

Manage tree establishment and maintenance operations

Overview

This standard is about the management of tree establishment and maintenance operations. This could be for commercial purposes or native woodland.

It includes the operations required to carry out the establishment of trees and the subsequent maintenance work as set out in a work specification, to meet approved standards. The standard covers establishing new woodland and maintaining existing woodland using silvicultural systems as well as individual trees to achieve a wide range of site management objectives.

This standard requires a general knowledge of operations and site planning in terms of:

- soil types
- water drainage requirements on a range of sites
- tree species requirements, ecological benefits and end uses
- interpretation of survey and geographical information
- managing labour
- costs
- legislation
- silviculture

Your work must conform to all relevant legislation and codes of practice when carrying out this work.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks associated with the site and the proposed work
2. select and implement appropriate working methods in accordance with the assessed risks
3. ensure appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) is used for the work
4. determine the work specification for tree establishment and maintenance operations, according to the site management objectives
5. determine the monitoring requirements of the tree establishment and maintenance operations
6. specify the materials required to meet the work specification
7. oversee the ordering and handling of specified planting stock to meet the site and management objectives
8. manage tree establishment and maintenance operations
9. decide on protection methods for the planted stock in relation to damaging agents and other site-related elements, such as fencing and tree shelters
10. confirm that the planting complies with stated objectives, undertaking maintenance operations where necessary
11. monitor the tree establishment project against the objectives, in terms of timeframes, quality, cost, the results achieved, the plan's objectives and the standard achieved
12. manage any deviations from the specification
13. follow environmental good practice set by the organisation and the industry, and minimise environmental damage
14. maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times, in accordance with relevant legislation

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to identify hazards and assess risks
2. how to interpret risk assessments
3. the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment (PPE)
4. the site requirements of the tree species
5. the ground preparation techniques
6. pesticide use and the relevant legislation
7. the methods of tree planting and maintenance requirements
8. the pests and diseases that can affect the health of trees
9. the need to protect the trees from a wide variety of damaging agents and the methods used to do this
10. the operational requirements of the work specification and the resources necessary to implement the work, in order to achieve site management objectives
11. how to maintain the bio-security of trees during their establishment and maintenance
12. the silvicultural systems and methods
13. the principles of naturally regenerated woodland
14. the implications of stocking density
15. the correct treatment of heritage, bio-diversity and landscape designation
16. how to manage projects to meet the objectives of the work specification, and deal with any deviations
17. the potential impact of your work on the environment and how this can be minimised
18. your responsibilities under relevant environmental, health and safety legislation and codes of practice

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Scope/range

Tree protection methods:

- fences
- individual protection
- shooting
- trapping
- use of pesticides

Manage tree establishment and maintenance operations for one of the following:

- commercial activities
- amenity activities
- native woodland

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Glossary

Damaging agents include: insects; deer; voles; rabbits/hares; vandalism; weather

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