A RAILWAY OWNED BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY

A Community Benefit Society (No 8486)

AVCR Ltd CHAINSAW POLICY

Purpose

To ensure the safety of all volunteers and contractors at Alford Valley Community Railway Ltd when operating a chainsaw on-site by providing clear procedures.

Scope

This Policy applies to all volunteers and contractors at Alford Valley Community Railway Ltd on site.

Alford Valley Community Railway Ltd do not provide chainsaws.

Volunteers use their personal chainsaws at their own risk.

Appropriate Operation Personnel

No Lone Working allowed under any circumstances.

Anyone operating a chainsaw onsite should have good health, be reasonably mobile and not be taking any prescription drugs that may affect their ability to use the chainsaw safely.

Anyone taking prescription blood thinning agents should not be operating a chainsaw.

Some Alford Valley Community Railway Ltd volunteers may hold certification for using chainsaws.

Competency and Experience:

All chainsaw operators must have previous experience.

For ground level working (using a chainsaw), operators must be competent, experienced and comfortable to deal with any hazards of fallen/falling wood.

For overhead height or access work a reputable contractor must be used to deal with the situation. Alford Valley Community Railway Ltd should verify the competency of any operator through certificates or other verifiable means.

The HSE has removed grandfather rights from anyone (except farmers in agricultural situations) and therefore we cannot use these rights at Alford Valley Community Railway Ltd.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

Chainsaw operators must wear appropriate PPE at all times, including a hard hat with ear and face protection, chainsaw-resistant gloves and trousers and sturdy boots.

The PPE should be in good condition and inspected regularly.

The operator also needs to be aware of Hand Arm Vibration syndrome and regularly check their hands for any signs.

The operator should supply their own PPE to ensure suitable fit.

Risk Assessment:

A dynamic risk assessment by volunteers/contractor should be conducted before any chainsaw work begins to identify potential hazards and implement appropriate control measures.

Operational Procedures:

Chainsaw work should be conducted according to established safety guidelines and best practices.

This includes proper techniques for starting, operating, and maintaining the chainsaw, as well as procedures for cutting timber.

Working from ground level and maintaining a safe distance from the chainsaw operator are crucial safety precautions.

A designated person should be present to assist with first aid if needed.

Supervision and Monitoring:

Chainsaw operations should be supervised by a designated person who is familiar with the policy and procedures.

Regular monitoring should be carried out to ensure that the policy is being followed and that safety standards are being maintained.

Equipment Maintenance (Personal Chainsaw):

Alford Valley Community Railway do not provide chainsaws.

Chainsaws must be regularly inspected, maintained and serviced to ensure they are in safe working order at all times.

Emergency Procedures:

In the event of an emergency occurring:

Designated person present or first-aider should immediately assess the situation and call 999 if required.

The work area needs to be cleared of volunteers/contractors and the area secured for investigation.

Appropriate agencies will need to be informed.

Legal Compliance:

Anyone using a chainsaw should be aware of and comply with all relevant health and safety legislation and regulations.

Waste Disposal:

All waste generated from chainsaw operations should be disposed of safely and responsibly, in accordance with relevant legislation and guidelines.

Risk

Anyone using a chainsaw at Alford Valley Community Railway Ltd does so at their own risk.

Document Control

V1	29/10/25	Changes/Recommendations	Margery/Yvonne
V2	20/11/25	Approved by Board 20/11/25 – reviewed August 2026 – no changes.	