



ARUNDEL TOWN COUNCIL

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR USE OF STRIMMER & HEDGE TRIMMER

Assessor: Town Hall Keeper

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	Risk level	What are you already doing?	Is any further action necessary?	Action by who?	Action by when?	Done
Hit by stones and other hard or sharp flying debris	Cuts and bruising for user or other members of public nearby.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Other workers should be at least 10metres away from the strimmer in operation.▪ Ensure that working area is taped or coned off to prevent members of the public from being endangered.▪ Operator should use a visor or goggles (kite marked) for impact protection.▪ Any strimmer guards present must be in place and in good working order.▪ Weather to be assessed on morning of project and if conditions are deemed to be too dangerous, the work is to be postponed.▪ Full health and safety briefing to be given.				



Illness from pre-existing medical condition, especially affected by the physical nature of the task	Risk of illness or injury to user.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Officer to ask participants about medical conditions at start and check that people have inhalers/ medication where needed. ▪ To carry mobile phone. 				
Delays in getting immediate assistance from First Aider and/or emergency services if required.	Risk of illness or injury to user or member of public.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have mobile telephone and be constantly alert for problems. ▪ Note nearest road access point and be able to give directions. ▪ Participants to work within sight of others. ▪ Participants to sign equipment back in at an agreed time. 				
Tripping, falling or slipping on uneven or slippery ground or algae covered rocks	Members of the public and users risk fractures or bruising if they slip or trip.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ User to check the site prior to beginning activity to assess conditions marking danger areas if necessary. ▪ The site will be kept tidy and clear of loose materials and tools. ▪ All participants to wear good quality safety boots. ▪ Weather to be assessed on morning of project and if 				



			conditions are deemed to be too dangerous, the work is to be postponed.				
Zoonotic diseases, including toxocariasis - a likely source is animal faeces being scattered during cutting.	Risk of illness to user or member of public.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Suitable visor with eye shield/glasses should be worn by operator. ▪ Ensure guard is in proper position. ▪ Do not use the strimmer above shoulder height. 				
Dehydration	Risk of illness to user.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adequate water should be drunk throughout the course of time spent strimming. ▪ Weather to be assessed on morning of project and if conditions are deemed to be too dangerous, the work is to be postponed. 				
Injuries due to poor manual handling	Users risk musculo-skeletal injuries.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adjust any harness carefully for comfort. Take regular breaks. 				



Injury from broken or malfunctioning strimmer	Risk of injury to user.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Operator to read Strimmer policy and make full safety checks before operation to make sure the cutter is working at its operational best. Check that all cutting heads are in good order and properly fixed. ▪ Make sure kill switch and dead man's throttle are operating properly. ▪ The strimmer must be maintained in good working order. ▪ Operator to stop using machine immediately if any fault is detected. ▪ Operator to inspect strimmer regularly to ensure efficient cutting 				
Cuts from strimmer nylon line and other related injuries	Risk of cuts to user.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PPE should be worn as described in Strimmer Policy. ▪ Safe working distance maintained between operator & other workers. ▪ Stout boots with EN ISO 20345 toe cap protection should be worn. 				



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Operator must be in regular contact with another person. ▪ First Aid kit present. ▪ The operator will take extra care when working on slopes, (no work on slopes greater than 45°) and on uneven ground. ▪ Full health and safety briefing to be given at the start to banksmen or other volunteers. 				
Reaction to plants or insects	Risk of illness to user.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Individual to be aware if they suffer any allergic reactions to insects or plants. Risk increases in summer. Long trousers and sleeves should be worn to reduce skin contact with plant sap which may result in allergic reaction. ▪ Harness should have a quick release in case strimmer needs to be dropped very quickly e.g. wasps nest. 				



Damage to hearing	Risk of damage to hearing of user.	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ear defenders should be worn by the operator at all times when the strimmer is running. ▪ Other workers should be at a distance where ear defenders are not required, but discretion needs to be used. 				
White knuckle syndrome, vibration white finger (VWF) or Secondary Raynaud's disease	Risk of injury to user.	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strimmer should be well maintained and vibration-dampeners inspected before operation. ▪ Manufacturer's instructions will show maximum usage times for an optimally maintained strimmer. ▪ Take regular breaks. ▪ Full health and safety briefing to be given at the start to banksmen or other volunteers. 				
Twigs in eye and facial injuries	Risk of eye or facial injury to the user.	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Operator should use a visor or goggles (kite marked) for impact protection. ▪ Weather to be assessed on morning of project and if conditions are deemed to 				



			be too dangerous, the work is to be postponed.				
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Risk Level: H – high, M – medium, L – low.

Date of Assessment: Feb 2024

Signed by Assessor: Andrew Lark