

## Maintain coppice health and productivity

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### Overview

This standard describes methods of maintaining coppice health and productivity.

This will include:

- methods for maintaining and improving coppice density
- identifying factors that affect healthy plant growth.

When working with chemicals and machinery 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 works
2. select and implement appropriate working methods, in accordance with the assessed risks
3. select and use the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the work
4. select, prepare and use the appropriate tools and equipment, safely and effectively
5. confirm all equipment has been checked and is fit for purpose
6. identify areas where stock density can be improved
7. increase coppice density by planting with appropriate tree species of the correct size
8. increase coppice density by “layering”
9. improve site conditions to encourage natural regeneration and increase productivity
10. identify damage caused by vertebrate pests
11. control vertebrate pest damage
12. control unwanted vegetation
13. undertake a method of vegetation weed control
14. monitor and maintain coppice health
15. maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times, in accordance with current 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 effects of growing conditions on coppice health
7. the optimum coppice density appropriate to tree species, rotation and location
8. the effect of coppice density on productivity
9. reasons for poor coppice density
10. the range and appropriate methods for improving coppice density, their benefits and appropriate use
11. the main woodland vertebrates that cause damage to coppice and coppice stools
12. methods of vertebrate control, their benefits and appropriate use
13. the main plant species that cause damage to coppice and coppice stools
14. methods of controlling unwanted vegetation, their benefits and appropriate use
15. the range of conditions that affect the choice of appropriate management methods, including economic, site designations, environmental
16. the potential impact of your work on the environment and how this can be minimised
17. your responsibilities under relevant environmental, health and safety legislation and codes of practice

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