

| ACTIVITY ASSESSED                                                                              | ASSESSOR         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | ASSESSMENT DATE                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 13. Use of battery hedge trimmers                                                              | Stephen Bolsover |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 |
| HAZARD<br><br>potential for harm                                                               | RISK LEVEL       | PRECAUTIONS<br>To remove hazard or reduce risk level. One precaution may tackle several hazards.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                |
| Operator: Contact with moving blade                                                            | H                | Always wear heavy duty work gloves while handling the running machine. Keep hands away from blades. When removing clogging vegetation or twigs from the blades, stop the motor and wait until the blades have stopped moving, then use both hands up by the blades so that it is impossible to activate the on switch. Stand firmly on both feet when operating to avoid falling over.                                                                                                                                                                    |                                |
| Operator: Flying debris                                                                        | M                | Always wear sturdy footwear, mesh mask or goggles and heavy duty gloves.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                |
| Others: Contact with moving blade or flying debris                                             | H                | Be aware of others approaching. Stop the cutting action if anyone, whether a colleague or a member of the public, approaches within five metres. If there is a risk of the public approaching unknowingly, e.g. young children, post a lookout able to halt work.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                |
| Fatigue and vibration                                                                          | H                | Do not use machine for extended periods, take regular breaks. Adjust harness and handles for comfortable use before beginning work. Wear clothing that protects from the element and allows easy movement but will not obstruct or get entangled.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                |
| Machine hazards: handles, kickback, compression, electric shock, vibration etc.                | M                | Ensure equipment is in good condition, check nuts/ bolts/screws before use. Cut right to left. Clear ground of debris before beginning work. 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<br>(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    |
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| 13. Use of battery hedge trimmers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Stephen Bolsover | 11th February 2024 |
| <b>GENERAL COMMENTS</b><br>A hedge trimmer is a motor driven device that cuts vegetation using a reciprocating action of a series of blades. The design of the cutting bar makes contact with the cutting teeth difficult, nevertheless serious injury, including severing of fingers, is possible if fingers come up against a running cutting bar. This risk is reduced significantly by wearing thick gloves, not only through the inherent protection of the glove material, but also because the gaps through which fingers can get access to the blades are quite narrow.                                                                              |                  |                    |
| <b>PREVENTATIVE MEASURES</b><br><br>Always wear sturdy footwear, mesh mask or goggles and heavy duty gloves.<br><br>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.(Read the manual first)<br><br>Check that all persons and animals are clear of work area. Loose clothing, e.g. flapping sleeves should be avoided. Wear overalls if possible. Stand firmly on both feet whilst operating machine and always cut away from your body. Always walk forward while the machine is running since stepping backwards can lead to trips. |                  |                    |
| <b>PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT</b><br>Goggles or face shield and stout footwear are required. Use gloves when operating or cleaning machine. Wear a hard hat if the material to be cut is prickly or if larger boughs might fall during the cutting process.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                  |                    |
| <b>MONITORING</b><br>Nearest point of contact for emergency services must be known and approximate time for services to attend be established: the implications of a long response time must be specifically considered. Avoid contact with plant sap/materials and wash off thoroughly if this occurs. Ensure operators take regular breaks. Check that hazard signs erected/lookout posted to warn public or halt work.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                  |                    |

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