

FRIENDS OF GEDLING HOUSE WOODS



Risk assessment

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

Risk assessment revised: October 2021	Next review/revision: October 2024	Version number: 1.4
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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
<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, hedge cutting and brush cutting must not be done in close proximity to other site users. Chain saw work only to be undertaken by GBC or GBC-approved contractors.</p> <p>All machinery should be used according to the manufacturer's schedule and be maintained by a qualified service agent (currently GBC).</p> <p>When using any of these machines, always carry a mobile</p>	All those undertaking mowing, brushcutting, chipping or hedge-cutting.	

		<p>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 or dogs approach the mower closely.</p> <p>The chipper is only be used on-site 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 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> <p>Hedge cutters are only to be used by those internally trained to use them. Ear protection on petrol machines essential and advised on battery machine. A face mask or goggles advisable. Pay particular attention to avoid cutting wire mesh when working near fences.</p> <p>Ensure all machine checks are a carried out before beginning work. Use only two-stroke fuel and replenish it outside. Ensure blades are kept free of build up and well lubricated.</p>		
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