2.2 Assist in carrying out vegetation control work in a given situation to meet specified objectives.

Fish Health

Having different habitats in a fishery such as trees and bushes on the bankside, aquatic plants in the water, areas of deep and shallow and islands will not only improve the look of the site but also the health of the fish.

Different types of habitat will help to reduce competition between fish, not only for food, but for space and cover as well.

They provide areas where fish can hide if they feel threatened, reducing their stress levels. The habitat within a fishery affects water quality, which is also very important in preventing fish disease.

Aquatic Plants

Aquatic plants are very important in a fishery as they put oxygen into the water. But they also provide food and shelter for fish and invertebtrates, and they can provide suitable spawning sites for fish.

Fish such as (Carp, bream and roach) feed on the plants and invertebrates living on and around them, while others such (as Tench and

Crucian carp) feed mainly on the invertebrates.

Having different types of plants within your fishery can also have added benefits:

* Floating reed beds can be used to provide more shelter (especially from birds ) and more habitat.
* Marginal reed beds also provide good cover and habitat for young fish.

Aquatic Plants

The roots of plants are also very important as they can

* Help to stabilise banks and beds of fisheries.
* Take up nutrients (such as phosphates and nitrates) from the soil, surrounding water and from the waste produced by fish.

If you have a high stock density in your fishery then having aquatic plants can improve water quality by removing un-needed nutrients and reducing the amount of suspended solids in the water

Bankside Vegetation

The presence of trees and shrubs at a fishery provides shade and shelter. This can reduce the effects of tempertature. They also increase the stability of the banks, reducing the amount of suspended solids in the water (this reduces aquatic plant growth and can damage the gills of fish ).

Too much shade will reduce the number of aquatic plants, while leaf litter will increase the amount of decaying material in the water, that can lead to a build-up of silt, lowering oxygen levels that can affect water quality.

Getting the balance right at a fishery is the most important role in running a fishery, if plants are left to get out of control, they will spread, causing problems to other plants and fishermen.