

Produce charcoal in a woodland

Overview

This standard is about the production of charcoal in a woodland. It covers identifying suitable wood species to make charcoal, locating the site for a kiln, burning and preparing the charcoal for its market.

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. ensure the safety of the public and other workers in the vicinity of the work area
5. identify and prepare a suitable site in the woodland for the kiln
6. identify the wood species to be burnt to produce charcoal
7. check that the wood is dry enough to be burnt
8. determine the amount of wood to be burnt, to meet the required output of charcoal
9. prepare wood appropriately for the type of burn
10. prepare and ignite the kiln
11. maintain and control the burn to ensure the quality of the charcoal produced
12. grade and bag the produced charcoal
13. remove all waste and surplus materials and dispose of them, as specified
14. carry out the work in a way that minimises environmental damage
15. 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 target markets for the charcoal
5. the type of ground that is best suited to site a kiln within a woodland
6. the different types of charcoal kiln and the methods of loading and lighting them
7. the characteristics of wood species and the effects of the species on the quality of the charcoal produced
8. how long wood should be dried prior to burning and how this varies between species
9. that the way wood is stacked has an impact on the drying process
10. the reduction in weight and volume of cord wood burnt for charcoal
11. the impact of moisture content, species, the value of timber and the burning process
12. the changes that occur throughout the burning process
13. the methods of controlling the burn process
14. the significance of the smoke colour at different stages
15. the other uses for dust/fines
16. how to store a kiln during long periods of non-use
17. the correct methods of disposing of surplus materials and/or waste
18. the potential impact of your work on the environment and how this can be minimised
19. your responsibilities under relevant environmental, health and safety legislation and codes of practice

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