

# Curriculum Vitae

## Personal Details

Full Name: Michael James Charkow  
Nationality: British  
Date of Birth: 2nd June, 1976  
Address: 16 Westhall Gardens, Edinburgh EH10 4JQ.  
Telephone: 07917 335 066  
Email: mike@avtree.co.uk | Web: www.avtree.co.uk

## Summary

I am the proprietor of **Arbor Vitae Arboriculture Ltd (AVA Ltd)**, founded in Edinburgh in 2010. ran **Arbor Vitae**, a tree surgery business, from 2007 until 2016.

I gained my tree surgery qualifications in 2004, whilst working for a firm in the Scottish Borders, and have continued 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 inspections and BS5837 (2012) surveys. I have also developed skills in tree lighting, tree planting, woodland design and management. Have also completed extended voluntary work in Borneo and India, climbing giant rainforest trees under the instruction of Ecological researchers.

## Selected Clients

- Ove Arup
- Graham Group
- Balfour Beatty Construction Services UK
- Rankin Fraser landscape architecture
- Richard Murphy Architects Ltd
- Brindley Associates
- Gardiner & Theobald LLP
- Ground Control Ltd
- Carnbee Residents' Association, Edinburgh
- Southfield House Owners, Edinburgh
- Learmonth Gardens Association, Edinburgh
- Arro Lighting and Events
- University of Aberdeen / ETH (Zurich)

## Education and Training

- Arboriculture Association Technician's Award, **ABC Awards**; November 2009. [Now Level 4 Diploma in Arboriculture].
- 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.

# Curriculum Vitae

## Professional Development

- 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**, 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:** member since 2007; committee member since 2010.

**Consulting Arborists Society:** member since 2014.

**Institute of Chartered Foresters:** associate member since May 2015.

**Edinburgh Trusted Trader:** member since 2016.