Nicholas Tooley

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Profile

An accomplished tree climber and business owner with many transferrable practical skills gained in the arboricultural industry. Able to manage and complete tasks to a high standard independently and as part of a team. Self-motivated with good work ethics and a commitment to achieving results, and has a solid understanding of Health and Safety regulations, LOLER and PUWER.

Physically capable and comfortable working at height, in challenging environments and with a thorough appreciation of the Scottish weather.

Now aiming to transfer this experience and expand into challenging new roles, learning new skills and developing my career.

Career

2020 – Present. Self-employed Rope Access Technician (Level 1)

* Staged dismantle of 30m communications mast. Inverness.

Working safely and efficiently at height as part of a team. Use of aid climbing techniques and power tools. Removal of antennae and rigging to ensure controlled descent to ground.

* De-veg railway embankment and wall. Lochgelly, FIFE.

Works carried out over a series of night shifts, under supervision of L3 and COSS, including tree climbing, sectional and whole tree felling and use of Eco Plugs to prevent regrowth from stumps. Working within time and safety critical parameters.

* Slope meshing railway embankment. Purfleet, ESSEX (March 2020)

Set up of site, drilling and installing of ground anchors. Works carried out during day and night shifts. Adhering to safe work procedures, and in addition to those implemented to combat the spread of Covid 19.

1997 – 2009, 2012 – 2019 Active Treescape Ltd. Arborist/Director

Key Responsibilities:

* Undertaking all aspects of tree climbing and arboricultural works as part of a team, including access, rigging and lowering techniques and working in conjunction with mobile cranes up to 90 tonnes and forestry-based plant and machinery.
* Planning and management of works including provision of skilled labour and allocation of tasks, appropriate machinery, and the drawing up of method statements, and generic and site-specific risk assessments.
* Successful completion of various tendering processes for Local Authorities using Public Contracts Scotland and within the private sector through CHAS and Constructionline.
* Liaising with clients and relevant organisations throughout the duration of contracts to ensure works were completed safely, efficiently and that they met or exceeded the required standards.

Key achievements:

* Successful completion of a contract for The City of Edinburgh Council (Housing).

In excess of two hundred specified works to trees and wooded areas within a densely populated area were completed to a high standard and within budget. Works were often immediately adjacent to public roads and housing stock and involved mitigating risk to the public and damage to over-ground services, property and infrastructure.

Forward planning, daily communication, and team motivation were important factors in achieving the right result.

* Mobile crane assisted sectional felling of four large fir trees in Dumfries, all over thirty meters in height. Working to a tight schedule and under pressure to complete within a single Sunday road closure, all four trees were successfully felled with over 50 tons of timber and woodchip removed off site.

Detailed planning and preparation were necessary to ensure correct staffing and machinery requirements were available.

2009 – 2012 East Lothian Council (Arborist)/The City of Edinburgh Council (Lead Arborist)

Key responsibilities

* Arboricultural squad leader; responsible for a squad of three or more staff members, undertaking tree climbing and woodland management tasks.
* Managing staff and their roles on site, mentoring apprentices, and ensuring works were completed safely, following industry best practice, and The City of Edinburgh Council guidelines.
* Learning to adapt to new working structures within large public organisations. Communicating with other departments and following protocol.

Key achievements

* Effectively embedding into an existing section and building working relationships across departments.
* Ensuring works within public spaces were carried out safely, minimising risk to on-site personnel and members of the public.
* Regularly exceeding squad targets and producing higher than expected returns from commercial sales of saw logs and timber for firewood.

Education and qualifications

IRATA Level 1. Pass (Excellent) – Span Access Solutions, Kinross. 01/2020

NC Arboriculture. Pass – Elmwood College, Cupar, Fife. 1996 – 1997

HND Forestry. (Year 1) – Newton Rigg College, Penrith, Cumbria. 1995 – 1996

A-Level. Art - C, Geography – E. GCSE 4x Grade B (inc. Maths and English), 3x Grade C, 1x Grade D, 1x Grade E – St. John’s RC Comprehensive, Bishop Auckland. 1989 - 1994

NPTC/Lantra – Chainsaw use, Tree climbing and Aerial rescue techniques, Use of Chainsaw from Rope and Harness, Tree felling, Windblow, Arboricultural ground worker.

Use of Wood Chipper. Use of Stump grinder. Use of Tractor (Forestry) and PTO implements.

Professional Tree Inspection, CSCS H+S qualification, Emergency First Aid (F).

PTS (Personal Track Safety) Card holder.

References

Phil Thompson L3.

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NWT 06/2020