifteen years 'on the tools' as a contractor, was promoted to Foreman and then Supervisor, overseeing the workforce and pricing contracts.

Having become a FASTCO instructor in 1993, he went on to reinforce my practical knowledge with the RFS Certificate in 1995 and Technician's Certificate and Professional Diploma in 1999. He is currently working towards becoming a Member of the Chartered Institute of Foresters.

His practical background and theoretical knowledge ensure that he is ideally placed to deliver training in an industry where there is often a logical progression from being a practicing arborist, to fulfilling a tree officer/consultancy role.

Fees

The cost of the Westonbirt Course is: £2850+ Vat¹

The Cost of the Barcham Tress Course is: £2350+ Vat

A deposit of £200 is required to confirm your place on the course (this is deducted from the course fee). The full course fee² will be issued by invoice to you once the course has started and is payable in a variety of ways, to best suit the individual.

- In one instalment at the beginning of the course
- In six instalments, payable at the beginning of each term
- By Direct Debit on a monthly basis (for which there must unfortunately be a small additional administration charge of £5.00)
- By provision of a local authority order number
- The deposit is non-refundable but is deducted from the main fee on commencement of the programme.

No interest is charged on any of our payment plans; only a standing order charge is applied when paying this way to cover our bank costs.

¹ Price differentiation is from our course costs incurred etc

² All fees exclude examination fees and these are the responsibility of the candidate

The examination costs will be on top of the above training costs; you will need to register with an examination centre (ABC have a list of centres available depicted by geographical area) and registering with ABC remains the responsibility of the candidate.

Updates

For updates on the courses that Tree Life offers please go to our Website at www.treelifeac.co.uk. We are now operating from new office where we also have a new training room in which refresher courses, short courses and revision sessions will be held throughout the year. All dates for these will be listed on our website.