



The Malthouse  
Stroud Green  
Standish  
Stonehouse  
Gloucestershire  
GL10 3DL

**Tel:** +44 (0) 1242 522152  
**Fax:** +44 (0) 1242 577766  
**Email:** [admin@trees.org.uk](mailto:admin@trees.org.uk)  
**Website:** [www.trees.org.uk](http://www.trees.org.uk)

The Arboricultural Association  
The Malthouse  
Stroud Green  
Standish  
Stonehouse  
Gloucestershire  
GL10 3DL

6 August 2015

Dear Susie

The Arboricultural Association was founded in 1964 and has the charitable objective "to advance the science of Arboriculture for the public benefit". The Association is the largest body in the UK for amenity tree care professionals, with approximately 2,500 members. It has a range of membership grades linked to national qualification levels and supports career progression within the tree care sector in either civic or commercial employment at craft, technical, supervisory, managerial or consultancy level.

The Arboricultural Association has created professional standards of conduct and acceptable levels of workmanship, with assessments leading to 'Registered Consultant' and/or 'Approved Contractor' status. It is an authority on arboricultural best practice, promoting professional standards and guidance, encouraging responsible management of trees.

The Arboricultural Association is represented on a number of national bodies including the Arboricultural Liaison Group, the British Standards Institution, the European Arboricultural Council, The Forestry Commission Biosecurity Programme Board, the Highways Authority, the Health and Safety Executive's Arboriculture and Forestry Advisory Group, Lantra SSC's Trees and Timber Industry Group, the National Tree Safety Group, the Society for the Environment, the Tree Council and the Trees and Design Action Group.

Having reviewed the following proposed qualification, the Association believes it is suitable for young learners (aged 16-19) and would be an advantage for them when starting out in employment within the arboricultural industry:

**City & Guilds Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Forestry & Arboriculture (Arboriculture) (1080)**

We have consulted with our Education and Training Committee to ensure the qualification structure and content meets the requirements of the arboricultural industry. We feel that this substantial qualification provides young learners with a broad range of practical skills and knowledge acquired

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over a period of time, which could allow them to progress directly to a range of employment opportunities within the industry, with potential progression into managerial and consultancy roles.

On completion of this qualification, the learner is appropriately prepared to directly enter the industry and, with industry consolidation, be recognised on the professional Register of Tree Work Operatives (R2) as a:

- ❖ Tree worker (ground)
- ❖ Tree worker (aerial)

In addition, this qualification supports progression through the R2 job grades to enable learners to be recognised as:

- ❖ Craftsman tree worker
- ❖ Senior craftsman tree worker
- ❖ Master tree worker

The qualification covers the following topics that would enable a young learner to gain a breadth and depth of experiences and exposures, and to acquire associated skills and knowledge such as:

- ❖ Safe working in the arboricultural industry
- ❖ Machinery operations
- ❖ Chainsaw use
- ❖ Tree health, pests and diseases
- ❖ Tree science
- ❖ Tree establishment and aftercare
- ❖ Ground-based arboricultural operations
- ❖ Arboricultural skills, supporting tree climbing operations
- ❖ Advanced arboricultural skills, supporting aerial trees inspections/specialist canopy work
- ❖ Tree surveys and inspections
- ❖ Woodland habitats
- ❖ Estate skills, fencing, boundaries, paths etc
- ❖ Business management

A period of work experience in an arboricultural business would be essential to help support and develop these practical skills.

The Arboricultural Association confirms that we consent to this letter being available on the City & Guilds website.

Yours sincerely,

Jago Keen  
Chairman, Arboricultural Association.