

Overview

This standard is about controlling vegetation in order to improve and maintain the capacity of the water channel. You must be able to control bankside, overhanging and aquatic vegetation. Where operations require the use of machinery (such as chainsaws), you must hold a relevant qualification.

You must carry out this work in a way which minimises the impact on the natural environment and enhances its nature, conservation and recreational value.

This standard is designed for employees or volunteers who are maintaining and improving the channel capacity through controlling vegetation. It applies to work carried out on rivers, coasts and waterways.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 access the site and carry out maintenance operations in accordance with instructions and specifications
- P2 prepare and use tools and equipment that are appropriate to the work safely and effectively
- P3 recognise and remove vegetation which impacts the water channel using the correct methods
- P4 remove vegetation safely and correctly leaving the remaining plants in a state which maintains and conserves the habitat
- P5 ensure that your working methods meet any statutory restrictions on operations due to the status of the site
- P6 carry out all work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements and company policies
- P7 deal with waste and excess materials safely to minimise environmental risks in accordance with legal requirements
- P8 recognise circumstances which impact on your work
- P9 recognise opportunities to enhance wildlife habitats through modifications to working procedures and report them to the appropriate person
- P10 complete records as appropriate

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 types of waste vegetation which must be disposed of in an appropriate manner
- K2 the instructions and specifications on how to carry out your work
- K3 how to safely and correctly access sites
- K4 the damage which would occur if the water channel was not maintained in accordance with instructions
- K5 how to safely and correctly use and maintain equipment and materials
- K6 types of vegetation and methods for removal
- K7 the circumstances which may impact on operations, environmental conditions, wildlife habitat, protected status of site, water flow, access and recreational use of the water environment
- K8 the appropriate action to take in response to changing circumstances (e.g. halt operations, report to appropriate person)
- K9 accidental damage or pollution which may occur during operations and the action which must be taken
- K10 procedures for reporting and recording information
- K11 relevant legislation and organisational requirements associated with controlling the water channel
- K12 how to safely dispose of organic and inorganic waste
- K13 how to implement emergency procedures
- K14 how to maintain environmental good practice during work activities
- K15 opportunities that may arise to enhance wildlife habitats and to whom these should be reported

Glossary

Vegetation: waterside, aquatic, overhanging

Impacts on the water environment: channel capacity, wildlife habitat, recreational use of the water environment

Equipment: handheld tools, handheld power tools, chipper/shredder

Methods: clearance, thinning

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Maintain and improve water channel capacity by controlling vegetation



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