

Vegetation Control

Method of works

- WMS will erect warning signage or barriers to segregate the working area from access by other users of area such as pedestrians or other tradespeople working nearby. WMS to ensure the welfare is available as described in CPP.
- WMS to ensure there are no trip hazards and that all other users of area are not put at any risk.
- Always carry out a visual inspection of vegetation to locate any hidden surface run cables, water or gas pipework or any other objects within the growth that could affect works. If anything is found, inform site manager immediately.
- Works are also to be inspected prior to commencement, if any Japanese knotweed etc. are identified to be present in or close to the working area, this must not be touched and must be reported to the Contracts Manager, as this will need to be reported to the client and/or land owner.
- All works to be carried out in accordance with WMS Environmental policy. If any birds nests etc are found, stop work immediately and report to Contracts Manager.
- Any working at height to be carried out in accordance with WMS Working at Height procedures.
- Only competent tradespeople with correct training to use any machinery such as hedge cutters, trimmers/brush cutters etc. Manufacturers instructions for safe use to be adhered to at all times.
- If vegetation is overgrown to a level where chainsaws and other specialist equipment is deemed to be required, WMS will appoint suitable subcontractors to carry out this task in accordance with their approved RAMS.
- Correct fuel for machinery to be kept in suitable container out of direct sunlight at all times and stored securely, in a cool, dry place away from immediate working area. Spill kits to be kept on site at all times.
- All appropriate PPE to be worn at all times, including hardhats, full face visors, ear defenders, respiratory masks where required, Hi Vis, Safety boots. Some equipment may require a harness for safe use.
- Where working on or near public highways, traffic management such as barriers, temporary traffic lights, signage to be used as required.
- Do not exceed recommended operating times for the equipment, adhering to manufacturers instructions and take regular breaks. Obtain & read data sheets for equipment wherever possible and keep on site.
- When refuelling, ensure the equipment is switched off. Do not smoke when refuelling as the fuel is highly inflammable.
- Allow engine/machinery to cool down. If possible, do not refuel in working area. Take great care and use a funnel to prevent spills.
- Wipe any spilt fuel from machine and clean area. Dispose of fuel soaked cloth carefully. If you spill fuel on your clothes, change them before continuing work. Use spill kits if fuel is spilt on to ground.
- Ensure fuel caps are on and correctly in place before attempting to move machinery.
- Cut vegetation out in small sections and ensure you can see what you are cutting in to before operating the machinery.
- When handling vegetation with thorns etc, e.g. brambles, ensure correct gloves are worn to prevent injury.
- Cut all vegetation to ground level to avoid trip hazards. Once all stumps/roots are cut to ground level, sprayable weed killer can be used if required, in accordance with COSHH details.
- On completion of the works, all cuttings and debris is to be cleared up and disposed of safely. If chippers/shredders are to be used, full PPE must be worn and manufacturers instructions must be adhered to at all times.
- All access equipment (if used) is to be dismantled and the site cleared of all equipment and left clean and tidy.

See additional docs

Working At Height
PPE
Manual Handling
HAVS
Safety Signs
Environmental

Risk Assessment

Hazard	Control Measures
Falls from height	See Working At Height
Slips Trips and Falls	The site will remain tidy at all practicable times. All designated access/egress routes shall be kept free of slip and trip hazards, and obstructions. All equipment is switched off and/or isolated when unattended. All material that could potentially cause injury is either secured behind barriers or removed from site. The need for good housekeeping is to be explained in the site induction. Ensure small stumps/roots are cut to ground level and not left exposed as a trip hazard.
COSHH	When using any chemicals or substances hazardous to health, such as sprayable weedkiller etc, the COSHH safety data sheet will be followed to ensure that the safe working practice is followed. This includes storage and use, including the correct use of PPE. Common material sheets are within this document. Additional MSDS may be required for extra chemicals/substances on this contract.
Manual Handling	Correct lifting techniques/ equipment are to be used at all times when moving equipment, materials or any heavy loads. Paying particular attention when lifting (stable stance, good grip, keep load close to your waist and do not flex your back).
Electrical	Only battery operated or 110v tools to be used, such as reciprocating saws etc. All electrical equipment is to be PAT tested. The equipment is to be inspected prior to use to check for defaults or any other issues that could cause harm when the item is used.
Hygiene	Good personal hygiene is a necessity washing of hands prior to any breaks (food – ingestion).
Vibration	If there are any tasks with expected high levels of vibration. WMS shall use vibration calculator to work out if operatives are likely to exceed action levels. WMS have assessed these site and there are no excessive vibrating works that are likely have trigger times that will exceed the HSE 100 points. Subcontractors will also assess in their RAMS. Regular breaks between works involving high levels of vibration shall be taken.
Noise	If high levels of noise are expected, ear defenders and control measures are to be introduced if lower noise action value is expected to be exceeded (80dB weekly average or 135dB peak). If there are concerns that noise levels are above this, further investigation will be carried out.
Asbestos	All operatives are to be Asbestos awareness trained. Asbestos surveys are to be sourced and reviewed before any works commence. Tradesmen are to remain vigilant at all times when onsite and if any additional suspect materials are identified, site manager is to be informed immediately.
Vulnerable persons	Appropriate signage must be used. Due to the area of the works, working overhead. WMS shall temporarily cordon off the area of work using cones and barrier tape.

Vermin – droppings	Site is to be clean any edible waste is to be removed from site, as not to encourage vermin. Gloves are to be worn and hands cleaned prior to lunch breaks.
Inclement Weather	Regular checks of the weather forecast are to be carried out by the contracts supervisor. No works to be undertaken in high winds as the works are to be carried out using a scaffolding and the materials will act as a sail. When working in wet conditions (washing down – no painting in wet conditions), suitable waterproof clothing must be provided. Electrical equipment must be checked to ensure that it is not at risk of water ingress. If this is the case, it must be isolated until conditions improve. In times of high UV radiation workers are obliged to use sun screen protection. Workers are not permitted to 'strip off'. Minimum dress code is to wear a T-shirt. Anything less and the person/s must be ordered to cover up, or, on refusal to do so, removed from site. WMS are to check wind protection to ensure resident's possessions are not damaged.
Environmental	See WMS Environmental policy
Nesting Birds	See Nesting Birds

PPE



If there are works being undertaken above you please also wear a Hard hat.
Adhere to manufacturers instructions and use any additional PPE as required (e.g. face visors etc).