



**Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway Plc**  
**Risk Assessment for Use of Woodchipper Machine - Lineside Clearance**

**Risk Assessment - Use of Woodchipper Machine**

Reference No: EST-45099-29  
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 Assessment Approver: Paul Fuller

Department: Lineside Clearance  
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 Lead Assessor: Steve Yells  
 Team: Kevin Jarvis & Paul Fuller

**Use of Woodchipper**

Type	Hazard Cause	Persons Affected	Control Measures	L S T Overall	Additional Control Measures	L S T Overall	Owner/Action
Health and Safety	Injury to users or those nearby Lack of training, understanding, situational awareness or poor maintenance and operation etc.	Everyone	1) CRITICAL - Engineering: All safety guards must be in place, - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Administrative: Ensure safe access to work site and equipment is available. - Effective 3) CRITICAL - Administrative: All staff to be PTS trained and compliant. - Effective 4) CRITICAL - Administrative: Due care and attention to self and others to be practised at all times. - Effective 5) CRITICAL - Administrative: Trip areas to be identified before the work starts. - Effective 6) CRITICAL - Administrative: Do not work in poor light conditions. - Effective 7) CRITICAL - Administrative: Lone work is not allowed. - Effective 8) CRITICAL - Administrative: All operators must be trained and hold a valid LANTRA competence certificate. - Effective 9) CRITICAL - Administrative: Untrained staff are not allowed within 4m of the machinery. - Effective 10) CRITICAL - Administrative: Machinery only to be operated as per training and manufacturers instructions. - Effective 11) CRITICAL - Administrative: Operator must stand to one side of the feed hopper. - Effective 12) CRITICAL - Administrative: Use appropriate manual handling techniques. - Effective 13) CRITICAL - Administrative: Rotate staff to avoid fatigue. - Effective 14) CRITICAL - Administrative: Be aware of your own limitations. - Effective 15) CRITICAL - Administrative: Do not use the machine off railway property. - Effective 16) CRITICAL - Administrative: Position the machine away from pits, drains, bridges, culverts or other fall hazards. - Effective 17) CRITICAL - Administrative: Observe good personal hygiene and use welfare facilities as available. - Effective 18) CRITICAL - Administrative: Keep 3m away from water. - Effective 19) CRITICAL - Administrative: Be aware of sites of nests to avoid wildlife disruption as well as stings and bites. - Effective 20) CRITICAL - Administrative: Work in open areas. - Effective 21) CRITICAL - Administrative: No work to be carried out during periods of heavy rainfall or if snowing. - Effective 22) CRITICAL - Administrative: Make sure that fluids are available for rehydration. - Effective 23) CRITICAL - PPE: Ear defenders of SNR 25dB or more to be worn. - Effective 24) CRITICAL - PPE: A Safety Visor and Helmet must be worn - Effective 25) CRITICAL - PPE: Safety footwear, overalls and gloves must be worn. - Effective 26) CRITICAL - PPE: Hi-Viz must be worn when working lineside. - Effective 27) CRITICAL - PPE: A P3 fitted face mask to be worn. - Effective	2 x 3 = 6 Medium - Risk to be minimised and controlled so far as is reasonably practical.	1) Engineering: Consider the use of edge protection equipment. - Effective 2) PPE: Consider wearing fall protection equipment. - Effective	2 x 3 = 6 Medium - Risk to be minimised and controlled so far as is reasonably practical.	n/a

**Score and Control Measure Notes.**

Risk is medium but staff should be aware of potential for injury with this type of equipment and activity.  
 Risk remains medium.



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Type	Hazard Cause	Persons Affected	Control Measures	L S T Overall	Additional Control Measures	L S T Overall	Owner/Action
Health and Safety	Damage to equipment or infrastructure Poor use, lack of training or awareness	Everyone	1) CRITICAL - Elimination: Operate the machine as trained and as per the manufacturers instructions. - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Engineering: Keep machine clean and well maintained. - Effective 3) CRITICAL - Administrative: All staff to be PTS trained and compliant. - Effective 4) CRITICAL - Administrative: Have procedures and equipment in place should a fuel spill occur. - Effective 5) CRITICAL - Administrative: Minimise quantities of fuel carried. - Effective 6) CRITICAL - Administrative: Maintain good housekeeping. - Effective 7) CRITICAL - Administrative: Keep machine 3m away from track and well away from other equipment or infrastructure. - Effective 8) CRITICAL - Administrative: Do not allow wood chip to impact other equipment. - Effective	2 x 2 = 4 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	None	2 x 2 = 4 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	n/a
Operations	Disruption to operations Actions that lead to trains being halted	Everyone	1) CRITICAL - Engineering: Take due care and attention whilst working around track, signalling and other equipment. - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Engineering: Do not allow wood chips to fall in the area of the running track. - Effective 3) CRITICAL - Engineering: Ensure that the machine is always more than 3m away from the running line. - Effective 4) CRITICAL - Administrative: Ensure that all users are PTS trained and compliant - Effective 5) CRITICAL - Administrative: Do not work if visibility of the line is obstructed. - Effective 6) CRITICAL - Administrative: Do not start work until the Operations manager has been informed, so that notices can be issued to operational staff, if the machine is to be used lineside. - Effective 7) CRITICAL - Administrative: Ensure that the track and running line is not obstructed by machinery, equipment, persons, deliveries, supplies or in any way. - Effective 8) CRITICAL - Administrative: Ensure that there is safe access to and from the work site. - Effective	2 x 4 = 8 Medium - Risk to be minimised and controlled so far as is reasonably practical.	1) Administrative: Consider carrying out extensive work activities on days when trains are not operating. - Effective	2 x 2 = 4 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	n/a

**Score and Control Measure Notes.**

Risk is medium and can be controlled but staff should be very aware of train movements and keep well away from the running line.  
 Risk of disruption greatly reduced.

**COSHH Assessments**

There are no COSHH assessments associated with this risk assessment.  
 Ends