

TREE WORK FROM MEWPS

ACTIVITY RAMS — ADAPT TO SITE BEFORE USE

Pruning and dismantling from a mobile elevating work platform instead of the rope

KD-RAMS-AB-003 Rev A0

Statutory basis: HSWA 1974 s.2(2)(a) and MHSWR 1999 regs 3 and 5 — this document is the recorded safe system of work. PUWER 1998 governs the chainsaws, chippers and stump grinders: reg 4 suitability, reg 5 maintenance, regs 8 and 9 information and training — chainsaw operators hold current certificates of competence for the operations they carry out, and a chainsaw is never operated by, or within reach of, anyone untrained. The Work at Height Regulations 2005 govern climbing operations and LOLER 1998 the climbing and rigging equipment, thoroughly examined at the statutory intervals and inspected before each use. Noise and vibration are assessed under the Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 and the Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005 — tree gangs run chronic doses of both — and the Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 govern the timber the trade moves by hand. Felling and works to protected trees observe TPO and conservation-area consents as a condition of the work. Prepared against legislation current at 10/08/2026.

1 DOCUMENT AND PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

RAMS REFERENCE	PROJECT / SITE REF	SITE NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE PREPARED	NEXT REVIEW DATE
CLIENT / PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR	PLANNED START	DURATION	OPERATIVES	SUPERVISING THE WORK

2 SCOPE OF WORKS

Tree pruning and sectional dismantling carried out from MEWPs — machine selection and siting, working the saw from the basket, and the interface between the machine, the tree and the ground below.

This document does not cover: MEWP operations themselves beyond the tree-work interface (KD-RAMS-HA series covers specialist access), and any position where the machine cannot stand off the drop zone.

SITE-SPECIFIC SCOPE, LOCATIONS AND LIMITATIONS

3 RISK ASSESSMENT — SCORE EACH RISK FOR THIS SITE, THEN ADD WHAT IS MISSING

The hazards and controls below are the starting point for this activity, written by a working main contractor. They are not complete for your site until a competent person has scored each risk, added the site-specific hazards, and struck out anything that does not apply. Rate risks High / Medium / Low before and after controls.

1. Chainsaw contact — the cut that does not stop at clothing

At risk: Operators, anyone in reach

Controls: Operators hold current chainsaw competence certificates for the operation in hand; full chainsaw PPE — protective trousers, boots, gloves, helmet with visor and ear defence; two-handed grip, chain brake used, no cutting above shoulder height from the ground; a proven safe distance — at least two tree lengths for felling, two metres of exclusion around any running ground saw; saws maintained sharp with the chain tension and brake checked daily; every operator carries a large-wound (trauma) dressing on the person; a forestry (+F) trained first aider in the gang whenever saws run, with the emergency evacuation plan — including a location fix for remote sites — agreed before the first cut.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

2. Falling and swinging timber — the branch, the hinge that fails, the barber-chair

At risk: Operators, groundworkers, public

Controls: A felling plan per tree — species, lean, decay, wind and escape routes assessed before the first cut; drop and exclusion zones enforced at two tree lengths with a banksman where sightlines fail; hung-up trees never left, never climbed, and brought down by winch or machine — not by cutting the supporting stem blind; no one works beneath a climber.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

3. The public, occupiers and traffic around tree work

At risk: Public, road users

Controls: Work areas closed with barriers and signage before the saws start; banksmen on footpaths and accesses that cannot be closed; highway works only under the traffic management the permission requires; arisings never left across paths or sightlines at breaks.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

4. Noise from cutting, fixing and plant

At risk: Operatives, others in the area

Controls: Select quieter methods and tools where practicable; hearing protection in designated zones and for noisy operations; agree noisy-works windows with the occupier in occupied buildings.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

5. The basket, the tree and the falling piece in one airspace

At risk: Operators in the basket, groundworkers

Controls: The machine sited so cut pieces cannot strike the basket, the boom or the outriggers — pieces rigged away or dropped clear on the far side; no cutting of anything the basket is under; harnesses and short restraint lanyards worn in the basket; the basket never used as a rigging anchor.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

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6. Ground failure under outriggers near root plates and soft verges

At risk: Operators, public

Controls: Standing positions assessed and rigged on spreader pads; verges, root zones and made ground treated as suspect; the machine re-levelled and checks repeated at every reposition.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

Site-specific hazards not listed above — every site has at least one:

HAZARD	WHO IS AT RISK	CONTROLS	INITIAL HI...	RESIDUAL...	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

4 METHOD — SEQUENCE OF WORK

- 01 Machine selected for reach and terrain; standing positions planned against the drop zones before arrival.
- 02 Exclusion established below the work and the slew; banksman where the public cannot be fenced out.
- 03 Basket positioned to cut with the piece falling or rigged AWAY from the machine; cuts sized to what the drop zone can take.
- 04 Arisings cleared progressively so the machine never stands among its own trip hazards.
- 05 Repositioning as a fresh set-up each time — pads, level, exclusion — not a roll along the verge.

SITE-SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS TO THE SEQUENCE

5 PLANT, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

- MEWP with in-date thorough examination
- Top-handled chainsaw for basket use — certificated operators
- Spreader pads, barriers, signage
- INSPECTION / THOROUGH EXAMINATION REFS
- COSHH ASSESSMENT REFS

6 PPE — THE LAST LINE OF CONTROL, NOT THE FIRST

- Head protection
- Gloves — task-rated
- Basket harnesses with restraint lanyards
- Safety footwear
- Eye protection
- High visibility
- Hearing protection

RPE TYPE, FACE-FIT STATUS, AND ANY OTHER PPE REQUIRED

7 PERMITS REQUIRED BEFORE THIS WORK STARTS

A permit authorises this work in that place, on that day. It extends the safe system of work in this document — it does not replace it (HSE HSG250). The site issues the permit; record its number before work starts.

KD-PTW-WH-006 — Work at Height Permit

Where the site operates one for MEWP works

PERMIT NUMBER

8 EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS — COMPLETE FOR THIS SITE

FIRST AIDER AND LOCATION	NEAREST A&E	ASSEMBLY POINT
HOW THE ALARM IS RAISED	EMERGENCY ACCESS FOR THIS WORK AREA	SPILL / ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE

9 BRIEFING RECORD — EVERYONE WORKING UNDER THIS RAMS SIGNS BEFORE STARTING

By signing you confirm the contents of this RAMS have been explained to you, you understand the hazards and controls, and you will work to the sequence stated. Tell the supervisor if the work or the site does not match this document — work stops until it does.

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NAME	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE

10 PREPARED AND ACCEPTED

Prepared / adapted for this site by — I confirm I have adapted this document to the site, scored the risks, and that it describes how the work will actually be done.

PRINTED NAME	ROLE / COMPETENCE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME

Accepted for the site by — principal contractor or site manager review.

PRINTED NAME	ROLE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME

Review this RAMS if the work, the site or the law changes, and at least before each new phase of the works. Flatten the completed PDF before filing so the record cannot be silently edited.

R REVISION HISTORY

Every revision of this document, and every review that found nothing to change. The revision on the front of this sheet is the one you are holding — check kubitdocs.com for the current one before use.

Rev	Date	Class	What changed	Authorised by
D0	2026-08-31	first-issue	First issue.	— not yet approved —
D1	2026-08-31	material	Actions the internal H&S director review. Chainsaw controls gain the personal trauma dressing, the forestry (+F) first aider and the evacuation plan; lone felling prohibited with a minimum crew of two; AB-002 exclusions restated.	— not yet approved —
A0	2026-08-31	review	Approved for issue by the author. Content unchanged from the reviewed draft; the draft status strip is removed. No independent third-party review has been carried out.	Author — director, UK principal contractor, SMSTS. Not an independent review.

Class: first-issue · material (the law, a control, a field or the scope changed — past buyers are notified) · editorial (wording or layout only) · review (checked, nothing changed) · withdrawal. Revision prefix D = draft, not approved and not for sale; A = approved for issue by the person named, on the date shown.