

Code of Practice BRUSH

CUTTER USE Vale Path

Volunteers.docx



VALE PATH VOLUNTEERS (VPV)

PATH MAINTENANCE TEAM OF THE RAMBLERS

VALE OF WHITE HORSE GROUP

Date assessed/re-assessed	01/03/2023 20 Aug 2024
Work operation	BRUSH CUTTER (BC) IN USE
Assessor's name & designation	Patrick Rosum, VPV Coordinator

Event	Safe working practice
Before BC work commences	BC must only be used when there are at least two other volunteers present. Ensure that 'People at work' warning signs are placed at each end of the section being worked on. The integrity of the BC should be checked by the BC Operator (BCO) before use. The BCO should appoint banksmen to warn the public and alert the operator to their presence. Check for the presence of objects e.g. wire, bottles, stones, faeces and stinging insects within the vegetation to be cut. It should be initially switched on only when 15 metres or more from others (other than someone assisting with maintenance of the BC) other than another volunteer helping to start the BC.
Operating the BC	The BCO should wear a harness, safety spectacles, safety helmet with ear defenders and visor, gloves, suitable clothing, including leg guards, and steel-capped footwear. The BCO should have good balance at all times, feet firmly on the ground, and not over-reaching. The BCO must stop operating the BC when others approach within 15 metres. BCO should continue to check for the presence of objects e.g. wire, bottles, stones, faeces and stinging insects within the vegetation to be cut at the start of each section of vegetation.
Members of the public or other volunteers approaching BC operator (BCO)	Volunteers should alert one another of an approaching person. Volunteer nearest the BC operator asks a person to stop as they get near 15 metres from the BC. Volunteer attracts the attention of the BCO by raising their arms above their head, whilst keeping 15 metres from the BC. BC operator stops BC work until the person has passed to 15 metres beyond them. Notwithstanding, a BC operator should look around them every few seconds to see if a volunteer or member of the public is approaching them.
Animal e.g. horse, dog, approaches BCO	As immediately above with the addition that the BC is switched off, so as not to scare the animal.
Fuel storage	Banksman is responsible for placing a fuel container well away from the BC when it is in use – off the PRow but remaining visible.