

Cut, process and extract coppice

Overview

This standard is about cutting, processing and then extracting coppice, using the most appropriate method to achieve specified objectives.

Objectives may include:

- coppice management
- coppice restoration
- production of specified coppice products
- habitat conservation/management

When working with 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 work
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 the species, mix and estimated age of the coppice
7. produce a work schedule
8. cut coppice stool using current good practice in order to promote healthy re-growth
9. process the coppice material, minimising wastage
10. manage standing trees
11. manage unwanted or un-useable materials using current good practice
12. sort/grade and bundle cut coppice for a variety of uses in an efficient way
13. extract coppice appropriate to the site and the materials
14. leave coppice stool in an appropriate condition to promote healthy re-growth
15. restock the understory using different methods
16. maintain coppice at the appropriate density
17. remove all waste and surplus materials and dispose of them as specified
18. ensure the site is left in a condition which meets environmental requirements, in accordance with the specification
19. 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. how to identify commonly coppiced species, both in summer and winter
7. the importance of scheduling and planning a work schedule for cutting, processing and extracting coppice
8. the reasons for coppicing
9. good practice with regard to coppicing a stool
10. the factors that affect coppice regeneration
11. how to protect stools from damage by browsing animals
12. the importance of density and methods of re-stocking
13. different methods of extracting coppice and their suitability to different applications
14. how to maximise the use of cut coppice and provide useable products
15. the management of standing trees
16. the positive benefits of coppicing for biodiversity
17. the correct methods of disposing of surplus materials and/or waste
18. the National Habitats Directive governing woodland operations
19. the potential impact of your work on the environment and how this can be minimised
20. your responsibilities under relevant environmental, health and safety legislation and codes of practice

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