

Enhancing Biodiversity and Sustainable Forestry: Countreside Forestry Clearance and Thinning Case Study

Abstract:

This case study outlines the successful execution of forestry clearance and thinning works carried out by Countreside, on behalf of long-term client FH Farms Ltd. The project aimed to remove diseased trees, specifically targeting red band needle blight in Scots Pine trees, while promoting biodiversity and natural regrowth. The scope of work included clearing diseased trees, chipping entire softwood trees for biomass wood chips, and felling, stacking, and removing hard woods for logs. The project highlighted Countreside's commitment to environmental concerns, recycling, and sustainable forestry practices. The team of three men, equipped with forestry-spec'd excavators, a whole tree chipper, and a tractor and timber trailer, completed the works within a span of three weeks.

Introduction:

Countreside, a well-established tree surgery and hire company, was contracted by FH Farms Ltd to undertake forestry clearance and thinning works. The primary objectives were to address the spread of red band needle blight in Scots Pine trees and promote biodiversity through selective felling and replanting. Additionally, the project emphasised the responsible use of wood resources, focusing on recycling and sustainable practices.

Project Planning and Preparations:

Before commencing the works, Countreside conducted a comprehensive assessment of the forestry area. The team identified diseased trees and areas suitable for thinning to enhance biodiversity. Environmental concerns and adherence to sustainability principles were paramount in the planning process. A detailed method statement was prepared, outlining the procedures for removing diseased trees, chipping softwood trees, and processing hard woods for logs.

Forestry Clearance, Thinning Techniques and Equipment Used:

- a. **Diseased Tree Clearance:** The team identified and removed trees affected by red band needle blight in Scots Pine trees. The focus was on preventing further disease spread and preserving the health of the forest.
- b. **Whole Tree Chipping:** Softwood trees cleared during the thinning process were chipped entirely using a whole tree chipper. The G30 biomass wood chips produced were repurposed for eco-friendly applications like biomass energy.
- c. **Hardwood Processing:** Hardwood trees felled during the thinning works were stacked and prepared for removal. The logs were destined for further processing as a sustainable and valuable wood resource.

Environmental Concerns and Recycling:

Countreeside placed a strong emphasis on environmental responsibility and recycling. The use of whole tree chippers to process softwood trees into biomass wood chips contributed to reducing waste and optimising resources. Additionally, the selective felling and replanting approach aimed to preserve biodiversity and ensure the long-term health of the forest ecosystem.

Equipment Utilized:

Countreeside utilised forestry-spec'd excavators equipped with tree shears and grabs for efficient tree felling and removal. The whole tree chipper facilitated the chipping of softwood trees, and a tractor timber trailer was employed to transport the logs for further processing.

Results and Impact:

The forestry clearance and thinning works conducted by Countreeside had a positive impact on the forest ecosystem. The removal of diseased trees mitigated the spread of red band needle blight, safeguarding the health of the remaining trees. The thinning process promoted biodiversity, creating opportunities for natural regrowth and a thriving ecosystem.

The sustainable practices employed during the project, such as recycling softwood into biomass wood chips and utilising hardwood logs for various purposes, showcased Countreeside's commitment to environmental stewardship.

Conclusion:

Countreeside demonstrated their expertise in conducting forestry clearance and thinning works for FH Farms Ltd. The successful completion of the project within three weeks, coupled with their focus on environmental concerns, recycling, and sustainable forestry practices, exemplified their dedication to promoting a healthy and thriving forest ecosystem. The collaboration between Countreeside and FH Farms Ltd set a commendable example for responsible forestry management and environmental conservation.











