

Risk Assessment For: Coppicing and Tree Work

Assessment Undertaken By: Kathryn Day (Headteacher)

Date: 03 January 2024

Assessment Approved By: Trevor Watson (Health and Safety Lead)

Date: 18 January 2024

Notes
Pruning: removing individual branches either for the benefit of the tree or to use in greenwood working.
Coppicing: is the removal of several lengths of wood from one tree in order for re-growth to occur.
Felling: is the removal of an entire tree at its base – this should only be undertaken by an experienced tree surgeon and not by school staff.
Note: all pruning, coppicing and felling will be undertaken for the sustainability and conservation of the woodland.

Significant Hazard, Events and Consequences Identified	Risk Level S x L = RR	L M H	List Groups of People Who Are Especially at Risk from the Hazards	Control Measures	Residual Risk Rating S x L = RR	L M H
Struck by falling tree – serious crush injury.	6 x 3 = 18	H	All People in Vicinity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal warning of the risk. • Fall zone identified and made clear. • Cut a wedge to encourage the direction of fall. • Consider the natural lean of the tree which will dictate the direction of fall. • Avoid felling in strong winds. • Identify and clear escape routes. • Use a partner system – one cutting one watching. • Communication between cutter and partner. • Use of bow saw to cut rather than chainsaw. • Only one tree to be felled at a time. • Felling only done by competent adult, never by children. • Use of goggles, high visibility vests and hard hats. 	3 x 2 = 6	M
Struck by falling branch – serious crush injury.	6 x 3 = 18	H	All People in Vicinity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal warning. • Explain the collapse zone of a branch. • Cutting outside of the collapse zone. • No cutting above head height. • Two arms and tool circumference around the tree as an exclusion zone. 	2 x 2 = 4	L
Falling from or stuck in tree – broken bones, head injury.	6 x 3 = 18	H	Cutter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All coppicing to be done from the ground. 	2 x 1 = 2	L



Successful Learners ~ Confident Individuals ~ Responsible Citizens



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					S x L = RR	L M H
Pulling on hung up branch – strain or branch falling when it comes loose resulting in injury.	4 x 3 = 12	M	All People in Vicinity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbal warning. Clear lower branches so the branch falls to the ground. Use of ropes to free the hung up branch. 	2 x 1 = 2	L
Pruning, felling or coppicing in windy conditions – uncontrolled branches or trees causing injury.	5 x 4 = 20	H	All People in Vicinity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbal warning. Avoid cutting in windy conditions. 	2 x 1 = 2	L
Sawdust in eyes – eye irritation or injury.	3 x 3 = 9	M	All People in Vicinity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbal warning. No cutting above head height. Avoid cutting in windy conditions. Use of exclusion zone. Use of goggles. 	2 x 1 = 2	L
Lone working – injury whilst isolated.	6 x 3 = 18	H	Lone Workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No staff to work alone. 	3 x 1 = 3	L

SEVERITY	LIKELIHOOD	RISK RATING (S x L)	
1 = No injury or illness	1 = Very remote	14+	High
2 = First Aid injuries or illness	2 = Improbable		
3 = Minor injury or illness – up to 3 days away	3 = Possible	5 – 13	Medium
4 = 3+ days injury or illness	4 = Probable		
5 = Major injury or illness	5 = Likely	1 – 4	Low
6 = Fatal or disabling injury or illness	6 = Certainty		

Reviewed By	Review Date
Kathryn Day	12/10/2024