

Off-track – Manage vegetation (mechanised)

Scope	Includes:	Mechanised clearance of vegetation on Network Rail controlled infrastructure
	Excludes:	Hand held plant (except follow up works)

Preparation

Tools, equipment and plant items required but not limited to:

- Flail or mulching head

Work planning considerations:

- Weather precautions
- A site inspection (in daylight) before commencement of work.
- Access over 3rd party land
- Protection of public, livestock, watercourses, non target vegetation, Network Rail infrastructure and 3rd party assets
- Environmental and ecological considerations (SSSIs, conservation areas, protected habitat and species)
- Pre-notification requirements

Method

1. Trees or shrubs shall be cleared leaving as neat a stump as practicable

2. Authorised activities for this equipment;

Maintenance of non-woody vegetation

Maintenance of a hedge face

Maintenance of woody re-growth or scrub (such as hawthorn or gorse)

Removal of entire small trees and bushes

Removal of entire coppice stool re-growth

Maximum woody stem dimensions for this equipment are outlined below;

Individual Diameter	Permitted
< 50 mm	Always
50 to 150 mm	Only if within equipment design limits
> 150 mm	Never

3. Prohibited activities for this equipment;

Part removal of coppice stool growth

Part removal of any tree or bush

Pruning mature trees or bushes

Pushing over trees or bushes

Control of Japanese knotweed or giant hogweed

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4. Debris and arisings shall be directed in a controlled manner and shall be fully cleared from the ballasted area and drainage assets upon completion of operations
5. Stumps of woody stems > 50mm basal diameter shall be manually tidied by chainsaw as detailed in NR/L3/TRK/002/D12 Off-Track - Manage Vegetation (manual and motor manual). This shall (where specified) be followed within 15 minutes by manual application of a suitable herbicide and dye mix.
6. Herbicide restrictions shall be strictly adhered to.
7. Herbicides shall not be applied in wet or windy weather or when rain is forecast within 2 hours.
8. Pruning stumps > 50mm diameter shall be manually tidied by chainsaw. Herbicide is to not be reapplied
9. The risk of damage or injury to staff, the public, livestock, non-target vegetation, water resources, or neighbouring property shall be controlled.
10. Perform inspection of site to confirm the worksite and in particular the railhead is clear of debris. Take appropriate actions to rectify damage and maintain safety of line informing line manager and signaller as appropriate.

References

Supports Ellipse Standard job

- 009172 Area A - Clear Vegetation – Mechanised
- 009175 Area B - Clear Vegetation – Mechanised
- 009178 Area C - Clear Vegetation – Mechanised

If applicable refer to the following directly associated documents:

- NR/SP/TRK/001 Inspection & Maintenance of Permanent Way
- NR/CS/TRK/05200 Vegetation
- NR/SP/TRK/05200 Management of lineside vegetation
- NR/PRC/MTC/0136 maintenance of off track assets
- NR/L3/TRK/002/D12 Off-track – Manage vegetation (manual and motor manual)
- NR/GN/TRK/7001/TWI3L009 How to manage vegetation
- Risk Control Sheets:
- NR/L3/MTC/0002/TK0000 Generic Track Risks
- NR/L3/MTC/0002/TK0306 Maintain Vegetation – Mechanised – Flailing/Mowing/Mulching