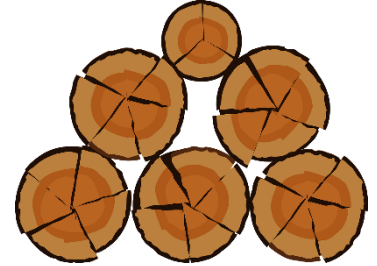


What?

- **Coppicing is a traditional method of woodland management where young tree stems are repeatedly cut down to near ground level, resulting in a stool. New growth emerges, and after a number of years, the coppiced tree is harvested, and the cycle begins anew.**
- **Pollarding is a similar process carried out at a higher level on the tree, resulting in a dense head of branches and/or regrowth.**
- **Tree felling is the process of cutting down individual trees.**



Why?

- Coppicing increases the biodiversity of a woodland as it allows more light to reach the ground, increasing flora, butterflies and other insects, in turn, providing food for birds, mammals and bats.
- Tree felling can also be an essential part of woodland ecology and management. Trees may also need to be felled if they are leaning over a footpath or are diseased.
- It is important to use the correct method for felling a tree. For small trees, a single 'fell' cut is sufficient, but for medium and large trees i.e. diameter of 4 inches and above, a 'bird's mouth' or 'sink' cut is essential. These are always done perpendicular to the direction of felling. The fell cut comes behind the bird's mouth, parallel to the ground to about an inch above the bottom of the cut. This creates a hinge which gives you more control over the direction in which the tree falls.

Do ✓

- ✓ Check for dangers & nesting birds
- ✓ Always wear gloves on the non-tool hand when using a bow saw
- ✓ Work in teams when felling trees
- ✓ Wear a hard hat
- ✓ Remind people to stay at least two tree lengths clear of falling trees
- ✓ Use signage to warn members of the public that work is being carried out
- ✓ Assess the reason for a tree falling in the wrong direction and discuss with the individual responsible. Do not permit them to cut down any more trees until they can demonstrate they can work safely
- ✓ Clean and put tools away safely afterwards

Don't ✗

- ✗ Don't forget to take regular breaks
- ✗ Don't use loppers for anything bigger than 1 inch or thumb size
- ✗ Don't lose sight of who is in your team; be aware of what everyone is doing, where they are standing and what equipment they are using



Document Name	<i>TBT Coppicing & Tree Felling</i>	Document No.	<i>OC/HS/TBT 46</i>
Document Owner	<i>David Shaftoe</i>	Date of Issue	<i>07.06.20</i>
Related TBTs	<i>Bowsaws & Pole Saws; Loppers & Shears; Manual Handling; Nesting Birds; Slashers & Billhooks</i>	Version No.	<i>1</i>