
Overview

This standard is about clearing sites for planting. A variety of clearance methods can be used.

The clearance methods covered by this standard include chemical, mechanical and manual and are suitable for all workers involved in site clearance.

When working with machinery or chemicals you need to be appropriately trained, and hold current certification where required, in line with relevant legislation.

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. carry out an environmental assessment of the site before starting work
3. select and implement appropriate working methods in accordance with the assessed risks
4. select and use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the work
5. select, prepare and use appropriate tools and equipment safely and effectively
6. confirm all equipment has been checked and is fit for purpose
7. select appropriate clearance methods in line with specifications and the site conditions
8. clear the site for planting in line with the specifications, taking into account the resources, weather and ground conditions
9. remove all waste and surplus materials and dispose of them as specified
10. follow environmental good practice as set by your organisation and the industry, and minimise environmental damage
11. 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 types of tools and equipment required and how to maintain and use these safely and effectively in line with the manufacturer's recommendations
5. the legal requirements for checking equipment
6. the importance of carrying out an environmental assessment of the site before starting work and the findings that must be reported
7. emergency planning and procedures relevant to the site
8. how to deal with overhead or surface obstructions
9. the different methods for clearing sites for planting
10. how to interpret specifications and select appropriate clearance methods
11. the effects of site conditions on the selection of clearance methods
12. the correct methods of disposing of surplus materials and/or waste
13. the potential impact of your work on the environment and how this can be minimised
14. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation and codes of practice

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Scope/range

Manual methods:

- chemical spraying
- cutting
- waste collection and disposal
- mulching
- screefing

Mechanical methods – use three of the following:

- chipping
- stump removal
- brash raking
- brash baling
- use of light and heavy plant equipment

Glossary

Sites could include:

- greenfield
- designated
- urban derelict
- reclaimed land
- existing
- protected

Clear sites for planting

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