



Risk assessment and method statement

Landscaping and fencing RAMS

Fencing, hard and soft landscaping. Pre-filled with typical hazards, controls and sequence: edit it for this site.

PROJECT

SITE ADDRESS			
ACTIVITY		RAMS REFERENCE	
Fencing, hard and soft landscaping			
CONTRACTOR CARRYING OUT THE WORK		PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR	
PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	REVISION	DATE

Revision record

Reissue and rebrief when the sequence, the programme, the team or the conditions change. If you would have written it differently had you known, it needs a new revision.

REV	DATE	WHAT CHANGED	BY

THE WORK

The activity, the place and the people

Pre-filled for this kind of work. Make every line specific to this site: this sequence, this access, these people, this weather.

Scope of the activity

What is being done, and what is not included.

MHSWR REGULATION 3(1)

Installation of [fence type] fencing along the line shown on [drawing ref], including posts, rails, panels and gates. Hard landscaping: [paving / kerbs / edgings] to [area]. Soft landscaping and maintenance: [turf / planting / mowing / hedge cutting]. Herbicide treatment: [yes / no]. Not included: [list any exclusions].

Location and access

Where on site, how people and materials get there, and the restrictions.

Site access via [gate]. Materials delivered to [area] and stacked close to the work. Plant route [route], kept apart from pedestrian routes by barriers. Public footpath or road on [boundary] kept open or diverted. Working hours [08:00 to 17:00].

Programme and interfaces

When the work runs, and who else is working nearby.

CDM REGULATION 15(2)

START DATEDURATIONWORKING HOURS

INTERFACES WITH OTHER TRADES

Other trades near the fence line or landscaping area: [trades], kept outside the work area. Service owners: [names], for plans and any work near their assets. Client or site contact for gates, keys and occupied areas: [name].

Documents this RAMS relies on

Drawings and fence specification [refs]. Service plans from each owner [refs]. Permit to dig where required. COSHH assessments and product labels for herbicides, cement and fuel. Traffic management plan [ref]. Construction phase plan.

The team, and their competence

CDM REGULATION 8

ROLE	NAME	CARD, TICKET OR TRAINING NEEDED	CONTACT
Operatives		Trained on each machine they use, including mowers, trimmers, augers and post drivers.	
Cut-off saw users		Trained on the saw and in selecting and fitting discs.	
Pesticide users		A specified certificate for the method of application, or under direct supervision while training.	
Plant operators		CPCS or NPORS card, or equivalent training, for dumpers, excavators and telehandlers on site.	
Locator operator		Trained in the cable locator and signal generator and their limits.	
Supervisor		Experienced in the work, on site or in regular contact throughout.	

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METHOD STATEMENT

The sequence of work

The order the team will work in on the day, with the controls built into each stage. If the sequence changes on site, revise the RAMS and brief it again.

STAGE	WHAT IS DONE, AND HOW	CONTROLS AT THIS STAGE	BY
Before the day	Survey the site, confirm the drawings and fence line, and obtain service plans. Note overhead lines, slopes, water, public routes and any work on the highway. Book plant and deliveries.	Service plans in date; COSHH assessments for each product; RAMS approved by the principal contractor or client.	Contracts manager
Arrival and briefing	Sign in, attend the site induction, then brief the team on this RAMS, the services found, the exclusion zones and the first aid arrangements. Check plant and tools.	Briefing signed against this revision; cards and pesticide certificates checked; pre-use checks recorded.	Supervisor
Set up the work area	Barrier and sign the work area, agree delivery and plant routes, and set up the cutting area with water for suppression.	Public routes kept open or diverted; banksman for vehicle movements; goal posts under any overhead line.	Supervisor
Locate and mark services	Scan the fence line and dig areas with the cable locator and signal generator, mark the services found, and dig trial holes by hand where the line crosses them.	Permit to dig where the site requires one; marks in paint or wooden pegs, no steel pins.	Locator operator
Clear and set out	Walk the area for stones, glass and wire, clear vegetation, and set out the fence line or landscaping levels with string lines and pegs.	Brushcutter and strimmer zones kept clear of others; visors worn.	Operatives
Posts and fence line	Dig, auger or drive the posts, set them in concrete or postcrete where specified, then fit rails, panels, mesh or boards and any gates.	No post over a marked service; nobody steadies a post under the rammer; holes filled or covered the same day.	Fencers
Hard landscaping	Excavate and prepare the sub-base, compact it, then lay slabs, blocks, kerbs and edgings, cutting units as needed.	Water suppression and RPE for cutting; lifters for heavy units; vibration exposure planned for compaction.	Operatives
Soft landscaping and mowing	Spread topsoil, lay turf, plant, and carry out mowing, strimming and hedge cutting to the specification.	Slopes within mower limits; blades stopped and key out before clearing blockages; eye and hearing protection.	Operatives
Herbicide treatment	Where in scope, mix and apply herbicide to the label, then record the product, rate, area and weather.	Certificated operator or supervised trainee; label PPE; no drift; public kept off treated areas.	Pesticide operator
Clear the site	Remove arisings, offcuts and packaging, wash down tools, take down barriers and walk the finished work with the client.	Washings kept out of drains; containers and waste removed; area handed back before the team leaves.	Supervisor

CDM REGULATION 15(2): PLAN, MANAGE AND MONITOR THE WORK

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RISK ASSESSMENT

Hazards, controls and the risk that remains

Each significant hazard rated before and after its controls, as likelihood times severity. The ratings are typical: check them for this site.

	LIKELIHOOD		SEVERITY		
	1	2	3	4	5
5	5	10	15	20	25
4	4	8	12	16	20
3	3	6	9	12	15
2	2	4	6	8	10
1	1	2	3	4	5
	1	2	3	4	5

1 to 4 low 5 to 12 medium 15 to 25 high

HAZARD	WHO COULD BE HARMED, AND HOW	RISK BEFORE	CONTROLS	RISK AFTER	BY
Striking buried services with posts	Fencers digging, augering or driving posts, and anyone nearby, from shock, burns, gas escape or flooding.	4 x 5 = 20 High	- Service plans checked, the fence line scanned with a cable locator and signal generator, and services marked before any post goes in. - Trial holes dug by hand to confirm position and depth where the line crosses or runs near a service. - No post driven, augered or pinned over a marked line; marks in paint or wooden pegs, never steel pins.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	Supervisor
Overhead power lines	Operators of post drivers, augers, tippers and telehandlers, and anyone carrying long rails or poles.	2 x 5 = 10 Med	- Lines identified at the survey; work within 10 metres, measured at ground level from below the nearest wire, planned first and the line owner consulted, as HSE GS6 advises. - Where lines stay live, ground barriers at least 6 metres either side keep plant away, with goal posts at any crossing. - Long rails, posts and poles carried horizontally and close to the ground near lines.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	
Machine-mounted post drivers	The operator and the person setting the post, from crushing, flying splinters and the post kicking out.	3 x 4 = 12 Med	- Operated only by someone trained on that driver, with guards and controls checked before use. - Post set in a pilot hole or held in the driver's post holder; nobody steadies a post by hand under the rammer. - Everyone else kept clear of the driver while it works; eye and hearing protection worn.	1 x 4 = 4 Low	Operator
Powered augers: torque and entanglement	Operators of hand-held and machine-mounted augers when the bit jams on roots or stone.	3 x 3 = 9 Med	- Two-person or frame-mounted augers for larger holes, with a torque reaction bar where the auger has one. - Close-fitting clothing, no loose cuffs or cords; engine stopped before freeing a jammed bit. - Ground checked for roots, stone and services before boring.	2 x 3 = 6 Med	
Hand-arm vibration	Operatives using hand-held post drivers, breakers, strimmers, hedge trimmers and plate compactors.	4 x 3 = 12 Med	- Machine-mounted drivers or lower vibration tools chosen where practicable, and tools maintained to the manufacturer's schedule. - Trigger time planned per tool and per person against the exposure action value of 2.5 m/s² A(8). - Health surveillance where the assessment shows a risk; tingling or numbness reported at once.	2 x 3 = 6 Med	
Noise from saws, drivers and mowers	Operatives using cut-off saws, post drivers, mowers, strimmers and blowers, and people working beside them.	4 x 3 = 12 Med	- Quieter equipment and methods chosen where practicable, and exhausts and silencers kept in good order. - Hearing protection worn at or above 85 dB(A), the upper exposure action value, and available on request from 80 dB(A). - Others kept back from noisy work where they can be.	2 x 3 = 6 Med	
Cut-off saws: contact and kickback	Operatives cutting slabs, blocks, kerbs and setts, and anyone close to the cut.	3 x 5 = 15 High	- Operated only by people trained on the saw and in fitting discs; disc rated for the saw speed and the material. - Guard set correctly, both hands on the saw, no cutting above shoulder height, and the work held firm on a stand or block. - Saw stopped before being put down; others kept clear of the cutting line.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	
Silica dust from cutting paving	Operatives cutting concrete or stone slabs, blocks, kerbs and setts, and people working nearby.	4 x 4 = 16 High	- Cuts reduced at the layout stage, a block splitter used where it will do, or units cut off site. - Water suppression on every cut-off saw cut, with the water supply checked before starting. - RPE with an assigned protection factor of 20, such as an FFP3 mask, face fit tested and worn with water suppression.	2 x 4 = 8 Med	

MHSWR REGULATION 3(6): WITH FIVE OR MORE EMPLOYEES, RECORD THE SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS

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RISK ASSESSMENT, CONTINUED

More hazards, and those specific to this site

HAZARD	WHO COULD BE HARMED, AND HOW	RISK BEFORE	CONTROLS	RISK AFTER	BY
Manual handling of slabs, kerbs and posts	Operatives moving paving slabs, kerbs, posts, panels, rolls of turf and bags of aggregate.	4 x 3 = 12 Med	- Slab and kerb lifters, vacuum lifters or plant used for heavy units rather than lifting by hand. - Deliveries placed close to where they are laid, so carrying distances stay short. - Heavy posts and panels handled by two people; knee pads for laying work.	2 x 3 = 6 Med	
Ride-on mowers overturning	Ride-on mower operators on slopes, banks and the edges of ditches, ponds and retaining walls.	3 x 5 = 15 High	- Slopes assessed before mowing and kept within the manufacturer's limits; steeper banks cut by pedestrian or remote mower. - Roll-over protection kept up and the seat belt worn where the mower has them. - Edges of drops and water marked or cut by hand from a safe distance.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	
Mower blades and blockages	Operators clearing grass from decks and chutes, and people near the mower.	3 x 4 = 12 Med	- Blades stopped, engine off and key removed before clearing a blockage or reaching under the deck. - Guards and collection boxes kept in place; no mowing with a damaged guard.	1 x 4 = 4 Low	
Thrown stones from trimmers and mowers	Operators, colleagues and the public near trimmers, brushcutters and mowers.	3 x 3 = 9 Med	- Area walked first and stones, glass and wire removed. - Visor or eye protection worn, guards fitted, and cutting stopped when anyone comes close. - Work near roads, windows and parked cars planned so debris is thrown away from them.	2 x 3 = 6 Med	
Herbicides and pesticides	Operators mixing and spraying, the public, pets and nearby watercourses.	3 x 4 = 12 Med	- COSHH assessment and the label read before use; only professional products the operator is certificated for, or used under direct supervision while training. - Label PPE worn; mixing and filling away from drains and water, with a spill kit. - Use kept as low as reasonably practicable in public areas, school grounds and parks; no spraying in wind that causes drift.	1 x 4 = 4 Low	Pesticide operator
Wet cement and postcrete	Operatives setting posts and laying bedding mortar and concrete.	3 x 3 = 9 Med	- Waterproof gloves suitable for alkalis, and cement washed off the skin straight away. - Eye protection when mixing or pouring dry mix; eyewash in the van.	1 x 3 = 3 Low	
Petrol, fuelling and fire	Operators refuelling mowers, saws, augers and drivers, and anyone near the fuel store.	2 x 4 = 8 Med	- Fuel kept in approved, labelled containers, away from ignition sources and secured in the van. - Refuelling with the engine stopped and cool, on open ground, with spills wiped up before starting.	1 x 4 = 4 Low	
Plant, vehicles and the public	Operatives, other trades, the public and road users near plant, deliveries and work on the highway edge.	3 x 5 = 15 High	- Work area barriered and signed, with pedestrian routes kept open or diverted. - Banksman for reversing and for plant near people; dumpers with roll-over protection and seat belts worn. - Work on or beside a road set out under a traffic management plan agreed with the highway authority.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	
Open post holes, slopes and uneven ground	Operatives, other trades and the public walking near the fence line or the landscaping area.	3 x 3 = 9 Med	- Post holes filled the same day or covered and marked; nothing left open at the end of the shift. - Tools, offcuts and materials kept off walkways; steep or wet ground walked before plant goes on it.	1 x 3 = 3 Low	
Needles, ticks and rat urine	Operatives clearing litter, scrub and long grass in parks, verges and ground near water.	3 x 3 = 9 Med	- Area walked first; needles picked up only with a litter picker into a sharps box, never by hand. - Gloves worn, cuts covered, and hands washed before eating, drinking or smoking, especially near water or rats. - Long sleeves and trousers in long grass and scrub, with a check for ticks after work.	1 x 3 = 3 Low	

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EQUIPMENT

Plant, equipment and PPE

Plant and equipment

Each item, the checks and certificates it needs, and who may operate it.

PUWER 1998, LOLER 1998

ITEM	CHECKS AND CERTIFICATES	OPERATOR COMPETENCE
Post driver, hand-held or mounted	Pre-use check; guards and controls working; vibration data known.	Trained operator
Powered auger	Pre-use check; bit secure; torque bar fitted where provided.	Trained operator
Cut-off saw	Disc rated and undamaged; guard set; water supply working.	Trained in the saw
Ride-on and pedestrian mowers	Daily check; guards, blade brake and seat switch working.	Trained operator
Strimmers, brushcutters, hedge trimmers	Guards fitted; line or blade sound; harness adjusted.	Trained operator
Knapsack or pedestrian sprayer	Checked for leaks; nozzles and calibration suit the label.	Certificated operator
Cable locator and signal generator	Calibration or self-test in date; checked before use.	Trained operator

Personal protective equipment

PPE is the last line of defence, after the controls above. Specify the type, not just the item.

PPE AT WORK REGULATIONS 1992

ITEM	NEEDED	TYPE AND SPECIFICATION
Safety helmet	☐	
Safety footwear	☒	Toe protection, grip sole, for wet ground
High-visibility clothing	☒	Near plant, vehicles and the highway
Gloves	☒	Grip; waterproof for cement; label gloves
Eye protection	☒	Strimming, cutting, driving posts, mixing
Hearing protection	☒	Saws, drivers, mowers, strimmers
Respiratory protection Type, and face-fit tested	☒	FFP3, face fit tested, for cutting
Harness or restraint Anchor points identified	☐	

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CONTROLS

Substances, permits, emergencies and the environment

Hazardous substances

Each substance and its COSHH assessment.

COSHH 2002, REGULATION 6

SUBSTANCE	COSHH ASSESSMENT REFERENCE	CONTROLS
Herbicides	[product and ref]	Certificated operator; label PPE; no drift; away from drains and water.
Wet cement and postcrete	[ref]	Alkali-resistant gloves and eye protection; wash skin straight away.
Silica dust from cutting	[ref]	Fewer cuts; water suppression; FFP3 RPE, face fit tested.
Petrol and two-stroke fuel	[ref]	Approved containers; refuel with engine off and cool; no ignition sources.

Permits and plans

PERMIT OR PLAN	NEEDED	REFERENCE
Hot work permit	☐	
Permit to work	☒	
Permit to dig or break ground	☒	
Confined space entry	☐	
Lift plan	☐	
Temporary works design	☐	

Emergency and rescue

First aid, fire, and how someone is rescued.
The rescue plan belongs in the RAMS, not after it.

First aider and first aid kit on site or in the van, with eyewash for cement and chemicals and the nearest accident and emergency department named on the briefing. For a service strike: stop, move everyone clear, call the service owner and the emergency services, and do not touch damaged cables or pipes.

Environment and neighbours

Dust, noise, vibration, waste, spills and hours of work.

Slurry from wet cutting and cement washings kept out of drains and watercourses. Herbicide mixed and applied away from water, with a spill kit. Green waste, offcuts and packaging removed from site. Nesting birds checked before hedge or shrub clearance.

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Briefed before the work starts

BRIEFED BY	REVISION BRIEFED	DATE AND TIME

[illegible]

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