

This risk assessment relates only to the *generic* features of a common activity; it does not cover those *specific* to a location or group. It therefore must not be used without completing the local review, making additions as necessary to take account of local circumstances. However, such a local review need not be timeconsuming. Use the box at the bottom to create the local review, or add extra pages as necessary. **SEE ACCOMPANYING SAFETY NOTES**

ACTIVITY ASSESSED	ASSESSOR	ASSESSMENT DATE
6. POLLARDING (NOT USING POWER TOOLS)	STEPHEN BOLSOVER	11 th May 2016
HAZARD potential for harm	RISK LEVEL	PRECAUTIONS to remove hazard or reduce risk level. One precaution may tackle several hazards.
Falling from tree	H	Do not climb up or about within the tree while pollarding. Rather, use a ladder securely attached to the tree and at base by a colleague or pegged down; refer to separate Generic Risk Assessment on ladder use.
Tree splitting	M	Delimb the tree evenly, keeping in mind the weight distribution. Saw a bottom cut first.
Branches falling from tree	M	Inspect tree thoroughly before cutting and wear a hard hat. Either cordon off a no-go zone beneath tree using suitable signs and hazard warning tape, or post a lookout at ground level to keep other workers and members of the public away. As necessary, secure branches with rope if they overhang a river or inaccessible area and to allow branches to be lowered safely.
Dropping tools	L	Check condition and grip of tool before use. Only take one tool up at a time. Keep other people away from base of tree.
Ladder breaking or moving	H	Fully check placement and condition of ladder before use, especially if made of wood: all rungs sound and attached to stiles securely? Well footed and attached to tree?
Severe weather: strong wind or rain etc.	H	Don't pollard in very windy conditions or when rain interferes with visibility or grip on tools or branches.
RISKS AND PRECAUTIONS SPECIFIC TO THE SITE OR DAY ASSESSOR ASSESSMENT DATE APPLICABLE DATES (This is likely either to be one specific day, or “until further notice”.)		

Risk level: L = Low, M = Medium, H = High

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6. POLLARDING	STEPHEN BOLSOVER	11 th May 2016
RESTRICTIONS Restrict other people from entering site. Use a ladder and don't climb into the tree while pollarding. No chainsaws. No more than one person and a single tool at a time up a tree. Always wear hard hats.		
PREVENTATIVE MEASURES Used secured ladders. Check ladders before use for damage and good positioning/footing. Keep participants 2 x length of boughs away. Use hand tools. Hazard warning signs to be used. Inspect tree thoroughly before working on it, removing/securing branches etc as necessary. Stop work if weather becomes severe.		
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT Hard hats, sturdy footwear with steel toe-caps if heavy materials are handled.		
TRAINING Untrained and inexperienced people should not attempt pollarding. All workers performing pollarding should have attended a course on advanced tree felling.		
MONITORING Always have someone watching for dangers who is able to halt work and head off passers-by.		
INFORMATION		