

# LANTw26 - SQA Unit Code H2SP 04

## Use a pole mounted pruner



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### Overview

This describes the standard for the pruning of trees using pole mounted, long reach pruning equipment, which may include: extendable pruning saws, powered pole pruners, loppers

The trees will be cut by removing branches using cuts that are finished to the current standard for pruning in treework

This unit is not about using hedge trimmers

Your work must conform to all current legislation and codes of practice

This standard is for those people who use powered pole pruners

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### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

- P1 assess the risks associated with the site and the proposed works
- P2 select and implement appropriate working method in accordance with the assessed risks
- P3 establish a safe working area including safe work position for removal of branches
- P4 prepare the site by removing obstacles in the pruning area including climbing vegetation, as appropriate
- P5 select pruning methods which are relevant to the given specification, branch sizes and condition
- P6 reduce and remove branches using appropriate cuts and in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines
- P7 deal appropriately with arisings
- P8 maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times in accordance with current relevant legislation

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### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 how to identify hazards and assess risks
- K2 how to interpret risk assessments
- K3 emergency planning and procedures relevant to the site
- K4 how to identify which trees need to be pruned and the pruning method to be used
- K5 how to select the appropriate equipment for the work required
- K6 the recognition of 'tension' and 'compression' in the branches and the ways to remove a saw that becomes trapped in a cut
- K7 the methods of reducing and pruning heavy and/or long branches
- K8 the implications of different tree species, their condition and the time of year when planning to perform pruning operations and how this will affect the work
- K9 your responsibilities under current health and safety and environmental legislation

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### Glossary

#### Pruning methods:

- 1 'target pruning' is the cutting back to a branch or trunk, normally using a three-cut process. All cuts should be made just outside the line of the branch bark ridge and/or branch collar of the retained branch or the trunk
- 2 formative pruning is the removal of e.g. unwanted secondary leading shoots and potentially weak forks that could fail in adverse weather conditions such as strong wind or snow
- 3 crown thinning involves the removal of a proportion of secondary and small, live branch growth from throughout the crown to produce an even density of foliage around a well spaced and balanced branch structure
- 4 pollarding is the removal of all the branches from a tree
- 5 crown reduction is the cutting back to a side bud or branch to retain a flowing branch line without leaving, in particular, 'inter-nodal' stumps
- 6 crown reshaping is a combination of formative pruning and crown reduction
- 7 crown lifting involves the removal of the lower branches from a tree to a given height above ground level, either by the removal of whole branches or only those parts which extend below the desired clear height
- 8 basal growth results from pruning of many species, even when carried out to standard, where very rapid growth of multiple new shoots can result, especially when exposed to full light

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**Developed by** Lantra

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**Relevant occupations** Arboriculture and forestry; gardener; park ranger

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**Suite** Treework; Horticulture

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