

GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT

Using a Brushcutter (Strimmer)

Canal: Wendover Canal trust	Risk Assessment: WATRA 21 Using a Brushcutter (Strimmer)		<i>All work to be carried out with accordance with HSE Guidance note HSG150</i>
Work Location: Wendover Canal	Operation: Using a Brushcutter (Strimmer)	RA No: WATRA 21	Date: 14 th December 2022

Likelihood (L):

1	EU	Extremely Unlikely
2	U	Unlikely
3	L	Likely
4	VL	Very Likely
5	AC	Almost Certain

Severity (S):

1	NM	Near miss, no injury
2	Min	Minor injury, no time lost
3	>3d	Time off work more than 3 days
4	Maj	Major Injury
5	F	Fatal

Risk Value = LxS
Risk Level High / Medium / Low

AC	5	10	15	20	25
VL	4	8	12	16	20
L	3	6	9	12	15
UL	2	4	6	8	10
EU	1	2	3	4	5
	NM	Min	>3D	Maj	F

No.	TASK	HAZARD	WHO IS EXPOSED AND HOW	RISK LEVEL				CONTROL MEASURES	NEW RISK LEVEL				FURTHER ACTION
				L	S	R	RL		L	S	R	RL	
1	Operation of Brushcutter.	Contact with blade/cord	Operator & other workers. Cuts, grazes and abrasions.	4	4	16	H	Only trained operators to use brushcutter. Keep away from moving cutter. Establish exclusion zone when in use. Turn off brushcutter when not in use and make sure it is in idle when placed down. Wear long clothing and appropriate PPE	1	4	4	M	Keep training up to date. Don't use worn or damaged PPE. Helmets must be fitted with a face shield

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				L	S	R	RL		L	S	R	RL	
2		Noise.	Operator, other workers, members of the public. Hearing damage	3	3	9	M	Only trained operators to use brushcutter. Establish exclusion zone when in use. Use warning signs to keep members of the public away from work area. Operator and close workers to wear ear protection.	1	3	3	L	Monitor noise level and limit exposure. Ensure brush cutter is properly maintained.
3		Vibration.	Operator. Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome	3	3	9	M	Only trained operators to use brushcutter. Make sure brushcutter in is good working order with sharp blades and is correctly adjusted. Limit trigger time. Take frequent breaks to avoid fatigue.	1	3	3	L	Monitor time spent using brushcutter. As a guide vibration emission is 5.5 m/s ² . Trigger time to reach the Exposure Action Level is 2 hours.
4		Burns from hot surfaces.	Operator. Contact with hot engine/exhaust	3	3	9	M	Only trained operators to use brushcutter. Keep hands away from hot surfaces. Allow parts to cool before attempting adjustment.	1	3	3	L	
5		Flying debris	Operator, other workers, members of the public. Impact from flying debris.	3	4	12	H	Only trained operators to use brushcutter. Keep work area clear of other workers and member of the public, erect warning tapes. Use warning signs. Operator to wear long clothing & gloves. Operator to wear hard hat & face protection.	1	4	4	M	Plan work before starting.
6	Maintenance, cleaning and adjustment.	Burns from hot surfaces	Operator. Contact with hot engine/exhaust	2	3	6	M	Allow brushcutter to cool before attempting adjustment or maintenance.	1	3	3	L	
7		Hand tools.	Operator. Cuts, grazes and abrasions.	3	2	6	M	Use the right tool for the job. Make sure the tool is well maintained and not faulty. Wear appropriate gloves where necessary.	1	2	2	L	

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				L	S	R	RL		L	S	R	RL	
8		Contaminated material (faeces, plant sap).	Operator. Skin, eye irritation.	3	3	9	M	Only trained operators to use brushcutter. Use the right tool for cleaning. Wear appropriate gloves during cleaning. Clean in designated area where arisings can be disposed safely.	1	3	3	L	
9	Refuelling	Skin and eye irritation from fuel	Operator. Fuel splashes.	3	3	9	M	Only trained operators to use brushcutter. Use funnels to avoid splashes when refuelling. Wear appropriate PPE. Wash splashes off immediately.	1	3	3	L	Follow COSHH assessment for fuel.
10		Risk of fire.	Operator, surroundings. Fuel splashing onto hot engine/exhaust.	3	5	15	H	Only trained operators to use brushcutter. Allow brushcutter to cool before refuelling. Use funnels to avoid spills onto parts that will get hot. Refuel outside in a designated area away from flammable materials.	1	5	5	M	Monitor refuelling operation.
11		Fuel.	Ground. Contamination, pollution.	3	3	9	M	Only trained staff to carry out refuelling. Use funnels to avoid fuel spilling. Carry out refuelling and lubrication in designated areas. Have spill kits available and provide training in their use.	1	3	3	L	

CAN THE JOB PROCEED? <i>(Tick one box)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Safe using existing control measures	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Safe using existing + additional control measures	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not safe to proceed	
ARE THERE ANY LONG-TERM CONTROLS?			
ASSESSED BY:	Name: M Bradley	Name (signed) <i>M Bradley</i>	Date: 14 th December 2022
AUTHORISED BY:	Name (Printed) Mike Wright Health & Safety Coordinator	Name (Signed) <i>M. Wright</i>	Date: 14 th December 2022
REVIEWED BY:	Name (Printed)	Name (Signed)	Date: