

# Curriculum Vitae

Michael Charkow

## Summary

I am the proprietor of **Arbor Vitae Arboriculture Ltd** (trading as AVA Ltd, company registration number SC413171), an arboricultural consultancy company founded in Edinburgh in 2010. I also operated **Arbor Vitae** - a successful tree surgery business - from 2007 until 2016.

I gained my tree surgery qualifications in 2004, whilst working for a tree surgery, forestry and landscaping firm in the Scottish Borders, and have continued ever since to develop my practical and academic knowledge of arboriculture through seminars, conferences, professional body memberships and relevant literature.

My main areas of expertise are tree condition assessments and BS5837 (2012) surveys. I am also been skilled in assessing potential bat roosting features, woodland design and management, subsidence investigations and neighbour disputes. My latest interest is in creating Miyawaki forests (also known as Tiny Forests) which may prove useful for meeting the requirements of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

I have also completed extended voluntary work in Borneo and India, climbing giant rainforest trees under the instruction of ecological researchers.

## Education and Training

- **Bats & Tree Related Works:** Guidelines and Survey Methods, **Echoes Ecology**; May 2012.
- **Level 4 Diploma in Arboriculture**; November 2009.
- **Professional Tree Inspection**, LANTRA; April 2009.
- **Tree Hazard Awareness**, Scottish Agriculture College; 26 October 2004.
- **NPTC:** **CS 30.1**, **CS30.2** (Basic Chainsaw Maintenance and Crosscutting), **CS 31** (Fell and Prepare Small Trees), **CS 38** (Climb Trees and Perform Aerial Rescues), **CS 39** (Use of a Chainsaw from a Rope and Harness), **CS 40** (Arboricultural Pruning Operations), **CS 41** (Arboricultural Dismantling Operations); all 2004 except CS 40 & 41 (2009).
- **Psychology MA** (Honours) 2nd Class, Division 1, Edinburgh University; October 1994 - June 1998.

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## Professional Development

- **Trees, Planning and Development in Scotland**, TDAG, 19th May 2023.
- **Bats and Trees**, Jim Mulholland & Davy Whyte, 5th November 2022.
- **Arboricultural Association Conference**, Leicester, 4th-7th September 2022.
- **Tree Protection on Development Sites**, RBGE, 24th February 2022.
- **World Fungi Day Conference**, Arboricultural Association, 2nd October 2021.
- **Fungi Symposium**, Arboricultural Association, 1st March 2021.
- **Various webinars**, Arboricultural Association, May 2020 to present.
- **Arboricultural Association Conference**, Exeter, 10th-11th September 2019.
- **Mapping Devices and GIS**, ICF South Scotland, 27th September 2018
- **Tree Risk - What's the likelihood of Failure?**, David Evans and Frank Rinn, 10th July 2017.
- **Assessment of Tree Fork Workshop**, Duncan Slater, 13th September, 2016.
- **Introduction to Soils**, Andy Moffat, 7th July, 2016.
- **Valuing and Managing Ancient Trees**, Adam Riedi, Ancient Tree Forum, 17th June 2016.
- **Arboriculture and bats**: Scoping surveys for arborists, Bat Conservation Trust, 27th May 2016.
- **Transformational Nature**, Treeworks Seminar 21, 17th May 2016.
- **BS5837: Managing trees on construction sites**, Barrel Consulting Ltd, 7th April 2016.
- **BS 5837: Advanced: Tree assessment for planning**, Barrel Consulting Ltd, 6th April 2016.
- **Trees and the Law in Scotland**, Dr Charles Mynors & Jeremy Barrell, 30th June 2015.
- **Trees and Design Action Group with CIHT**, Various Speakers, 23rd June 2015.
- **Barchams Big Barn Conference**, Various Speakers, 17th June 2015.
- **Experts Question Time**, David Lonsdale & Jeremy Barrell, CAS Seminar, 17th September 2014.
- **VTA Update**, Professor Claus Mattheck, 23rd May 2014.
- **Arboricultural Association Conference**, Exeter, 9th-11th September 2013.
- **Pests and Diseases Seminar**, Arboricultural Association, 9th May 2013.
- **Arboricultural Association Conference**, Reading, 3rd-5th September 2012.
- **BS5837 Seminar**, Arboricultural Association, Perth, 18th July 2012.
- **National Tree Safety Group Guidance**, Royal Scottish Forestry Society, 14th March 2012.
- **Expert Visual Tree Assessment**, Germany, Professor Claus Mattheck, 19th-22nd October 2011.
- **Planting Seminar**: Keith Sacre of Barcham Trees; 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2011.
- **Visual Tree Inspection Update**, Professor Claus Mattheck, 21st 2010.

## Membership of Professional Organisations

**Arboriculture Association**: since 2007 (Scottish Branch committee member 2010-2017).

**Federation of Small Businesses**: since 2007.

**Consulting Arborists Society**: since 2014.

**Edinburgh Trusted Trader**: since 2016.