



# Official Work Party

## Safety Instructions and Considerations

### Introduction

PSAC believe that the work to be undertaken by volunteers is important in assuring the future of our waters both rented and owned by the club, but its overriding priority is the safety and wellbeing of you and all others involved in the work. Work parties can be dangerous events if everyone is not aware of the hazards around them. You should be aware that actions you take may affect the safety of the people around you.

### What Happens on the Day?

Unless told otherwise, Work parties on the main group, Carp and Roadside ponds meet at the club hut car park, Firemans meet at the Fireman's car park and Stork at the normal parking on the verge on Manor Road and or Talbot Avenue at **8am** on Sunday, with meeting times for midweek work parties as advertised to allow for registration and instruction.

The club will have nominated a supervisor to lead the working party who may have others to assist them in specific tasks, this is especially so when the work party is large or spread out.

The supervisor and any assistants will allocate and explain the tasks to be undertaken, please listen to their instruction carefully and do not go beyond their brief unless you are given permission by the supervisor to do so. Work is varied and can include:

- Trimming and removing bank side growth. With the occasional removal of large branches and shrubs.
- Clearing swims by removing weed/reeds from the water.
- Repairing and constructing swims
- Clearing paths and Car Parks
- Repairing and installing fencing.

### Cancellation

Occasionally due to unforeseen circumstances work parties may need to be cancelled. Every effort will be made to let members know as soon as possible before the planned work party by posting on both the members only Forum, Facebook, and club website home page at [www.psac.co.uk](http://www.psac.co.uk).

### Health and Safety

Your supervisor has been appointed by PSAC to lead this work party and they will give you instructions and guidance that must be followed, here are some key points: -

- Health and safety is everyone's responsibility.
- Look after yourself and others, By the nature of the club's activities virtually all our work parties will be beside water. Water can kill – Respect it!
- No one should go into the water unless it is absolutely essential to do so and then only with authorisation and wearing appropriate equipment including a life jacket when working from a boat and in every case a second support person should be on the bank.
- **Mechanical equipment may only be used by those instructed by a competent person in its use and with full knowledge of the operation of the equipment such as strimmer's and lawn mowers etc.** Such equipment would normally be provided by PSAC, if you notice any defects in the equipment please stop using it and report your concerns to the work party supervisor.
- When sharp tools are in use, great care should be taken.

- Tasks must be planned, and all involved understand what is happening. Back injuries are all too common, lifting and carrying needs thought and care. Do not lift beyond what you feel comfortable with and do not be afraid to ask for assistance when lifting.
- Trip and slip hazards (roots branches, brambles, and wet grass etc) can be present, take care.
- The club will not normally encourage lone working however, if it becomes appropriate lone working can be allowed if the location and the work being undertaken is authorised on the day by the supervisor and there is clear communication between the volunteer and the supervisor for instance the sharing of mobile phone numbers.

### **Your own Health & safety**

When working around or near water if you have cuts or grazes these should be covered by an adequate waterproof dressing to avoid the danger of infection and in particular Weil's Disease.

When using mechanical equipment (strimmer's, hedge-trimmers, and lawnmowers etc) ensure you have the correct personal safety equipment at least goggles or visor and ear protection, ideally a helmet should also be worn.

If any mechanical equipment is being used in your vicinity, please stay well clear.

If you have any medical condition that may affect the type of work, you can do please bring it to the attention of the work party supervisor (they will treat it in confidence). Invariably there is 'lighter' work available at all work parties.

No one expects you to work beyond your capabilities, take your time, work at a pace that suits you and take any breaks that you need. However, if you can contribute it will be greatly appreciated.

### **Youngsters**

The club would not normally encourage the bringing of youngsters to work parties however, if you bring a youngster with you, you should recognise that youngsters will not normally have the knowledge or experience to recognise the hazards associated with work parties and often have no concept of the risks and dangers they pose. For that reason, if you bring a youngster you will have sole responsibility for their safety and wellbeing and ensuring that they behave responsibly.

### **What do I Bring?**

Always bring work gloves and suitable footwear though the club will provide gloves if needed.

Work can be wet and dirty; you need to wear clothes to suit these conditions. It is usually best to wear layers if you get hot you can remove a layer. Stout waterproof footwear is essential.

Bring something to drink (Non-alcoholic)

### **Equipment**

The supervisor will have arranged for much equipment to be available; but it will be helpful if you could bring any additional equipment, such as: - Bow saws, Loppers, and spades etc.

### **Materials will be provided by the Club.**

### **..... and Finally**

Volunteering for work parties is an excellent opportunity to learn about club waters, meet fellow members and play and active part in the club's future by keeping our waters in tip top condition and providing safe and enjoyable fishing for all.

Enjoy your day but make it a safe one.

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