RISK ASSESSMENT AND METHOD STATEMENT (RAMS)

Business name

Document: RAMS-001 Rev 1
Prepared: 9 Nov 2026
Review by: 9 Dec 2026
Highest risk after controls: Medium

1. BUSINESS AND JOB DETAILS

Job	Tree removal and pruning with a chainsaw	**Start date**	9 Nov 2026
Working hours	7:00 am to 3:30 pm	**Trade**	Landscaping

2. WORK INVOLVING PARTICULAR RISKS (CDM 2015 SCHEDULE 3)

YES	Risk of burial under earthfalls, engulfment in swampland or falling from a height, made worse by the work, processes or site		Work on wells, underground earthworks and tunnels
	Chemical or biological substances that are a particular danger, or that need health monitoring by law		Divers with a system of air supply
	Ionising radiation needing controlled or supervised areas		Work in caissons with a compressed air atmosphere
	Work near high voltage power lines		Use of explosives
	Risk of drowning		Assembling or dismantling heavy prefabricated components

3. RISK ASSESSMENT

#	Activity / step	Hazards	Who might be harmed and how	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
1	Assess the tree for lean, decay and dead wood, check for power lines and buildings, and plan escape routes; keep 2 tree lengths clear when felling	Contact with overhead power lines Falling tools and materials Rules: HSE GS6 Avoiding danger from overhead power lines; Work at Height Regulations 2005, regulation 10 (falling objects)	Workers, Plant operators, Public, People below. How: A ladder, MEWP, crane, tipper or long length of material touches or gets close to an overhead line and electrocutes people. Tools, materials or debris fall from above and hit someone working or walking below.	**High (12) Possible / Major injury**	1.1 Ask the distribution network operator (DNO) to turn off, move or insulate the lines before work starts. [Eliminate] 1.2 Use non-conductive (fibreglass) ladders near any power lines. [Reduce / substitute] 1.3 Mark the safe distance with flags, tape or goal posts and keep all plant and people outside it. [Isolate] 1.4 Follow HSE GS6: barriers, goal posts under the lines and a permit for work near them. [Control (procedures)] 1.5 Use a dedicated spotter whenever plant moves or raises anything near lines. [Control (procedures)] 1.6 Treat all lines as live. If plant touches a line, stay in the cab and keep everyone well away. [Control (procedures)] 1.7 Barricade and sign the drop zone under overhead work so nobody walks beneath. [Isolate] 1.8 Fit toe boards, kick plates and mesh screens on scaffolds and edges. [Control (engineering)] 1.9 Falling tools and materials: see step 7 for the full controls [Control (procedures)]	**Medium (8) Unlikely / Major injury**	Site supervisor

#	Activity / step	Hazards	Who might be harmed and how	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
2	Set up the drop zone with barriers and traffic or pedestrian control	Public entering the work area Road traffic Rules: CDM Regulations 2015; Safety at Street Works and Road Works Code of Practice (Red Book)	Public, Children, Workers, Road users. How: Members of the public, including children, walk into the site and are hit by plant or falling objects, or fall into holes. Passing cars and trucks hit workers or plant working on or next to a road.	**Very high (15)** **Possible / Fatal**	2.1 Fence off the site with secure temporary fencing and lock the gates when you leave. [Isolate] 2.2 Give pedestrians a safe, marked path around the work, with ramps for prams and wheelchairs. [Isolate] 2.3 Use hoarding, covered walkways or catch fans where work is above public areas. [Control (engineering)] 2.4 Put signs at each entry: site name, contact number and "No unauthorised entry". [Control (procedures)] 2.5 Make the site safe at the end of each day: cover holes, lower plant, remove ladders and lock tools away. [Control (procedures)] 2.6 Use a spotter when moving plant or materials across public paths. [Control (procedures)] 2.7 Do the work at low-traffic times, or close the road or lane with approval. [Eliminate] 2.8 Put solid barriers between the work and traffic where speeds are high, not just cones. [Isolate] 2.9 Use a truck-mounted attenuator or buffer vehicle on high speed roads. [Control (engineering)] 2.10 Set up signs and cones to Chapter 8 (Traffic Signs Manual) by trained operatives. [Control (procedures)] 2.11 Get a street works permit or licence from the highway authority before you start. [Control (procedures)] 2.12 Park work vehicles to shield the work zone, with beacons on. [Control (procedures)] 2.13 Wear Class 2 or 3 hi-vis clothing (EN ISO 20471). [PPE]	**Medium (5)** **Very unlikely / Fatal**	Site supervisor
3	Check the chainsaw, chain brake and PPE before starting	Chainsaw injuries Loud noise Rules: Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005	Workers, People nearby. How: Chainsaw kickback or contact with the chain causes deep cuts to the legs, arms and face. Saws, grinders, jackhammers and machines cause permanent hearing loss and ringing in the ears over time.	**High (12)** **Possible / Major injury**	3.1 Use a different tool where you can, such as a pole saw or hand saw for small branches. [Reduce / substitute] 3.2 Use a saw with a working chain brake, chain catcher and low-kickback chain, kept sharp and tensioned. [Control (engineering)] 3.3 Only trained and certified operators (for example Lantra or City and Guilds NPTC) use chainsaws. [Control (procedures)] 3.4 Never cut above shoulder height or from a ladder. [Control (procedures)] 3.5 When felling, keep everyone at least two tree lengths away. [Control (procedures)] 3.6 Wear chainsaw chaps, chainsaw boots, gloves, a helmet with face screen and hearing protection. [PPE] 3.7 Use quieter tools and methods, such as cut-to-size materials, low-noise machines and battery tools. [Reduce / substitute] 3.8 Keep noisy plant away from work areas, and use screens or distance between the noise and people. [Isolate] 3.9 Loud noise: see step 10 for the full controls [Control (procedures)]	**Medium (6)** **Unlikely / Lost time injury**	Site supervisor
4	Look for nests, wasps	Bites and stings	Workers.	**Medium (9)**	4.1 Check work areas before starting, and get pest control to remove	**Medium (6)**	Site

#	Activity / step	Hazards	Who might be harmed and how	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
	and snakes before climbing or cutting		How: Spiders, wasps, bees, ticks and dogs bite or sting workers in roof spaces, under floors and in gardens.	**Possible / Lost time injury**	nests. [Eliminate] 4.2 Look before you reach into dark spaces. [Control (procedures)] 4.3 Ask owners to keep pets away from the work area. [Control (procedures)] 4.4 Know who has allergies and keep their medication, such as an adrenaline auto-injector, close by. [Control (procedures)] 4.5 Wear gloves, long sleeves and boots. Use insect repellent outdoors. [PPE]	**Unlikely / Lost time injury**	supervisor
5	Set up the MEWP on firm ground outside the drop zone	MEWP tip-over or crush Contact with overhead power lines Rules: Work at Height Regulations 2005 and LOLER 1998; HSE GS6 Avoiding danger from overhead power lines	Workers, People nearby, Plant operators, Public. How: The platform tips on soft or sloping ground, the worker is crushed against a beam or ceiling, or is thrown out of the basket. A ladder, MEWP, crane, tipper or long length of material touches or gets close to an overhead line and electrocutes people.	**Very high (15) Possible / Fatal**	5.1 Check the ground before setting up. Use outriggers and spreader pads, and keep clear of trenches, pits and slopes. [Control (engineering)] 5.2 Use a platform with tilt alarm and secondary guarding (anti-entrapment) where there is an overhead crush risk. [Control (engineering)] 5.3 Use IPAF-trained operators for MEWPs, carrying their PAL card. [Control (procedures)] 5.4 Do a pre-start check each day. Keep a trained person on the ground who can lower the platform in an emergency. [Control (procedures)] 5.5 Never exceed the safe working load, climb on the rails or use a ladder in the basket. [Control (procedures)] 5.6 In boom-type platforms, wear a harness clipped to the basket anchor point. [PPE] 5.7 Contact with overhead power lines: see step 1 for the full controls [Control (procedures)]	**Medium (5) Very unlikely / Fatal**	Site supervisor
6	Cut from the ground or the MEWP, never from a ladder	Falling from height Chainsaw injuries Rules: Work at Height Regulations 2005	Workers, People below, People nearby. How: A worker falls from any height where a fall could cause injury, such as an edge, platform or opening. Chainsaw kickback or contact with the chain causes deep cuts to the legs, arms and face.	**Very high (20) Likely / Fatal**	6.1 Do the work from the ground where you can, for example pre-assemble on the ground or use extension poles. [Eliminate] 6.2 Install guardrails or edge protection on all open edges before work starts. [Isolate] 6.3 Use a scaffold, mobile tower or MEWP instead of working off a ladder. [Control (engineering)] 6.4 Where edge protection is not practical, use a fall restraint or fall arrest system on a rated anchor point. [Control (engineering)] 6.5 Have a rescue plan so a worker hanging in a harness can be brought down within minutes. [Control (procedures)] 6.6 Wear a full body harness with a shock-absorbing lanyard, clipped on at all times when using fall arrest. [PPE] 6.7 Chainsaw injuries: see step 3 for the full controls [Control (procedures)]	**Medium (5) Very unlikely / Fatal**	Site supervisor
7	Drop limbs in sections into the clear drop zone. Before cutting bent or loaded wood, work out which side is	Falling tools and materials Rules: Work at Height Regulations 2005,	Workers, Public, People below. How: Tools, materials or debris fall from above and hit someone	**High (12) Possible / Major injury**	7.1 Barricade and sign the drop zone under overhead work so nobody walks beneath. [Isolate] 7.2 Fit toe boards, kick plates and mesh screens on scaffolds and edges. [Control (engineering)] 7.3 Use catch fans, debris netting or covered walkways where	**Medium (8) Unlikely / Major injury**	Site supervisor

#	Activity / step	Hazards	Who might be harmed and how	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
	under tension and stand clear of where it will spring	regulation 10 (falling objects)	working or walking below.		people pass below. [Control (engineering)] 7.4 Tether hand tools when working at height. [Control (engineering)] 7.5 Keep platforms tidy. Do not stack materials near edges or above toe board height. [Control (procedures)] 7.6 Lower materials with a hoist, chute or rope. Never throw or drop anything down. [Control (procedures)] 7.7 Wear a hard hat anywhere objects could fall. [PPE]		
8	Fell the stem with a scarf cut on the felling side and a back cut that leaves a hinge, call a warning, then step back along the planned escape route	Falling tools and materials Chainsaw injuries Rules: Work at Height Regulations 2005, regulation 10 (falling objects)	Workers, Public, People below, People nearby. How: Tools, materials or debris fall from above and hit someone working or walking below. Chainsaw kickback or contact with the chain causes deep cuts to the legs, arms and face.	**High (12) Possible / Major injury**	8.1 Falling tools and materials: see step 7 for the full controls [Control (procedures)] 8.2 Chainsaw injuries: see step 3 for the full controls [Control (procedures)]	**Medium (8) Unlikely / Major injury**	Site supervisor
9	Refuel with the engine off and the saw cool, on bare ground away from ignition, using an approved fuel can, with an extinguisher at the vehicle	Fire and emergencies Rules: CDM 2015 regs 29 to 31 (fire on construction sites). Occupied premises: Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (England and Wales), Fire (Scotland) Act 2005, Fire Safety Regulations (NI) 2010	Workers, Occupants, Visitors. How: A fire, injury or other emergency happens and workers cannot get out, raise the alarm or get first aid in time.	**High (10) Unlikely / Fatal**	9.1 Provide fire extinguishers suited to the site, checked and easy to reach. [Control (engineering)] 9.2 Keep exits and escape routes clear and signed. [Control (engineering)] 9.3 Have a site emergency plan: alarm, exits, assembly point and emergency contacts. [Control (procedures)] 9.4 Keep a stocked first aid kit and at least one trained first aider on site. [Control (procedures)] 9.5 Know the site address and how emergency services get in. Call 999. [Control (procedures)] 9.6 Go through the emergency plan with every worker and visitor at induction. [Control (procedures)] 9.7 Keep flammable materials and rubbish away from exits and escape routes. [Control (procedures)]	**Medium (5) Very unlikely / Fatal**	Site supervisor
10	Chip or stack wood: feed the chipper butt first from the side, never reach past the feed control bar or kick material in, and stop and isolate it before clearing a jam; then clean up	Lifting and carrying heavy loads Hand-arm and whole-body vibration Loud noise Poor housekeeping and waste Rules: Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992; Control of Vibration at Work	Workers, People nearby, Visitors. How: Lifting, carrying, pushing or twisting with heavy or awkward loads strains the back, shoulders or knees. Long periods on jackhammers, grinders, compactors or riding plant cause white finger, numbness and back	**High (12) Likely / Lost time injury**	10.1 Plan to avoid carrying: have materials delivered, and old items picked up, as close as possible to where they are used. [Eliminate] 10.2 Use lighter or smaller loads: order smaller bags and shorter lengths, and drain or break down old items before moving them. [Reduce / substitute] 10.3 Use trolleys, pallet jacks, hoists, vacuum lifters or plant instead of carrying by hand. [Control (engineering)] 10.4 Use a two-person lift for anything heavy, long or awkward. Plan the route first and clear it. [Control (procedures)] 10.5 Use low-vibration tools and methods, such as a breaker on an excavator instead of a hand jackhammer. [Reduce / substitute] 10.6 Keep tools sharp and well maintained, and use anti-vibration	**Medium (6) Unlikely / Lost time injury**	Site supervisor

#	Activity / step	Hazards	Who might be harmed and how	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
		Regulations 2005; Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005	damage.		handles and seats. [Control (engineering)] 10.7 Limit trigger time using the HSE vibration calculator to stay below the exposure action value, and rotate workers. [Control (procedures)] 10.8 Keep hands warm and dry, and take regular breaks. [Control (procedures)] 10.9 Use quieter tools and methods, such as cut-to-size materials, low-noise machines and battery tools. [Reduce / substitute] 10.10 Keep noisy plant away from work areas, and use screens or distance between the noise and people. [Isolate] 10.11 Keep tools maintained and use mufflers on compressors and generators. [Control (engineering)] 10.12 Limit time on noisy tools and rotate workers. [Control (procedures)] 10.13 Assess noise. At 85 dB(A) or more, hearing protection is required and the zone must be marked. [Control (procedures)] 10.14 Order materials to size and send packaging back where you can. [Eliminate] 10.15 Put skips and waste chutes close to the work. [Control (engineering)] 10.16 Clean as you go, and do a full clean up at the end of each day. [Control (procedures)] 10.17 Keep exits, stairs and walkways clear at all times. [Control (procedures)] 10.18 Use a registered waste carrier and keep waste transfer notes for at least 2 years. Keep hazardous waste such as asbestos separate, with consignment notes (special waste in Scotland). [Control (procedures)]		

Risk key: risk = likelihood x consequence on a 5 x 5 matrix. Low, Medium, High, Very high. Work must not start while the risk after controls is high or above. Controls are listed in order of the hierarchy of control (eric-pd): Eliminate, Reduce / substitute, Isolate, Control (engineering), Control (procedures), PPE.

4. METHOD STATEMENT: SEQUENCE OF WORK

Step	What we will do	How it is done safely
1	Assess the tree for lean, decay and dead wood, check for power lines and buildings, and plan escape routes; keep 2 tree lengths clear when felling	Ask the distribution network operator (DNO) to turn off, move or insulate the lines before work starts. Use non-conductive (fibreglass) ladders near any power lines. Mark the safe distance with flags, tape or goal posts and keep all plant and people outside it.
2	Set up the drop zone with barriers and traffic or pedestrian control	Fence off the site with secure temporary fencing and lock the gates when you leave. Give pedestrians a safe, marked path around the work, with ramps for prams and wheelchairs. Use hoarding, covered walkways or catch fans where work is above public areas.
3	Check the chainsaw, chain brake and PPE before starting	Use a different tool where you can, such as a pole saw or hand saw for small branches. Use a saw with a working chain brake, chain catcher and low-kickback chain, kept sharp and tensioned. Only trained and certified operators (for example Lantra or City and Guilds NPTC) use chainsaws.

Step	What we will do	How it is done safely
4	Look for nests, wasps and snakes before climbing or cutting	Check work areas before starting, and get pest control to remove nests. Look before you reach into dark spaces. Ask owners to keep pets away from the work area.
5	Set up the MEWP on firm ground outside the drop zone	Check the ground before setting up. Use outriggers and spreader pads, and keep clear of trenches, pits and slopes. Use a platform with tilt alarm and secondary guarding (anti-entrapment) where there is an overhead crush risk. Use IPAF-trained operators for MEWPs, carrying their PAL card.
6	Cut from the ground or the MEWP, never from a ladder	Do the work from the ground where you can, for example pre-assemble on the ground or use extension poles. Install guardrails or edge protection on all open edges before work starts. Use a scaffold, mobile tower or MEWP instead of working off a ladder.
7	Drop limbs in sections into the clear drop zone. Before cutting bent or loaded wood, work out which side is under tension and stand clear of where it will spring	Barricade and sign the drop zone under overhead work so nobody walks beneath. Fit toe boards, kick plates and mesh screens on scaffolds and edges. Use catch fans, debris netting or covered walkways where people pass below.
8	Fell the stem with a scarf cut on the felling side and a back cut that leaves a hinge, call a warning, then step back along the planned escape route	Falling tools and materials: see step 7 for the full controls Chainsaw injuries: see step 3 for the full controls
9	Refuel with the engine off and the saw cool, on bare ground away from ignition, using an approved fuel can, with an extinguisher at the vehicle	Provide fire extinguishers suited to the site, checked and easy to reach. Keep exits and escape routes clear and signed. Have a site emergency plan: alarm, exits, assembly point and emergency contacts.
10	Chip or stack wood: feed the chipper butt first from the side, never reach past the feed control bar or kick material in, and stop and isolate it before clearing a jam; then clean up	Plan to avoid carrying: have materials delivered, and old items picked up, as close as possible to where they are used. Use lighter or smaller loads: order smaller bags and shorter lengths, and drain or break down old items before moving them. Use trolleys, pallet jacks, hoists, vacuum lifters or plant instead of carrying by hand.

5. PPE AND PERMITS

Required PPE	Permits and plans
Chainsaw trousers Safety helmet Face shield Ear defenders Rigger gloves Safety boots Hi-vis vest Safety glasses Cut-resistant gloves Coveralls Full body harness and lanyard	Work at height permit

6. PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Plant / equipment	Licence or training needed	Inspection needed	Rego / ID	Last inspected	Certificate / report
Chainsaw	Lantra or NPTC chainsaw certificate				
Boom MEWP	IPAF PAL card (3b)	LOLER thorough examination at least every 6 months (it lifts people), plus a pre-use check each shift			
Trailer					
Hand tools					

7. CREW COMPETENCY, TICKETS AND LICENCES

Crew listed at sign-on below, with ticket and licence numbers.

8. EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

Emergency number	999	**First aid kit**	In the work vehicle
Fire extinguisher	In the work vehicle	**Alarm and evacuation**	Shout "Fire" or "Stop" and use the site alarm. Stop work, make the area safe and go to the assembly point. Do not go back in until the supervisor says it is safe.
Reporting incidents	Report reportable incidents to HSE under RIDDOR 2013 (hse.gov.uk/riddor).		

9. SITE ARRANGEMENTS

Welfare	Toilets, drinking water, hand washing and a break area on site	**Security and access**	Work area fenced or kept locked when unattended. Tools and materials secured. Public kept out.
Environmental and waste	Waste goes in a skip or the van and is taken away by a registered waste carrier, with waste transfer notes kept (duty of care). Hazardous waste such as asbestos is kept separate and consigned correctly. Dust and noise kept to a minimum. No run-off into drains.		

10. MONITORING, REVIEW AND LEGAL BASIS

The supervisor checks the controls at the start of each shift and during the work. Stop work and review this RAMS if the work, the crew or the site conditions change, after any incident or near miss, or if the principal contractor asks.

Legal basis: Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015. Employers must assess the risks of their work and record the significant findings (required where you employ 5 or more people). On CDM projects, contractors give their RAMS to the principal contractor before starting, and brief the workers on it.

Keep this RAMS, every revision and the signed briefing register with the site file for the length of the job, and keep a copy in your records afterwards.

11. REVISION HISTORY

Rev	Date	By	What changed
1	9 Nov 2026		First issue

12. APPROVAL AND BRIEFING REGISTER

	Name	Signature	Date	
Prepared by				
Approved by				
Supervisor				
Principal contractor review				Accepted for use: Yes / No

By signing below, each person confirms this RAMS was explained to them in a site briefing, they understand it and will follow it, and they will stop work and tell the supervisor if anything changes.

Name	Role / company	Tickets / licences	Inducted	Signature	Date

Name	Role / company	Tickets / licences	Inducted	Signature	Date