

## RISK ASSESSMENT WCTRA S15

### Vegetation Work

<b>Wendover Canal</b>	<b>Wendover Towpath between Wharf Road, Wendover, and Halton Lane, Halton.</b>	<i>All work to be carried out with accordance with the HSE Guidance Note HSG150.</i>
<b>Work Location:</b> Towpath	<b>Operation:</b> Vegetation work	<b>RA Sheet No:</b> 1 of 7
		<b>Date Task Starts:</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> February

**Likelihood (L):**

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

**Severity (S):**

1	FAC	First Aid Required
2	LTI	Lost time injury
3	>3d	Time off work more than 3 days
4	MI	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
	FAC	LTI	>3D	MI	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	Travelling to site	Motor vehicles	Volunteers. Breakdown, collision with other vehicles	2	3	6	M	Properly maintained vehicle. Carry out vehicle checks before driving. Arrange breakdown cover insurance	1	3	3	L	



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				L	S	R V	RL		L	S	R V	RL	
2		Weather	Volunteers. Vehicle collision, loss of control	3	5	15	H	Check weather conditions before travelling. Clear screens to ensure good visibility. Check traffic reports on the radio. Ensure lights are in full working order in case of poor visibility	1	5	5	M	Monitor weather conditions, road conditions and adjust driving to suit. Monitor traffic reports.
3		Poor light	Volunteers. Vehicle collision, loss of control.	2	5	10	H	Check vehicle before driving make sure lights are working and properly adjusted. Carry spare bulbs. Adjust driving to suit light conditions. Plan the journey to travel in daylight.	1	5	5	M	Monitor light conditions.
4		Uneven ground poor ground conditions	Volunteers. Vehicle collision, loss of control	3	5	15	H	Check route prior to travel to avoid unmade roads. Check with locals about unmade road conditions. Avoid unmade roads after poor weather conditions. Avoid unmade roads if you are not sure about ground conditions.	1	5	5	M	Monitor weather conditions while on site and judge whether the situation is worsening.
5	Arrival on site	Traffic	Volunteers, visitors, public. Impact injury from moving vehicles.	4	5	20	H	Ensure there is adequate space off road for people. Do not stand or work in road without traffic control. Wear Hi-viz clothing. Ensure members of the public are not diverted onto a road.	1	5	5	M	
6		Weather	Volunteers, visitors. Effects of cold, precipitation.	4	1	4	M	Wear appropriate clothing to suit weather conditions. Take hot drinks and food as appropriate. Establish a shelter for people.	1	1	1	L	Monitor weather conditions during the work day



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				L	S	R V	RL		L	S	R V	RL	
7		Uneven ground	Volunteers, visitors, public. Slips, trips and falls.	4	2	8	M	Avoid vegetation and puddles that may hide changes in ground conditions. Wear appropriate footwear. Establish pedestrian routes. Ensure public routes are not disturbed.	1	2	2	L	
8		Public	Volunteers. Aggressive behaviour	2	4	8	M	Park site vehicles off public routes. Do not congregate on public routes. Do not erect shelters on public routes. When dealing with aggression from members of the public, avoid confrontation.	1	4	4	M	
9		Public	Public. Injury from activities of volunteers.	3	3	9	M	Place warning signs advising of work. Use banksman to stop work/public when necessary. Keep towpath clear of cut vegetation. Limit loads when moving vegetation to avoid conflict with public.	1	3	3	L	Supervise activities to avoid conflict.
10	Vegetation clearance	Aggressive vegetation	Volunteers. Cuts, puncture wounds, stings.	4	1	4	M	Use tools to cut back and move vegetation. Wear gloves and long clothing. Wear appropriate footwear.	2	1	2	L	
11		Hedge trimmer, pole saw.	Volunteers. Musculo-skeletal injury from vibration.	3	2	6	M	Only trained operators to use hedge trimmer, pole saw. Limit time spent using hedge trimmer, pole saw. Ensure hedge trimmer, pole saw is properly maintained.	1	2	2	L	



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				L	S	R	RL		L	S	R	RL	
12		Hedge trimmer, pole saw.	Volunteers. Fatigue.	3	3	9	M	Only trained operators to use hedge trimmer, pole saw. Limit time spent using hedge trimmer, pole saw. Take frequent breaks. Rotate volunteers using hedge trimmer, pole saw.	1	3	3	L	
13		Noise from hedge trimmer, pole saw	Volunteers, public. Hearing loss, unable to hear warnings.	4	2	8	M	Ensure hedge trimmer, pole saw is properly maintained. Stop work when people are close to working area. Use ear protection. Limit time spent using hedge trimmer, pole saw.	2	2	4	M	Monitor work and public access routes. Use a banksman if necessary.
14		Hand tools	Volunteers. Cuts, grazes, abrasions.	3	3	9	M	Use the right tool for the job. Train volunteers in the use of tools. Ensure tools are properly maintained. Wear gloves and long clothing. Wear appropriate footwear.	1	3	3	L	
15		Falling branches	Volunteers, public. Impact injury.	3	4	12	H	Use banksman to keep people away from cutting area. Only trained operators to use pole saw, bow saw. Cut branch so the fall is away from people.	1	4	4	M	Supervise branch cutting.
16		Flying debris	Volunteers, public. Impact injuries	3	2	6	M	Allow space for volunteers to work without being too close to others, Use warning signs, Stop work when people are close to working area. Provide appropriate PPE	1	2	2	L	Monitor movement of public and volunteers
17		Uneven ground	Volunteers, Slips trips and falls	3	3	9	M	Site cleared of vegetation, Keep site tidy and remove cut vegetation to separate area. Use of safety footwear	1	3	3	L	Monitor ground conditions,



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				L	S	R V	RL		L	S	R V	RL	
18		Contaminated material	Volunteers. Skin, eye irritation. Puncture wounds from needles, glass. Disease from faeces.	3	3	9	M	Avoid contact with unknown materials. Wear gloves. Avoid contact with face and eyes with dirty hands. Do not handle needles or glass. Wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking. Cover open wounds.	1	3	3	L	
19		Animals	Volunteers. Attack, stings and bites.	3	3	9	M	Avoid entering areas where livestock may be kept. Don't disturb insect nests. Proceed with caution where animals are loose. Wear long clothing. Do not approach dogs off lead.	1	3	3	L	
20	Removal of vegetation	Heavy loads, repeated movements	Volunteers, Musculo-skeletal strains and injuries	4	3	12	H	Toolbox talk at induction, Training given to volunteers, Work planned to prevent overuse and fatigue Volunteers only to lift loads within their limits Use plant to dispose of arisings	1	3	3	L	Monitor volunteers to ensure loads not to large and breaks are taken
21		Power barrow	Volunteers. Impact injury from overturning barrow.	3	3	9	M	Only trained operators are to use barrow. Use the barrow on level surfaces. Avoid turning the barrow on sloping surfaces. Keep both hands on the handle at all times.	1	3	3	L	
22	Bonfires (make sure you have a D7 exemption certificate from the Environment Agency)	Smoke	Volunteers, public, visitors, neighbours. Respiratory problems, eye irritation.	4	1	4	M	Site bonfires away from public and work areas. Do not over load bonfire with smoke producing material. Check weather conditions before lighting bonfire.	2	1	2	L	Monitor weather conditions.



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23		Heat	Volunteers, visitors, public. Burns.	3	2	6	M	Site bonfires away from public and work areas. Do not over load bonfire. Do not approach too close to bonfire	1	2	2	L	Monitor size of bonfire.
24		Fire	Neighbouring property. Spread of uncontrolled fire	3	5	15	H	Site bonfires away from public and work areas. Do not over load bonfire. Do not created excessive sparks that may spread fire. Check weather conditions before lighting bonfire. Do not leave fire unattended. Dowse fire 1 hour before leaving site.	1	5	5	M	Monitor weather conditions and size of fire.
25	Sharpening tools	Sharp edges	Volunteers. Cuts.	3	3	9	M	Train volunteers in the method of sharpening. Use the right tool for the job. Keep hands away from sharpened edges.	1	3	3	L	
26	Working near water	Water	Volunteers. Drowning.	3	5	15	H	Avoid working close to unprotected water edges. Wear life jacket if working close to unprotected water edges. Take care when working close to water edges to avoid overbalancing. Face water edges. No lone working. Ensure throwlines or lifebouys are available.	1	5	5	M	Monitor water conditions if the water level is likely to change.




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27		Water	Volunteers. Weil's Disease	3	5	15	H	Awareness of Weil's Disease and carry warning card. Avoid contact with standing water. Cover cuts and open wounds. Avoid touching mouth, nose or eyes. Wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking.	1	5	5	M	
28	Refuelling hedge trimmer, pole saw	Petrol	Volunteers, environment. Skin irritation, contamination of environment.	3	3	9	M	Carry out refuelling in a designated area. Use suitable containers and funnels. Have a spill kit available. Use appropriate gloves. No smoking when refuelling.	1	3	3	L	
29		Petrol	Volunteers, environment. Fire risk.	3	5	15	H	Carry out refuelling in designated area. Ensure hedge trimmer, pole saw is cold before refuelling. No smoking during refuelling. Keep fuel container closed when not in use. Store fuel away from heat sources.	1	5	5	M	
30	Lubricating cutting head on hedge trimmer.	Cutting head	Volunteers. Cuts, impact injuries.	3	3	9	M	Only use trained volunteers to lubricate cutting heads. Ensure motor is switched off. Follow manufacturers instruction.	1	3	3	L	

<b>CAN THE JOB PROCEED?</b>	<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



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<b>ARE THERE ANY LONG-TERM CONTROLS?</b>		<b>Carry out a dynamic Risk Assessment when you arrive on site and adapt the Risk Assessment to suit any changes that may have occurred, particularly weather conditions.</b>	
<b>ASSESSED BY:</b>	Name: <b>M Bradley</b>	Name (signed) <b>M Bradley</b>	Date: 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
<b>AUTHORISED BY:</b>	Name (Printed) Mike Wright Health & Safety Coordinator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recoverable Signature X  Mike Wright Name (Signed) <small>Signed by: Mike Wright signature</small>	Date: 25/1/2023