

BOUGHTON FEN COMMITTEE

Power Tools Safe System of Work

Activity: Use of Powered Tools

Ref: BFC-Activity-001

Revision: 4

Issued: 17th March 2017

Reviewed: 23rd January 2026

Site Location: Boughton Fen

Training:

- ☐ Safety induction/briefing

Personal Protective Equipment required:

- ☐ Safety footwear
- ☐ Hard hat
- ☐ Safety visor
- ☐ Hearing protection
- ☐ Safety trouser (Chainsaw)
- ☐ Gloves
- ☐ High visibility vest / coat
- ☐ Inclement weather protection

Primary H&S Legislation/Standards:

- ☐ The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974
- ☐ The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (as amended)
- ☐ The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998

Safety Zone and Warning Signs:

Before any powered tool work commences the working area should be cordoned off or a safety lookout to prevent access by unauthorised persons.

Warning signs or a safety lookout will be posted to inform the volunteer working party and the general public of the dangers and to keep them out of the operating zone.

Safe System of Work:

Power tools shall only be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

All operators must be competent and familiar with the use of the power tool being used. As the work on the Fen is of an agricultural nature the exclusion to Regulation 9 of the PUWER Regulations for chainsaw operatives applies.

Unless it has been otherwise discussed with the work party, the operator and safety lookout should work in isolation of the rest of the work party. This will make the BFC's task of monitoring activities easier to observe.

The BFC must clearly demarcate the boundary of the exclusion zone. They must check that there is no person other than the operator within this zone, and that everyone is aware that cutting is about to commence. They may then signal the operator to proceed.

When cutting has finished the power tool must be switched off. Only then can the operator signal that he feels that it is safe for assistants to enter the danger zone. Where other potential hazards still exist (eg unstable banks, uneven river bed, cut timber which has not yet fallen), the BFC must warn those entering the zone of these hazards.

When cutting up felled timber on the ground, as a general rule, the work party should retire at least 5 metres from the operator. This distance shall be at the discretion, and under the control, of the BFC.

Power tools must not be transported whilst the engine is running. Protective guards should be placed on the tools when not in use.

Any injury sustained whilst working should be reported to a member of the BFC and logged on the record sheet.

PPE shall be worn at all times in accordance with the relevant Risk Assessment.

Authorised Use:

Under no circumstances is the use of the powered tools to be allowed by a person who is not under the guidance of the BFC.

Only those individuals that are competent shall use powered tools.

Refuelling:

The powered tool shall be taken to a safe area and allowed to cool down.

A funnel shall be used to decant the fuel into the petrol tank of the powered tool.

Secure lids shall be replaced on the fuel storage can and the powered tool.

The powered tool shall be restarted away from the safe area.

No smoking shall be allowed in the vicinity of the safe area.

Boughton Fen Committee

17th March 2017