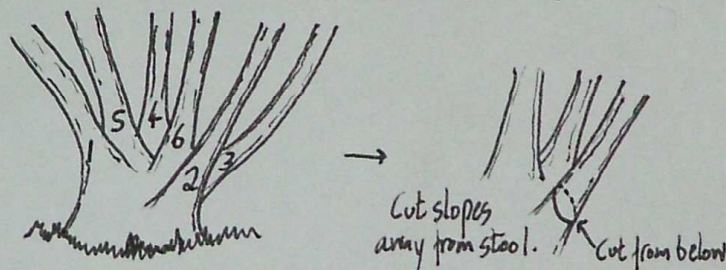


# Coppicing & Pollarding

A few simple rules to bear in mind when coppicing.

1. Examine area to be coppiced; how big is it? How long will it take? Are there any potential STANDARDS?
2. Examine individual coppice before starting cutting. Beware of stones, old fencing wire, glass in soil.
3. Cut away any extraneous vegetation from around coppice STOOL, and remove any whippy growth.
4. Remove stems one by one. Start from the outside of the stool, and work inwards, in roughly a spiral pattern.

Eg:



5. Cut each stem upward towards the centre, to promote runoff of rainwater and prevent rot. It often helps to have an assistant who pushes the stem back whilst cutting, to open the cut and prevent saw jam and splitting.
6. Cut stems as low as possible. Where this is not possible, cut high initially, then cut again lower, once weight is removed. Normally a coppice stool is cut to around 10cm from the ground. In some coppice woods, ash and elm are cut to 30-90cm above the ground.
7. Use treefelling techniques for stems over 15cm thick.
8. Clean up stool after coppicing. Cut off splinters, split wood and brush off dirt and sawdust from cut surfaces. Some coppicers recommend rubbing soil on cut surfaces to protect stool from decay by using beneficial bacteria in the soil.
9. Pollarding is much the same, but 2-3metres above ground.

