

## **BANQUE, HEDGEROW AND TREE MANAGEMENT** **Guidelines on Best Practice for MACHINE OPERATORS**

The 'Visite du Branchage' inspections take place twice a year in each parish during the three weeks commencing 24<sup>th</sup> June and the three weeks commencing 1<sup>st</sup> 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 UNCUT 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, OR LEAVE THEM IN PILES ON THE BANQUE.**
- **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](http://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.**