

BANQUE, HEDGEROW AND TREE MANAGEMENT

Guidelines on Best Practice

The 'Visite du Branchage' inspections take place twice a year in each parish during the three weeks commencing 24th June and the three weeks commencing 1st September. The Visites are to ensure that a height of at least 12 feet (3.7 metres) is kept above all public roads and 8 feet (2.4 metres) above footpaths at all times.

DO:-

- USE YOUR SKILL TO RAISE THE FLAIL HEAD ENOUGH TO AVOID EXPOSING BARE SOIL.
- DURING THE FIRST BRANCHAGE, CUT ONLY THE SIDES OF THE BANQUE TO A MINIMUM HEIGHT OF 10 CM.
- LEAVE THE VEGETATION UN CUT ON THE TOP OF THE BANQUE, AS LONG AS IT DOES NOT OVERHANG THE ROAD.
- ON THE SECOND BRANCHAGE IN SEPTEMBER, CUT THE SIDES AND TOP OF THE BANQUE TO A MINIMUM HEIGHT OF 10 CM.
- LEAVE TUSSOCKS OF VEGETATION FOR WILDLIFE WHERE POSSIBLE.
- TRY TO REMOVE ALL CUTTINGS; DO NOT ALLOW THEM TO COVER THE BANQUE OR FALL INTO THE ROAD.
- CHECK FOR THE PRESENCE OF WILDLIFE IN THE VEGETATION, HEDGES AND TREES.
- CONTACT JSPCA IF YOU FIND AN INJURED ANIMAL (TEL: 01534 724331).
- TRY TO IDENTIFY RARE OR UNCOMMON PLANTS AND DON'T CUT THEM ON THE FIRST BRANCHAGE, BUT DO CUT ON THE SECOND BRANCHAGE.
- CUT WITH HAND TOOLS WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

DON'T:-

- CUT THE VEGETATION AROUND THE BASE OF TREES, SHRUBS OR HEDGES.
- DESTROY NESTS OR ROOSTS OR INJURE NESTING BIRDS, BATS, HEDGEHOGS OR OTHER WILDLIFE.
- CARRY OUT MAJOR HEDGE CUTTING IN THE BIRD BREEDING SEASON (1ST MARCH—31ST JULY).
- CUT SO SEVERELY THAT BARE SOIL IS EXPOSED.
- CUT LOWER THAN 10 CM.
- USE HERBICIDES FOR ROUTINE BRANCHAGE PRACTICE.
- FLAIL OR STRIM JAPANESE KNOTWEED (separate leaflet available – Search 'Japanese Knotweed' on www.gov.je)
- LEAVE CUTTINGS SCATTERED ACROSS THE BANQUE.
- CUT THE INNER MARGIN OF HEDGEROWS EVERY YEAR, AND NEVER IN THE SPRING OR SUMMER.
- CUT RARE OR ENDANGERED PLANTS.

For more information and guidance regarding branchage practice and habitat management, please contact either the Natural Environment Team at Growth, Housing & Environment: Tel 01534 441600 or The National Trust for Jersey: Tel 01534 483193. For injured wildlife please contact the JSPCA: Tel 01534 724331

A more detailed version of this document is available at <https://www.gov.je/Home/Parish/Pages/Branchage.aspx> Alternatively visit your Parish Hall or Parish website.

