

### What?



- Chalk grassland, heathland, peat bogs, dune slacks, moorland and wetland margins need managing to retain their particular characteristics. This often means cutting back and removing young bushes and saplings – known as scrub clearance.
- A tree popper is a tool used for scrub clearance designed to instantly remove small trees and woody weeds by levering the plant out of the ground at the base of the stem.

### Why?

- Successful management of habitats such as heathland at Brimham Rocks means removing saplings quickly, before leaf litter enriches the soil and their shade weakens dwarf shrubs such as heather beneath. If left, the scrub will eventually turn into woodland.
- Tree poppers are heavy tools and care needs to be taken so you do not strain yourself. They should only be used by people that have been shown the correct technique.
- Scrub can be a valuable habitat for wildlife, so it should only be removed if its presence threatens a rarer habitat.

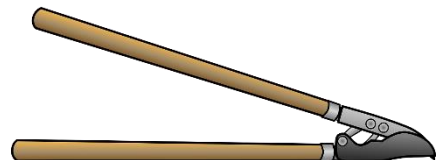


### Do ✓

- ✓ Check the site for any dangers
- ✓ Carry tree poppers with two people
- ✓ Always wear gloves on the non-tool hand when using a bow saw
- ✓ Ensure you don't overstrain your back when popping the trees
- ✓ Only use tree poppers on young trees and ideally ones which have not been cut or coppiced i.e. with large root structures
- ✓ Work in teams to clear scrub
- ✓ Wear a hard hat for cutting anything over head height
- ✓ If possible, create habitat piles with the brash
- ✓ Ensure tools are cleaned and stored away safely

### Don't ✗

- ✗ Don't forget to take regular breaks
- ✗ Don't use loppers for anything bigger than 1 inch or thumb size
- ✗ Don't lose sight of who is in your team; be aware of what everyone is doing and what equipment they are using



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