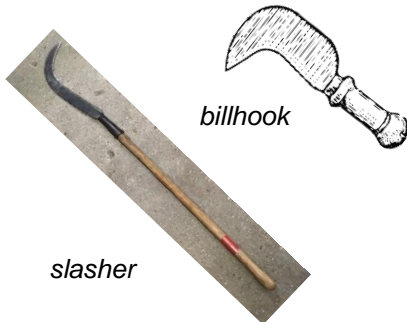


### What?



- A slasher is a cutting implement with a long handle. The open face of the blade lends it to use for clearing thin and dense low-lying bush or scrub.
- A billhook is a traditional cutting tool used for cutting smaller woody material and used in hedgelaying and coppicing. Blades are straight near the handle but have an increasingly strong curve towards the end. The blade is generally sharpened only on the inside of the curve.

### Why?

- If kept sharp and in good condition slashers and billhooks are efficient and effective tools.
- They do take some skill to use and if appropriate, inexperienced users should be encouraged to use a safer alternative such as a bowsaw for the task.



### Do ✓

- ✓ Check the site for any dangers
- ✓ Transport tools with blades protected and safely stored in the minibus to prevent movement
- ✓ When carrying a slasher, hold it in your right hand so you can see the blade and won't catch anything at the side of the path
- ✓ Learn how to sharpen the tools safely
- ✓ Ensure you have a good grip of the handle
- ✓ Aim just above the bottom of the ground when using a slasher to minimise the chance of hitting the ground and damaging or blunting the blade on soil or stone
- ✓ Keep at least two tool lengths away from the nearest person when using a slasher
- ✓ Clean tools and put away safely after use

### Don't ✗

- ✗ Don't forget to take regular breaks
- ✗ Don't leave the slasher or billhook on the ground unattended
- ✗ Don't use the tool if you feel you are forcing it - it probably needs sharpening



<b>Document Name</b>	<i>TBT Slashers &amp; Billhooks</i>	<b>Document No.</b>	<i>OC/HS/TBT 31</i>
<b>Document Owner</b>	<i>David Shaftoe</i>	<b>Date of Issue</b>	<i>07.06.20</i>
<b>Related TBTs</b>	<i>Hedgelaying; Scrub Clearing &amp; Tree Popping; Sharpening Stones</i>	<b>Version No.</b>	<i>1</i>