

Work Activity Risk Assessment

Chainsaws and Tree Work at Cridling Stubbs Playpark Tree Area.

SUPERVISION	Trained / Authorised personnel only / Review site risk assessment and brief personnel on risks & controls before work starts. Supervisor as per HSE guidance - see footnotes at appendix 1
PPE REQUIRED	Safety Helmet (to EN 397) Hearing Protection (to EN 352-1) Double protection of ear defenders + ear plugs highly recommended, Eye Protection (mesh visors to EN 1731 or safety glasses to EN 166) Chainsaw Jackets (to BS EN 381-11) Gloves (to EN 381-7) Leg protection (to EN 381-) Chainsaw Boots (to BS EN ISO 20345:2004) For occasional users working on even ground - protective gaiters (to EN 381-9) worn with steel-toed safety boots

COMMON HAZARDS Associated with the work activity	WHO IS AT RISK? Public, staff, trainees, volunteers, children	RISK RATING Risk level before controls are in place	CONTROL MEASURES Existing measures in place before work is allowed to start	RESIDUAL RISK Remaining risk after controls are in place
Striking injury - Falling trees & branches Overhanging / protruding vegetation	Staff & public	high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey area for windblown trees, possible entanglement with vines, other trees, lodged or windblown trees. Clear possible entanglements with pole saw from ground level. Operator calculates fall zone before felling. Demarcate area / post warning signs / advise alternative route. No-one else within two tree lengths of operator. Avoid felling through trees / other objects. Establish an escape route before felling. Remove loose branches before felling. Progressively release stressed branches using chainsaw Use of ropes / winches to control felling. No person other than trained / authorised personnel allowed in the cordoned off working / Hazardous area. 	low
Striking injury - contact with saw or moving parts / kickback	Staff & Public.	medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only trained / authorised personnel to operate chainsaws. Regular maintenance / check serviceable before use. Follow manufacturer's operating instructions. No-one else within two tree lengths of operator. Use blade protection when transporting tools and carry by side. Mandatory use of appropriate PPE outlined above. No person other than trained / authorised personnel allowed in the cordoned off working / Hazardous area. 	low
Striking Injury from failing ropes	Staff & Public.	medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check ropes for wear and tear before use. Never use damaged ropes. Use correct polypropylene ropes long enough to keep others clear of the felling area. No person other than trained / authorised personnel allowed in the cordoned off working / Hazardous area. 	low
Damage to underground services - gas, water, electricity etc.	Staff & public	medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaison with utility companies before work begins. Survey for buried services / refer to plans & drawings. 	low
Contact with overhead power lines	Staff & public	medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment by operator to ensure trees are a clear distance from power lines. If the tree touches the power line - stay clear and contact power company immediately. Demarcate the work area if possible. No person other than trained / authorised personnel allowed in the cordoned off working / Hazardous area. 	low

Noise	Staff & Public.	medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate supervision where appropriate. • Wear PPE required for the equipment used. • Double protection of ear defenders + ear plugs. • Exposure time within required / recommended limits. • Operators take regular breaks and alternate with quiet tasks whenever possible. • Report health problems / symptoms to Parish Council Clerk immediately. • No person other than trained / authorised personnel allowed in the cordoned off working / Hazardous area. 	
Refueling chainsaws - burns / fire	Staff, & Public	medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only carried out by trained / authorised personnel. • No smoking in the immediate area. • Refueling away from sources of ignition. • Never refuel with engine running. • Fuel stored in approved containers. • Dry powder extinguisher to be kept on hand. • No person other than trained / authorised personnel allowed in the cordoned off working / Hazardous area. 	low
Skin conditions - contact with chemicals during maintenance / refueling	Staff, & Public	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COSHH risk assessment and controls mandatory. • Keep skin covered. • Wear latex gloves when refueling. • No person other than trained / authorised personnel allowed in the cordoned off working / Hazardous area. 	low
Sting / rash / blistering etc. from hazardous plants	Staff & Public	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify hazardous plants and plan work to avoid contact. • Keep arms always covered. • No person other than trained / authorised personnel allowed in the cordoned off working / Hazardous area. 	low
Eye damage - Sawdust / wood chippings	Staff & Public	medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eye protection / mesh visor. • No person other than trained / authorised personnel allowed in the cordoned off working / Hazardous area. 	low
Respiratory problems - Sawdust / wood chippings Contact with treated wood	Staff & Public	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular breaks / good ventilation. • No person other than trained / authorised personnel allowed in the cordoned off working / Hazardous area. 	low
Manual handling	Staff & Public	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training / awareness / use of safe lifting techniques. • Cut timber to manageable size for lifting / handling. • Rotate tasks to avoid repetitive strain. • Use wheeled equipment to move loads where possible. • Seek assistance where required. • No person other than trained / authorised personnel allowed in the cordoned off working / Hazardous area. 	low
Slips, trips & falls	Staff & Public	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable footwear for weather & ground conditions. • Plan safe access and egress to / from work site. • Clear area of any removable slip / trip hazards before work begins and as work proceeds. • Mark obvious slip / trip hazards that cannot be removed. • Designate area to store tools / equipment & waste. • No person other than trained / authorised personnel allowed in the cordoned off working / Hazardous area. 	low
Adverse weather	Staff & Public	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable clothing for variable conditions / sunscreen. • Stop activity in extreme / hazardous weather. 	low

RESULT	CERTAIN	PROBABLE	POSSIBLE	IMPROBABLE
FATAL / DISABILITY	HIGH	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
MAJOR INJURY	HIGH	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
MINOR INJURY	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	LOW	LOW
NO INJURY	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW
CERTAIN - happens repeatedly, expected		PROBABLE - will happen more than once		
POSSIBLE - unlikely, though conceivable		IMPROBABLE- highly unlikely		

NAME	SIMON RILEY	SIGNATURE	<i>S RILEY</i>	DATE	21 st FEB 2025
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Appendix 1

LONE WORKING

No lone working is permitted for tree felling in the area.

FIRST AID

A trained first aider must be present during all chainsaw work and first aid kits should carry a large wound dressing. Access to telephone is required at all times to call medical assistance.

TRAINEE / INSTRUCTOR RATIO (GUIDE ONLY)

RATIOS	ORGANISED TRAINING COURSE	SUPERVISION / CONSOLIDATION OF TRAINING AT WORK
Overall	1:2	1:2
During initial practical operation	1:1	1:1
No trainees are permitted.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.

PRE-USE CHECKS

Before operating a chainsaw, users must check:

- Only trained / authorised personnel are allowed to operate any equipment.
- All nuts and screws etc. are tight.
- The saw chain is correctly tensioned.
- The throttle cannot be squeezed unless the throttle lock-out is pressed.
- The correct PPE is worn correctly.

Before operating rope equipment, users must check:

- Only trained / authorised personnel are allowed to operate any equipment.
- All nuts and screws etc. are tight.
- Ropes are not damaged.

- Rope equipment is not damaged.
- The correct PPE is worn correctly.