

Task Risk Control Sheet

Maintain Vegetation –Manual – Tree Climbing

RCS No: NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/OT11
Issue: 3

Key Risks !

- Struck by Train
- Manual Handling
- Underfoot Conditions
- Working at Height

Personnel Involved

E&P	
S&T	
Track	
Off Track	✓
Property	

Tools / Equipment Ladders, Climbing Ropes, Harness (Fall Arrest System)
Plant None

Key Risks	Controls	Implemented By
Trains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Risk Control Sheet NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/GA01 – Work On or Near the Line • Work shall be performed in green zones 	All Staff
Underfoot conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Risk Control Sheet NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/GH02 – Underfoot Conditions • Conduct Pre-site survey to assess ground conditions and brief all staff on hazards • Check for track side hazards such as rabbit holes, badger sets and general embankment instability • Hand tools, measuring equipment etc shall be kept in a safe place so they do not become a trip hazard • Monitor conditions on an ongoing basis; if circumstances change, especially significant changes in elevated gradient or height, cease work and review safe system of work 	All Staff
Darkness / Poor Visibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where possible all work shall be performed during daylight • Where not possible suitable and sufficient lighting shall be provided see guidance below • See Risk Control Sheet NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/SP16 – Use of Site Lighting • Lighting should be reviewed during the activity so that moving parts of power tools are visible to the operator at all times • lights shall be positioned so that the interior of the tree is illuminated and ropes, strops and anchor points are visible to the climber and the groundsmen/aerial rescuer. • Lighting shall be adjusted during the climbing to prevent the climber being blinded by the lights 	All Staff

In line with the HSE Guidance 38, Lighting at Work, the following minima and average lighting levels shall be established for the various activities involved, this is the definition of suitable and sufficient for the purposes of this document.

Activity	Minimum Lighting Level	Average Lighting Level
Site access	5 Lux	5 Lux
Site preparation	20 Lux	50 Lux
Chipping	20 Lux	50 Lux
De-veg activities (inc chain saw) at ground level	50 Lux	100 Lux
Tree climbing and use of chain saws at height	100 Lux	200 Lux

Achieved lighting levels shall be checked using a light meter at the point of activity prior to work commencing.

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Manual Handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Risk Control Sheet NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/GH01 – Manual Handling 	All Staff
All Tasks including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact with thorns, brambles, wire fencing, etc Being struck by objects Snake bites, stings Contact with OHLE or DC electrified line or utility services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear eye protection to BS EN166.B, protective clothing, such as non-snag outer clothing and gloves Stand clear of falling branches when pruning Perform a Pre-site survey to check for hazards such as snakes, bee or wasp nests See Risk Control sheets NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/GA20 Working Adjacent to DC Electrified Rails Risk Level 1- 5, See Risk Control Sheet NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/GA21 - Working Near Electrical Overhead Line Equipment Perform a pre-site survey to identify utility services – where necessary they shall be protected moved or isolated Check for dangerous weeds such as giant hogweed, Himalayan balsam. 	All Staff
Climbing / Working at Height	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Risk Control Sheet NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/GH04 – Working at Height A Qualified first aider shall be present You shall be trained in tree climbing operations Safety Harness shall be worn A minimum of 2 staff shall be present. One shall be trained as groundsman/aerial rescue and designated as such All staff shall be physically fit to perform these duties. Any problems that may affect this shall be reported to your line manager You shall be aware of the different characteristics of different tree species Tree(s) shall be surveyed and assessed prior to climbing An exclusion zone shall be set up around the site of work A certified & tested harness & rope or a full fall arrest system, made up of a full body harness and an energy absorber shall be used Leg protection shall be used in addition to all other PPE If using ropes, these shall be of the approved type – if unsure, ask your line manager If using ladders, see Risk Control Sheet NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/GH04 – Working at Height Section C If using climbing irons any climber shall be secured to the tree with a climbing rope and strops. If using a chainsaw, a wire or wire-reinforced strop shall be used All items of climbing equipment shall be used according to the manufacturers instructions and checked before use on every occasion Anchor points shall be assessed for suitability for the intended purpose 	All Staff