

Overview

This standard covers the control and removal of vegetation. The purpose of removing such vegetation is to maintain and improve water levels and water flow.

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

You must carry out your work in a way which will minimise any impact on the natural environment and enhance its nature, conservation and recreational value.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 access the site and carry out maintenance operations in accordance with specifications
- P2 assess risks to the site and proposed work
- P3 select and use tools, equipment and attachments that are appropriate to the work safely and effectively
- P4 recognise and remove vegetation which impacts on the water environment using the correct methods
- P5 restore the site to a safe condition which is consistent with the surrounding environment, clear of unwanted materials and maintains the appropriate access
- P6 carry out all work in accordance with environmental and relevant health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements and company policies
- P7 recognise opportunities to enhance wildlife habitats through modifications to working procedures, and report this to the appropriate authority
- P8 dispose of waste and excess materials safely to minimise environmental risks in accordance with legal requirements
- P9 recognise circumstances which affect operations and take the appropriate action

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 how to select, use and maintain tools, equipment and attachments
- K2 types of vegetation and their removal methods
- K3 your responsibilities under current environmental and health and safety legislation and codes of practice
- K4 the instructions and specifications on how to carry out your work
- K5 how to interpret risk assessments
- K6 types of habitats where the control of vegetation is required
- K7 when cut vegetation should be removed and the reasons why (e.g. rotten vegetation reduces oxygen levels in fresh water)
- K8 correct methods of disposing of waste and excess material
- K9 the circumstances which may impact on operations such as environmental conditions, wildlife habitat, changing ground conditions, pollution due to maintenance, damage to services and recreational and economic use of the water environment
- K10 the appropriate action to take in response to changing circumstances (e.g. halt operations and report to the appropriate person)
- K11 relevant legislation and organisational requirements associated with controlling vegetation
- K12 correct methods of disposing of waste and excess material
- K13 methods for maintaining environmental good practice during work activities
- K14 methods for conserving habitats
- K15 opportunities which may arise to enhance wildlife habitats and to whom these should be reported

Glossary

Vegetation:

- bankside vegetation
- non-native species
- fallen trees
- vegetative debris
- aquatic vegetation
- vegetation which is subject to disposal controls

Attachments:

- winches
- flailmower
- chipper
- reinstatement equipment
- rake
- weed bucket
- front-end loader

Impacts:

- water levels
- water flow
- wildlife
- recreational and economic use of the water environment

Methods:

- clearance
- thinning

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Maintain and improve water levels and water flow by mechanically controlling vegetation



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