



## Environmental policy

Holmes Tree Services is an Arboriculture business, operating from a site in Milton Keynes. Our main services are Tree Surgery, Hedge Maintenance and Stump Grinding. We recognise that our operations result in emissions to air and water, and the generation of waste. It is our aim to comply with legislation and other requirements, continue to reduce the environmental impacts of our business and operate in an environmentally responsible manner. This policy describes how we will achieve our aim.

This environmental policy applies to all of our operations including management, office services, site operations, and procurement. Robert and Kirsty Holmes have the overall responsibility for ensuring that sufficient resources are made available to enable the business to achieve its environmental objectives and targets and that the policy is implemented and monitored for its effectiveness. However, all employees and sub-contractors have a responsibility in their area to ensure that the aims and objectives of the policy are met.

### **Wildlife and Ecology**

At Holmes Tree Services we recognise our responsibility to protect and enhance the natural environment and are committed to minimising the impact of our operations on wildlife and ecological habitats, ensuring all arboricultural and vegetation management work is undertaken in a way that safeguards biodiversity and complies fully with UK wildlife legislation, including the protection of European Protected Species (EPS).

In order to achieve this, we aim to:

- Identify, protect, and preserve habitats and species that may be affected by our work.
- Comply with all relevant environmental and wildlife legislation, including- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017; The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006
- Ensure all staff and sub-contractors are aware of their responsibilities towards wildlife and ecological protection.
- Promote best environmental practices throughout all areas of work.
- Conduct pre-work Site Specific Wildlife and Biodiversity assessments where necessary, identifying any potential presence of nesting birds, bats, badgers, dormice, newts, or other protected species prior to works starting.
- Avoid disturbance during sensitive periods, such as nesting or breeding seasons.
- Implement appropriate mitigation measures, such as timing works outside key breeding or roosting seasons, retaining habitat features where possible, and installing protective buffers around ecological zones.
- Retain standing and fallen deadwood where it is safe and ecologically beneficial to do so.
- Limit machinery and vehicle movement to defined access routes to reduce ground compaction and habitat disturbance.

- Dispose of arisings responsibly through recycling timber and green waste where possible or utilising it as a renewable energy source in biomass; spreading woodchip back on to the land as mulch to benefit the local eco-system and stacking timber for a source of habitat or fuel for land owners.

Holmes Tree Services acknowledges that certain species—such as bats, dormice, great crested newts, and otters—receive special protection under UK and EU law and aim to ensure that all staff and sub-contractors are trained to recognise signs of EPS and understand reporting procedures. If a suspected EPS is discovered, work will be stopped, guidance sought from an ecological consultant body before resuming and only under the relevant Natural England licence, where required will work resume.

## **Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and Conservation Areas**

A Tree Preservation Order is a legal order made by a Local Planning Authority to protect specific trees, groups of trees, or woodlands in the interest of public amenity.

Trees located within Conservation Areas are protected by law, requiring notification to the LPA before carrying out most works.

Holmes Tree Services are committed to protecting trees of significant environmental, historical, and amenity value. We recognise the importance of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and Conservation Areas when safeguarding trees within the environment and are dedicated to ensuring that all our arboricultural operations comply fully with current legislation and local authority regulations.

Holmes tree services aim to deliver high-quality arboricultural services whilst respecting the legal protection given to trees thus reducing any negative environmental impact.

In order to achieve this we will;

### TPO's

- Confirm the TPO status of any tree before undertaking works.
- Obtain written consent from the LPA before starting work on trees subject to a TPO, except in emergency situations involving immediate risk to life or property.
- Maintain clear communication and cooperation with LPAs and clients regarding the legal status of trees.
- Comply with all relevant legislation, including; The Town and Country Planning Act 1990; The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) 2012; The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.
- Carry out work strictly in accordance with the permission granted by the LPA.
- follow British Standard BS3998 when carrying out all tree works.
- Raise awareness among all employees about the importance of TPOs and Conservation Areas

### Conservation areas

- Notify the relevant LPA at least six weeks prior to undertaking works on trees within a Conservation Area (for trees with a trunk diameter greater than 75mm measured at 1.5m above ground level).
- Await written confirmation or consent before commencing any works.
- Ensure all work is carried out sensitively to preserve the character and appearance of the area.

## Objectives

During 2025 and 2026 we aim to:

- Meet our duty of care requirements in relation to waste by ensuring the safe keeping, transportation and subsequent recovery or disposal of waste.
- Keep transport use to a minimum and regularly service vehicles to maintain their efficiency.
- Work with suppliers to ensure they recognise and reduce the environmental impact of their products and transportation.
- Include environmental considerations in investment decisions for new plant, equipment or working practices.
- Use battery operated chainsaws where reasonably practicable
- Inform and train all employees and sub-contractors of the companies' environmental objectives and how they can assist in meeting targets .
- Use the most environmentally friendly cleaning products whenever possible.
- Endeavour to operate in a way that minimises the effects of their work on the natural and local environmental infrastructure.
- Carry out Site Specific Wildlife and Biodiversity Assessments prior to work being undertaken.
- Minimise the risk of transmission and spread of harmful organisms and infectious diseases to animals and plants through Biosecurity assessments and safe working practices.
- Brief employees on injurious plants, animals and protected species as part of the Wildlife assessment

## Targets

To achieve our aims, we have set ourselves the following targets:

- Reduce vehicle emissions to air by the scheduling of work to reduce mileage and servicing all vehicles
- Recycle as much paper, cardboard, plastic and metal waste generated in the office as possible
- Reduce paper usage by increasing the use of e-mail and electronic documentation
- Reduce energy consumption by monitoring energy usage and training staff on basic housekeeping
- Implement safe working Biosecurity practices
- Keep abreast of changes in legislation, regulations and biodiversity information.

## Monitoring and auditing

Progress against these objectives will be monitored through a number of mediums including:

- Annual management review of this environmental policy and any associated environmental procedures
- The monitoring of environmental objectives and targets
- Monthly management meetings.

## Incident reporting

All environmental incidents must be reported to the Environmental agency via telephone 0800 80 70 60.

Oak Processionary Moth Caterpillars found, must be reported to the Forestry Commission via [opm@forestrycommission.go.uk](mailto:opm@forestrycommission.go.uk)

Whilst carrying out work on a subcontract basis all environmental incidents including identification of invasive species or EPS must be reported the companies line manager.

## Communication

This environmental policy is available at 1 Park Close, Cosgrove, Milton Keynes, MK19 7JN. All members of staff will receive training on the environmental responsibilities of their role and will be informed of any updates or revisions via e-mail or team meetings.

**Signed:** K.Holmes

**Name:** Kirsty Holmes

**Position:** Director

**Date:** 22.10.25

Policy Reviewed	Any amendments	Name	Signature
15.12.2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of battery operated chainsaws</li> <li>• Name of policy writer</li> <li>• Date written</li> </ul>	Kirsty Holmes	<i>K.Holmes</i>
26.03.2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of wildlife risk assessments prior to work being undertaken.</li> <li>• Reference to Biosecurity risk assessments</li> <li>• Reference to Wildlife and Ecology risk assessments</li> <li>• Wildlife Incident reporting procedure</li> </ul>	Kirsty Holmes	<i>K.Holmes</i>
21.12.24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fencing removed</li> <li>• Date changed for objectives to 2024 and 2025</li> </ul>	Kirsty Holmes	<i>K.Holmes</i>
22.10.25	<p>Wildlife and ecology added.</p> <p>TPO's and Conservation added.</p> <p>Additional targets added to include keeping up to date with new information, changes to legislation and training.</p>	Kirsty Holmes	<i>K.Holmes</i>