

Code of Practice

GENERAL

path maintenance Vale Path
Volunteers.docx

VALE PATH VOLUNTEERS (VPV) PATH MAINTENANCE TEAM OF THE RAMBLERS VALE OF WHITE HORSE GROUP



Date assessed/re-assessed	1 March 2023 20 Aug 2024
Work operation	GENERAL
Assessor's name & designation	Patrick Rosum, VPV Coordinator

Event	Safe working practice
Using power tools and bow saws	Not covered by this CoP; see specific CoPs for use of brush cutter, hedge cutter and bow saw.
Before work commences	Wear a hi vis vest. When available* place 'People at work' warning signs at one or both ends of the section being worked on. *(They might be unavailable if they are being used elsewhere by those using power tools or bow saws.) Make yourself aware of where a first aid kit will be located. Normally these are located at the 'people at work sign'. Check for the presence of objects e.g., wire, bottles, stones, faeces and stinging insects within the vegetation to be cut. Wear gloves whilst doing this.
When near others using power tools or bow saw	Do not encroach within 15 metres of a hedge cutter or brush cutter in use, or within the drop zone of an overhead tree/branch being cut. Act as a banksman if asked to do so. Raise your arms in the air to attract the attention of the power tool operator if you or someone else wishes to pass. Don't approach within 15 metres of the operator until you have attracted their attention and they have taken appropriate action.
Cutting vegetation (excluding with bow saw or power tools)	Wear gloves or gauntlets suitable for the job, and safety spectacles. If the head is at risk of being scratched, wear a safety helmet. Cover your arms if you are likely to come into contact with thorns or sharp twigs. Have good balance at all times, feet firmly on the ground, and not over-reaching. 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. Keep a safe distance from other team members when using tools.

Raking, bagging vegetation and picking up litter	Wear gloves suitable for the job. If picking up vegetation with thorns or other sharp edges, wear safety spectacles.
Member of the public approaches	Alert other volunteers to the presence of a member of the public. Stop work. Clear cuttings off the PRoW to enable safe passage. Resume work only after the public have moved away a safe distance. If you are near a power tool or bow saw operator (a) ask the public to stop behind you, (b) gain the attention of the operator by raising both arms in the air. Advise the public to proceed only after the operator has ceased activity.