

## PGT CS30 Chainsaw Maintenance Report

### Personal Information:

Name: Yvette Bell

Current Occupation: I am currently working for Cholmondeley Castle Gardens in Cheshire. Here I complete seasonal duties including: mowing, with pedestrian and ride on mowers; weeding and edging beds; watering; tending to herbaceous and mix shrub beds; planting trees, shrubs and herbaceous; hedge trimming; clearing laurel and other unwanted trees and overgrown shrubs to clear land for regeneration; leaf loading; winter pruning and light glass house duties.



Other Information: Before embarking on a horticultural career I trained as a primary school teacher at Cumbria University. Once I had left university I became disillusioned with being able to obtain a permanent job. I was fortunate to be offered a position at Reaseheath College in their horticultural department as a learning support assistant; and through assisting others onto their career path I decided that this was my future too.

### Award Information:

Award title: CS30 Chainsaw maintenance & handling course

Cost: £390 *provided by PGT* £390

Provider: Reaseheath College, Nantwich

Commencement of training: 19.6.17 – 21.6.17

Assessment date: 23.6.17

### CS30 Course content:

The course was split into 5 sections; Health and Safety; Maintaining the saw chain; Maintaining the guide bar; Maintaining the engine and Using the chainsaw. The first 3 chapters were covered in the first day of training and recapped in the second and the final 2 chapters were covered on the second day.

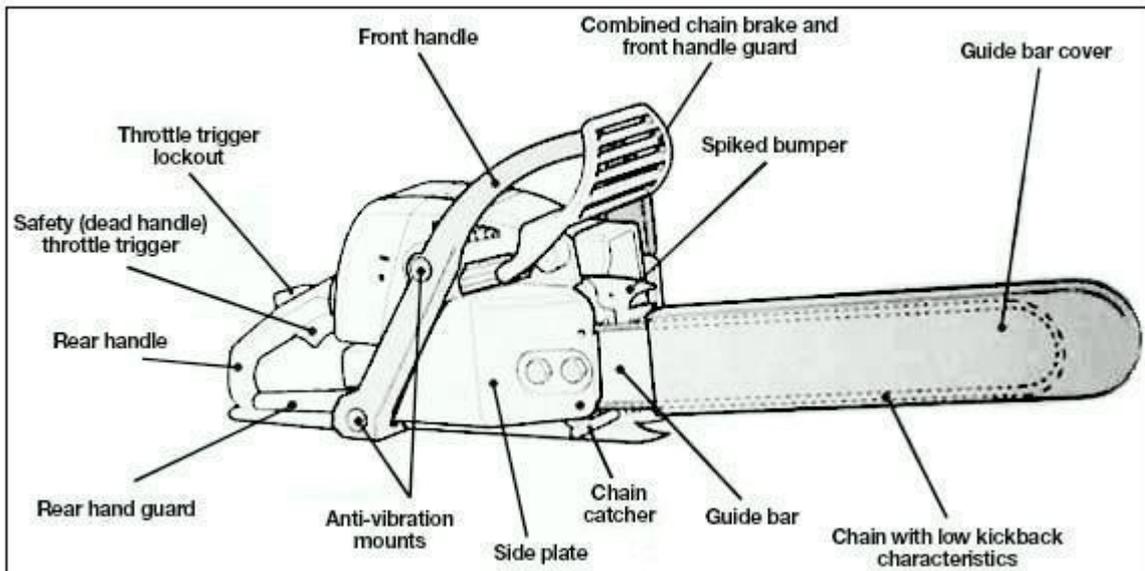
The course was further split into 12 main objectives:

1. **Identify the required PPE;**

The image to the right is myself in my PPE with the chainsaw I trained with and now use at work. Firstly, we covered the PPE law, then onto the different PPE available, how it works to protect you, CE standardization and minimum requirement. An easy section to cover.



2. **Be able to find health and safety features required on a chainsaw;**



( [http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/3132/logging\\_section\\_two.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/3132/logging_section_two.htm) ) Again an easy section learn from the booklet and recall.

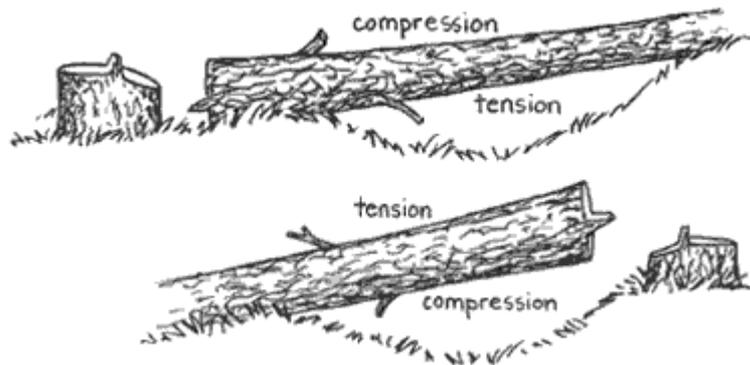
3. **Identify faults or defects on the chainsaw and conclude whether this can be self-remedied or requires expertise;** these faults include all of the above present and functioning correctly, guide bar checks such as level rails which require specialist attention and checking for burrs which can be resolved through filing. This section was more difficult as there are more technical elements that need to be remembered. For this I have kept my course handbook for future reference.
4. **Routine Maintenance according to the manufacturer;** the chainsaw handbook should be readthrough and the manufacturers guidance followed as to what maintenance should be done and how frequently. Guide bar maintenance I found easier to put into practice as the steps seem simple and easy to follow; the engine maintenance I found harder. I am not familiar with an engine and therefore parts were new to me and their purpose needed to be explained along with their maintenance. As engines are built slightly differently, such as Husqvarna having their centrifugal clutch on the casing as opposed to main body, I believe referring back to the manufacturer is best.
5. **Chainsaw preparation for use;** what oil and fuel where, is the oil moving on the chain and where to store equipment.
6. **Safe practices for hot and cold chainsaw starts;** this includes practices such as placing the saw rear handle between the knees when doing a warm start; this is the safest place for a start off of the floor as the saw is secure, safe and accessible. Procedures that are already becoming second nature to myself. (<http://www.treeservicesmagazine.com/columns/tools-techniques/proper-chain-saw-techniques/>)
7. **Carry out precutting safety checks and state the procedures should the chainsaw fail these tests;** these include practices such as checking that oil is lubricating the chain by working the machine near a clean surface to see that oil is thrown from the chain; and checking that the chain brake works by working the



chain and throwing the brake on. If the brake does not work the chain should not be used and requires going off to an expert for repair. Since there are not many checks they have quickly become second nature to complete before beginning work with the saw.

8. **Risk assessment;** FISA have provided a safety guide 802 to help with the completion of a risk assessment, I am lucky to have done a few of these prior to the course as part of my BTEC in horticulture and my degree in teaching. I feel confident in my ability to complete and adjust as conditions such as the weather change.

9. **Assess and explain the terms 'tension' and 'compression' in timber;** Identify which is



tension and which is compression and always cut compression first.

(<http://work.alberta.ca/SearchAARC/700.html>)

10. **Safe procedures for removing a trapped guide bar;** use of a lever or pole or using a second saw 30cm away from the original saw. Although we needed to know what to do it was not necessary to practice this. Though my colleagues have done it before and will run me through the practice.
11. **Handle and stack timber in a safe manner;** use of manual handling procedures or the specialized tongues for gripping and moving logs. Stacking timber should be done against a stump, no chance of rolling and preferably lifted from the ground.
12. **Site safety;** agree a fuel station, a quick spoken risk assessment to reiterate the written risk assessment, a discussion on where people are working and emergency procedure information.

## Personal reflection on course:

I felt that having the course over 2 days was something of a struggle for myself having little experience with a saw. I would have preferred a third day where learning scaffolding was removed to see how much of everything a learner had remembered. This would have ensured that anything forgotten or incorrectly learnt would have an opportunity to be retaught. I am lucky that my work has trained and experienced operatives who gave me a further ½ day of training and refreshed my learning, mainly on engine maintenance. However, I understand that this must be more fitting for employers and the self-employed as this results in more potential work time. The training handbook is a hugely valuable source, but sections to write your own comments and notes would have been beneficial to aid the learning process.

## **How this will benefit me?**

The need to complete the chainsaw maintenance and cross cutting course is to develop myself as a professional gardener and broaden my current skills from the extended level 3 diploma in Horticulture. Gaining training with a chainsaw will make me a more desirable candidate when applying for future work.

Not only would the qualification assist me in my future career but it would also be useful in Cholmondeley gardens. The gardens are currently undergoing large renovation projects. A lot of the surrounding areas to the gardens are laid to laurel woodland, these are to be replaced with various native trees and shrubs. Because of this planned work and other planned work in the future, there are lots of opportunities for myself to practice chainsaw training, and with the guidance of people who have been using their skills for over a decade.

Cholmondeley has lots of large clearance work planned for this coming winter, work that will require a chainsaw and will take weeks to complete. The new training, I have received will be put into daily and weekly practices over the coming months. Making my work the most efficient and effective that it can be for the estate making a more valued and needed member. I am looking forward to being such an integral member of the clearance team and relieving the other members of staff from the hard and difficult job to come.