

Strimming Risk assessment

Location Eric East memorial Lake Thorpe on the Hill

Nearest A&E Lincoln County Hospital LN2 5QY

Mobile Coverage Yes

Persons involved or Affected by the Task	√
Volunteers	√
Members of the Public	√

Hazards Identified	Severity (S)	Control Measures currently in Place	Likelihood (L)	Score (SxL)	Rating
Hit by stones and other hard sharp flying debris	5	Other workers should be at least 10 metres away from the strimmer in operation. Ensure that working area is signed or taped off to prevent members of the public from being endangered. Operators should use 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	Leader to ask participants about medical conditions to start and check that people have inhalers/medication where needed. Leader to carry mobile phone.	2	10	Medium
Emergency services if required	5	Leader to check for mobile phone coverage at location. Leader to note nearest road access point and able to give directions.	2	10	Medium
Tripping, falling or slipping on uneven or slippery ground.	3	Leader to check the site prior to beginning activity to access conditions. Mark danger areas if necessary. The site will be kept tidy and clear of loose materials, all participants to wear good quality boots.	3	9	Medium
Zoonotic diseases, including toxocariasis-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 strimmer above shoulder height.	2	8	Medium
Dehydration	3	Adequate water should be drunk throughout the day and before driving	2	6	Medium

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Injuries due to poor manual handling	3	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.	2	6	Medium
Cuts from strimmer nylon line and other related injuries	5	PPE should be worn. The operator will read the the strimmer Method Statement. Safe working distance maintained between operator & other workers. Stout boots should be worn. Operator must be in contact with another person. The operator will take extra care when working on slopes down to the water edge and on uneven ground.	1	5	Medium
Burns from exploding fuel	5	Fuel must be in approved containers up to 5Ltr in plastic and 10 ltrs in metal jerry can. Refuel only when motor has cooled. Refuelling to occur 3metres away from ignition source. Refuel on track or in carpark area.	1	5	Medium
Reaction to plants or insects	5	Leader to check if anyone suffers from 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 a strimmer needs to be dropped very quickly e.g wasp net	1	5	Medium
Damage to Hearing	4	Ear defenders should be worn by the operator at all times when 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 inspection before operation. Manufacturer's instructions will show maximum usage times for an optimally maintained strimmer. Take regular breaks e.g. 10 minutes between tanks fills and 30 minutes between 3 tankks fills.	1	4	Low
Twigs in eye and facial injuries	3	Operator should use visor or goggles kite marked for impact protection	1	3	Low
Environmental hazards identified					
Spills of Petrol	3	Fuel can and strimmer fuel cap should be on at all times, unless refuelling on stable level ground away from watercourse.	1	3	Low

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A pre-work Risk Assessment of the site must be carried out to:

- a. Assess the type of vegetation that needs strimming to select the correct cutters.
- b. Look for obvious slip and trip issues and for hidden hazards.
- c. To plot out individual work areas. The work should be planned so that all other persons, volunteers or other visitors to the lake, should remain at least 50 feet (15 metres) from the operator, in order to minimise the risk from flying stones/twigs etc;
- d. To select a suitable refuelling site at a safe distance from where strimmers are started and operated, and away from the water to avoid contamination of the lake.

Volunteers must be aged over 18 and under 75. Any volunteers outside this age bracket can only be considered if confirmation of insurance coverage specifically for these individuals is provided.

This task can only be performed by volunteers whom the Parish Council, LMC or licence holders have nominated as experienced and competent users of their own petrol driven strimmer.
A list of such nominees must be supplied to the Parish Clerk and updated, as necessary

A volunteer should never work alone at the lake. A banksman must always be present.

The banksman must be in possession of a working mobile phone

The role of the banksman is to supervise the task and ensure the safety of both the strimmer operator(s) and any members of the public present at the lake.

The strimmer operator MUST wear

- a. Eye protection, either goggles, or a full-face shield. Spectacles are NOT sufficient protection.
- b. Solid boots, preferably steel toe capped.
- c. Trousers or overalls, preferably thick. Shorts are not permitted.
- d. A high visibility vest or jacket.

4.2 It is recommended that the strimmer operator wear:

- a. Ear protection, preferably full ear "muffs".
- b. Gloves for grip.
- c. Full harness or shoulder strap, to avoid muscle strain.

In addition to safety checks on the strimmer and donning PPE, the strimmer operator MUST:

- a. Not enter the water voluntarily under any circumstances
- b. Undertake their own visual Risk Assessment of their designated work area.
Move or clearly mark slip or trip hazards and clear away any stones and twigs prior to undertaking work.
If the designated work area is slippery, or too hazardous to access or work in for any other reason, the volunteer should not proceed.
- c. Work within their own restricted work area in which other volunteers or public are not allowed.
- d. Work in such a way that, as far as possible, any possible risk to themselves or others is minimised.
- e. Keep alert to possible dangers (i.e., look up regularly!).
- f. Avoid stepping back whilst strimming, always work sideways or forwards. Always be aware of the edge of the lake;
- g. Refuel only at the designated filling point and ensure that the petrol can is resealed after use. Machines must be switched off and left to cool before refuelling.
- h. Stop work immediately if the banksman or other volunteer issues a warning and/or if volunteers or public enter the "restricted" area. Only recommence strimming when danger is over.
- i. Take regular rest breaks to avoid the effects of vibration and fatigue.

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- k. If a fire breaks out, do not try to tackle it themselves, but retreat to a safe distance and call 999.

Likelihood's Key

Low = unlikely risk of accidents

Medium = Likely risk of accidents causing harm to persons

High = Likely risk of accidents causing extensive harm and / or death to persons

All accidents, however minor, should be reported to the event supervisor and the Parish Clerk.