

This risk assessment relates only to the *generic* features of a common activity; it does not cover those *specific* to a location or group. It therefore must not be used without completing the local review, making additions as necessary to take account of local circumstances. However, such a local review need not be timeconsuming. Use the box at the bottom to create the local review, or add extra pages as necessary. **SEE ACCOMPANYING SAFETY NOTES**

ACTIVITY ASSESSED	ASSESSOR	ASSESSMENT DATE
10. USE OF D R TRIMMERS AND OTHER ENCLOSED STRIMMER DEVICES	STEPHEN BOLSOVER	25 th March 2018
HAZARD	RISK LEVEL	PRECAUTIONS
potential for harm		to remove hazard or reduce risk level. One precaution may tackle several hazards.
Operator: Contact with moving parts	H	Only competent persons familiar with their operation to use these machines. Turn off machine, allow to cool for five minutes and disconnect spark plug lead before changing, altering or repairing.
Operator: Flying debris	M	Always wear long trousers to protect the legs. Since the trimmer unit is enclosed, less debris is thrown up than with an open trimmer so wearing goggles or a face mask is not essential. However consider wearing goggles or a face mask to protect the eyes if unusual ground conditions mean that significant amounts of material are being thrown up.
Exhaust fumes	L	Never run the machine indoors. Ensure equipment is in good condition.
Fire	L	Ensure the exhaust muffler is in good condition. Do not smoke or use naked flame near equipment. Use a quick release harness. Do not work near to a bonfire.
Skin conditions, cuts, scrapes	L	Use gloves when mixing/filling with petrol/oil and when cleaning the machine.
Fatigue and vibration	H	Do not use the machine for extended periods, take regular breaks.
Noise	L	Ear defenders must be worn at all times. To protect others from noise, do not operate if there is anyone within a 10M radius of the machine.
Machine hazards: handles, kickback, compression, electric shock, vibration etc.	M	Ensure equipment is in good condition, check nuts/bolts/screws before use. Clear ground of debris before beginning work. Grip starter cord firmly. Do not touch starter plug/power cable while machine is running. Wear gloves at all times.
Skin irritation or dermatitis from plant sap	L	Some plant materials, eg. Giant Hogweed, become hazardous only in association with the UV of sunlight, causing phytophotodermatitis; but others like Euphorbia can be nasty just on their own. Therefore, skin/eye contact with sap and other plant materials is to be avoided by wearing suitable clothing, gloves and goggles. If contact does occur, wash off skin and/or irrigate eyes with clean water thoroughly: at the site if water is available, otherwise emphasize to the worker that this should be done as soon as possible on return home.
RISKS AND PRECAUTIONS SPECIFIC TO THE SITE OR DAY		
ASSESSOR		
ASSESSMENT DATE		
APPLICABLE DATES (This is likely either to be one specific day, or “until further notice”).)		

Risk level: L = Low, M = Medium, H = High

ACTIVITY ASSESSED	ASSESSOR	ASSESSMENT DATE
10. USE OF D R TRIMMERS AND OTHER ENCLOSED STRIMMER DEVICES	STEPHEN BOLSOVER	14 th December 2016
RESTRICTIONS The D R Trimmer is a strimmer system (that is, a motor driven device that cuts grass and herbs with a rotating cord) mounted on a wheeled frame that can be easily pushed over the ground. A metal cowl shields the strimmer head and reduces the probability that stones or cut material will be thrown up. A short manual is kept with the machine and must be fully read before the machine is used. All the procedures and safety protocols described in that manual must be observed by all operators.		
PREVENTATIVE MEASURES First aid kits must always be on site and in a location near to and known to everyone. The machine must be used according to the manufacturer's operating instructions.		
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT Long trousers, ear defenders and goggles or a face mask are required. Use gloves when operating, filling or cleaning the machine.		
TRAINING New users will usually be given a brief introduction to the machine by an experienced user, but this is not essential. However the rule that all users must read and understand the short manual must be adhered to.		
MONITORING Avoid contact with plant sap/materials and wash off thoroughly if this occurs. Ensure operators take regular breaks.		
INFORMATION The full manual for the D R Trimmer is held in paper form by Steve Bolsover and can also be sent as a PDF to prospective users. A separate manual for the Briggs and Stratton engine on the D R Trimmer is also available.		