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The Arboricultural Association
The Malthouse
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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 industry 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 Certificate in Forestry & Arboriculture (360)

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 small qualification provides young learners with the introductory core skills to potentially enable them to progress into work in a role such as an entry level tree worker, or into an apprenticeship.

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The following fundamental skills and knowledge are essential for anyone wishing to progress into the above roles in the arboricultural industries:

- ❖ Chainsaw use
- ❖ Plant health, pests and disease
- ❖ Use of machinery
- ❖ Plant and soil science
- ❖ Tree planting and establishment

Safe working is extremely important within the arboricultural industry and it would be viewed positively for potential new entrants to have an introduction to safe working practices within a managed educational environment. Learners would also benefit from undertaking a period of work experience in an arboricultural business.

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

Yours sincerely,

Jago Keen
Chairman, Arboricultural Association.