

AT THE CUTTING EDGE OF ARBORICULTURE

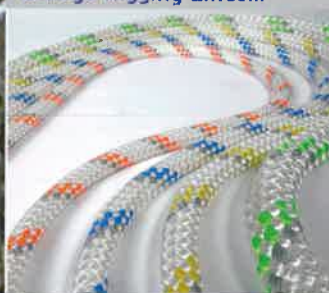
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## Giant trees in place for Christmas

**F**IVE giant outdoor Norway spruce trees, supplied by the Crown Estate, were erected in early November, in the town and shopping centres of Windsor, Maidenhead, Eton and Sunninghill. Decorated by a local design company Lamps and Tubes immediately afterwards, the lights on all five trees were lit from 17 November.

This year, for the first time, the installation contracts have been awarded by the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead Council to Maydencroft, a Windsor-based company, specialising in a range of unique environmental services and employing 25 people with a wide variety of skills.

The Maydencroft Christmas tree installation team comprises project leader Richard Talbot, Gavin Lewis, and contracts manager Nigel Glogan who all live locally.

Maydencroft's regional manager Sam Eagling Fernandez, said: "We are thrilled to be carrying out the installation for the council. We're working in conjunction with M & M Crane Hire and Tomato Plant, a local haulage company, to collect them from the Crown Estate and deliver them. Health and safety requirements are extremely rigorous and the greatest care has to be taken to ensure the trees are securely installed to remove any possible



risk of danger to the public.

"We are using bespoke oak wedges, hand-made by our forestry team in Hertfordshire, to secure the tree."

The trees on the other sites, in Maidenhead, Eton and Sunninghill, are each 15 feet high and were installed in the following week. The tree in Windsor was erected at 7 am on November 12 into its normal position on Castle Hill behind the statue of Queen Victoria. It is 40 feet high

and has a girth of 13.5 feet.

Paul Roach, Windsor, Eton, and Ascot town manager, says: "Maydencroft took on a challenging task and even visited Crown Estates to inspect the trees before transporting them to their locations - which impressed us as being most responsible. The Windsor tree is the centrepiece of our Christmas displays and will be seen by over 90,000 people over Christmas and the New Year."