

FRIENDS OF GEDLING HOUSE WOODS



Risk assessment

Activity:	Using the mower/brushcutter/chipper
Applies to:	Committee members, other members and volunteers undertaking above activities

Risk assessment revised: April 2018	Next review/revision: April 2021	Version number: 1.3
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The risk assessment for general site visits also applies to this activity

Personal injury					
Hazard	Persons at risk	Risk level	Control measures	Those responsible	Further action needed
<p>Accidental injury while using machinery</p> <p>Injury to others in the vicinity</p>	All undertaking the activity and passers by	Low	<p>Transport all machinery from store to site using FGHW trailer. Make sure machinery is tied down safely using ratchet straps. You must use a four-wheel-drive vehicle if it is taken on site.</p> <p>Care should be taken to adhere to the manufacturer's guidance for each machine. Ensure all machine checks are carried out before beginning work. Only replenish fuel outside.</p> <p>Mowing, chipping and brush cutting must not be done in close proximity to other site users.</p> <p>All machinery should be used according to the manufacturer's schedule and be maintained by a qualified service agent (currently GBC).</p>	All those undertaking mowing, brushcutting or chipping.	

			<p>When using any of these machines, always carry a mobile phone for use in case of injury or accident. Preferably work with another person (essential in the case of the chipper).</p> <p>First aid kit to be taken on-site.</p> <p>Mowing to be undertaken using the FGHW mower only. To be used only by those internally trained to use the mower. Ear protection is advisable. All visible debris must be cleared before mowing. Follow manufacturer's guidance on mowing on slopes. The mower should only be used to mow designated routes and no mowing should be undertaken "off-piste". Stop mowing and let the engine idle if people approach the mower closely.</p> <p>The chipper is only be used with at least two operators, as its weight means two are needed to move it safely. To be used only by those internally trained to use the chipper. Ear protection is essential. A face mask or goggles (material can fly up under masks) must be used. When clearing jams, make sure the motor stopped before removing either flywheel cover. Keep any visitors/observers 10 metres away from the machine.</p> <p>The brushcutter is to be used only by those internally trained to use it. Ear protection is essential. A face mask or goggles are advisable. When cutting the meadow perimeter it is best to do it alongside strimming and/or hedgecutting to remove overhanging brambles that can cause injury. When working alongside and close to fencing, work in an anti-clockwise direction to avoid snagging the controls in the fence.</p>		
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