

## Keep Wales Tidy Risk Assessment – Strimmer Generic risk assessment- not to be used for strimmers also designed to work with a blade

(To be used with other risk assessments as appropriate)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Assessment Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Location & Grid Ref: (<http://www.gridreferencefinder.com/>) Nearest A&E- Post code & ☎: (<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/>) Mobile Coverage: Yes / No

Further Assessments Required:	✓	Persons Involved or Affected by the Task:	✓
Fire		KWT employees	✓
Control of Substances Hazardous to Health		Employees- other organisations	
Young people & children		Volunteers	✓
Nursing/Expectant Mothers		Members of the Public	✓
People with disabilities		Contractors	

Hazards Identified	Severity (S)	Control Measures Currently in Place	Likelihood (L)	Score (S x L)	Rating
Hit by stones and other hard or sharp flying debris	5	Other workers should be at least 10 metres 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	2	10	Medium
Illness from pre-existing medical condition, especially affected by the physical nature of the task	5	Officer to ask participants about medical conditions at start and check that people have inhalers/ medication where needed. Officer to carry mobile phone. Officer is First Aid trained and carries a First Aid kit.	2	10	Medium
Delays in getting immediate assistance from First Aider and/or emergency services if required.	5	Officer to check for mobile phone coverage at location, have mobile telephone and be constantly alert for problems. Officer to note nearest road access point and be able to give directions. Participants to work within sight of others and must inform KWT officer if they leave early.	2	10	Medium
Tripping, falling or slipping on uneven or slippery ground or algae covered rocks	3	Officer will check the site prior to beginning activity to assess conditions. Mark 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	3	9	Medium
Zoonotic diseases, including toxocariasis- a likely source is animal faeces being scattered during cutting.	4	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.	2	8	Medium

Dehydration	3	Adequate water should be drunk throughout the day and before driving	2	6	Medium
Injuries due to poor manual handling	3	Adjust the harness carefully for comfort. Take regular breaks.	2	6	Medium
Injury from broken or malfunctioning strimmer	5	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.	1	5	Medium
Cuts from strimmer nylon line and other related injuries	5	PPE should be worn as described in Strimmer Policy. The operator will read the Strimmer Method Statement Safe working distance maintained between operator & other workers Stout boots with EN ISO 20345 toe cap protection should be worn 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.	1	5	Medium
Burns from exploding fuel	5	Fuel must be in approved containers, up to 5 litres in plastic and 10 litres in metal jerry can. Refuel only when saw has cooled. Refuelling to occur 3 metres away from ignition source, work area and water course or drain. Spill kit must be present.	1	5	Medium
Reaction to plants or insects	5	Officer to check if anyone suffers 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.	1	5	Medium
Damage to hearing	4	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.	1	4	Low
White knuckle syndrome, vibration white finger (VWF) or Secondary Raynaud's disease	4	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 e.g. 10 minutes between tank fills and 30 minutes between 3 tank fills.	1	4	Low
Twigs in eye and facial injuries	3	Operator should use a visor or goggles kite marked for impact protection.	1	3	Low
<b>Environmental hazards identified</b>					
Spills of petrol	3	Fuel can and strimmerfuel cap should be on at all times, unless refuelling on stable level ground away from any watercourse. Natural Resources Wales should be informed if spillage occurs.	1	3	Low

Severity (Worst Case Scenario)				
5	4	3	2	1
Fatality	Severe Injury	Lost Time Injury	Minor Injury	No Injury

Likelihood (Given Precautions in Place)				
5	4	3	2	1
Certain	Very Likely	Likely	Unlikely	Remote

Risk Rating Table				
Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
20-25	15-19	5-14	3-4	1-2

Action Required (Including Temporary Action and Control Measures)	Action Review Date	Action Completed (Name and Date)
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 at the start to banksmen or other volunteers.		

Further Actions which may Require Longer Term Consideration	Action Review Date	Action Completed (Name and Date)
The scores are only if full PPE is worn and dehydration and tiredness are avoided. Wearing correct PPE is compulsory while tiredness and dehydration are the responsibility of the operator to manage.		

If any Issues are Outstanding from the Action Review Date Please Detail the Reasons

Assessment Review Date:

New Risk Assessment Required?

Yes / No

Completed by:

Signature:

Event counter-signed:

Signature: