Risk Assessment - Working as part of the Lineside Clearance or Drainage Teams

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Noise (general)

Type	Hazard Cause	Persons Affected	Control Measures	L S T Overall	Additional Control Measures	L S T Overall	Owner/Action
Health and Safety	Temporary or permanent damage to hearing Noise emmissions from petrol-driven power tools	Volunteers & Staff	1) Administrative: All personnel to be advised: (i) of the risk of permanent injury caused by excessive levels of noise or exposure to noise over a long period of time; (ii) of the symptoms of noise damage and early warning signs; (iii) of ways to reduce harm from noise; (iv) of the increased risk of injury from the misuse of equipment or from the use of faulty equipment. - Effective 2) Administrative: Where necessary for the safe use of work equipment, those using the equipment to be provided with manufacturer's instructions - Effective 3) Administrative: All personnel to be trained in the use of all work equipment used by them. - Effective 4) CRITICAL - Administrative: Any equipment that is faulty or showing signs of faults, defects or wear and tear will be immediately withdrawn from service and either serviced, repaired or replaced. - Effective 5) CRITICAL - PPE: When using power tools keep the trigger time to a minimum and wear ear defenders. - Effective	2 x 3 = 6 Medium - Risk to be minimised and controlled so far as is reasonably practical.	1) Administrative: Work shall be planned so as to avoid individuals being exposed to noise for long continuous periods – several shorter periods are to be preferred. - Effective 2) Administrative: Where tools require continual or frequent use, rotate users where possible to limit exposure. - Effective	1 x 3 = 3 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	n/a

Noise (being unable to hear approaching trains)

Type	Hazard Cause	Persons Affected	Control Measures	L S T Overall	Additional Control Measures	L S T Overall	Owner/Action
Health and Safety	Not being in a position of safety when a train approaches Noise from machinery prevents locomotive whistle from being heard	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Engineering: Lookout to be appointed to warn the team of an approaching train. Advance Lookouts provided too, if necessary. - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Administrative: Copies of working timetable to be issued to teams showing public train movements. - Effective 3) CRITICAL - Administrative: Daily Ops Notice issued every work day to advise train crews of Lineside teams' work locations - Effective	2 x 5 = 10 Medium - Risk to be minimised and controlled so far as is reasonably practical.	1) Elimination: Work is to only take place in daylight hours. During fog, falling snow, heavy rain or other environmental condition which causes a reduction in visibility which prevents an approaching train from being seen in time, work must cease, the site made safe and volunteers exit the lineside. - Effective 2) Engineering: Appointment of 'Touch Lookout' to physically warn the operator of an approaching train - Effective	1 x 5 = 5 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	n/a

General use of equipment

Type	Hazard Cause	Persons Affected	Control Measures	L S T Overall	Additional Control Measures	L S T Overall	Owner/Action
Health and Safety	Personal injury Misuse of equipment, use of the wrong equipment or the use of faulty or unsuitable equipment	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Elimination: Report all defective tools, and either 'red tag' them or mark them “Not to be used.” - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Elimination: Keep hands away from moving parts and maintain a firm grip at all times. - Effective 3) CRITICAL - Elimination: No one may work with or on – including seeking to repair – any equipment unless those undertaking the work are competent and trained in the work to be done. - Effective 4) CRITICAL - Elimination: All work equipment will be subject to user checks – that is, visually inspected for signs of faults, defects or wear and tear, before use and maintained in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions. Any equipment that is faulty or showing signs of faults, defects or wear and tear will be immediately withdrawn from service and either repaired or replaced. - Effective 5) CRITICAL - Engineering: Check that all guards and safety devices are in place and functioning properly. - Effective 6) Administrative: All personnel to be advised of the risk of personal injury from the misuse of equipment or from the use of faulty equipment. - Effective 7) Administrative: Where necessary for the safe use of power hand tools, those using the equipment to be provided with manufacturer’s instructions for use. - Effective 8) CRITICAL - Administrative: Never use a power tool or piece of equipment unless you have been trained and authorised do so and only in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions - Effective 9) CRITICAL - Administrative: Inspect tools prior to use. Only use tools that are in good operating condition. - Effective 10) Administrative: First Aid kits to be carried with the work group and ideally a first aider should always be present. - Effective 11) CRITICAL - PPE: Wear hearing protection if appropriate and tie back long hair. - Effective 12) CRITICAL - PPE: Wear all other PPE designated as appropriate for the equipment. - Effective	2 x 3 = 6 Medium - Risk to be minimised and controlled so far as is reasonably practical.	1) Elimination: All operatives must work in a way which takes account of the safety of themselves and others. - Effective 2) Elimination: Work equipment shall only be used in conditions in which it is intended to be used, for example, shall not be used in wet conditions. - Effective 3) Administrative: Lone working is not permitted when working with powered or mechanical machinery or tools. - Effective	2 x 2 = 4 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	n/a

Handling of hazardous substances

Type	Hazard Cause	Persons Affected	Control Measures	L S T Overall	Additional Control Measures	L S T Overall	Owner/Action
Environmental	Environmental impact Spillage	Everyone	1) Substitution: The use of spill kits can help contain and absorb spilt substances to prevent them from causing excessive damage to the local environment. Always dispose of correctly. - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Engineering: When refuelling power tools, use a funnel to prevent spillages of petrol onto the ground. - Effective 3) Administrative: Refer to product Safety Data Sheets and handle in accordance with COSHH requirements. If the product does not have a GWR COSHH assessment it should not be used until this has been completed. - Effective 4) CRITICAL - PPE: Wear correct PPE when handling hazardous substances - Effective	3 x 1 = 3 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	None	n n n	n/a
Health and Safety	Fire Flammable substances, i.e. fuel	Everyone	1) CRITICAL - Elimination: Do not refuel machines which are hot; allow them to cool before attempting to refuel - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Elimination: Do not start engine if a fuel spillage has occured as there is a risk of ignition. - Effective 3) CRITICAL - Elimination: Fuel or flamable substances should be kept out of direct sunlight and away from bonfires and people who are smoking. - Effective	2 x 2 = 4 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	None	n n n	n/a

Type	Hazard Cause	Persons Affected	Control Measures	L S T Overall	Additional Control Measures	L S T Overall	Owner/Action
Health and Safety	Personal injury Inadvertent and unintentional skin or eye contact, ingestion, inhalation or injection of substances hazardous to health	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Elimination: Petrol driven machinery is not to be used in confined spaces due to toxic gases being emitted in exhaust smoke. - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Elimination: Petrol driven machinery is not to be used in areas with explosive atmospheres. - Effective 3) Engineering: Facilities for the washing and cleansing of the skin should be available (e.g. hand wipes). - Effective 4) CRITICAL - Administrative: Handle and use COSHH substances in accordance with the COSHH assessment carried out by the GWR. If a COSHH assessment has not been completed for the substance, it must not be used. - Effective 5) CRITICAL - PPE: When handling hazardous substances, the correct PPE should be worn - Effective	2 x 2 = 4 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	None	n n n	n/a

Using hand tools

Type	Hazard Cause	Persons Affected	Control Measures	L S T Overall	Additional Control Measures	L S T Overall	Owner/Action
Health and Safety	Personal injury Injuries from the misuse of equipment, use of the wrong equipment or the use of faulty or unsuitable equipment. Injuries from lack of training. Potentially fatal injuries from the use or misuse of cutting hand tools.	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Elimination: The tool shall be inspected by the user before use to ensure that it is not damaged. Any damaged or defective tool must not be used. - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Elimination: When using a Stanley knife it must have a retractable blade. Fixed blade Stanley knives may not be used. Blades must be retracted when not in use. - Effective 3) CRITICAL - Elimination: Cover or remove any blades when tools are being transported, stored or not in use. - Effective 4) CRITICAL - Engineering: Ensure you select the pieces of equipment that is suitable and safe for the job required. - Effective 5) Engineering: Only those who are trained and competent to do so may make adjustments to tools such as changing a blade, sharpening and such like. - Effective 6) Engineering: Maintain good housekeeping. Clean up as you go. Do not leave tools lying around. Return them to their correct storage location when not in use. - Effective 7) Engineering: Clean blades periodically throughout the day. Ensure blades are not loose and check for missing and badly damaged teeth, cracks, setting and sharpness. - Effective 8) Administrative: All personnel to be advised of the risk of personal injury from the misuse of equipment or from the use of faulty equipment. - Effective 9) Administrative: You should only use tools that you are confident and competent in using. All tools shall be used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. - Effective 10) CRITICAL - PPE: Wear the appropriate PPE, including eye protection to protect against flying off cuts and gloves to protect hands from bruises, cuts and abrasions. - Effective	2 x 2 = 4 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	1) Elimination: When not in use at a specific point during a job then any tool/implement will be positioned so that it cannot interfere with or cause a hazard to any person. - Effective 2) Substitution: Where possible, for the safe use of the tool the manufacturer's instructions should be made available for reference. - Effective	1 x 2 = 2 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	n/a

Type	Hazard Cause	Persons Affected	Control Measures	L S T Overall	Additional Control Measures	L S T Overall	Owner/Action
Health and Safety	Tools with blades or sharp edges Using sharp tools	Volunteers & Staff	1) Elimination: Cover or remove the blade when tools are being transported, stored or not in use. - Effective 2) Engineering: Clean blades periodically throughout the day. Ensure blades are not loose and check for missing and badly damaged teeth, cracks, setting and sharpness. - Effective 3) Engineering: When sharpening, hold the cutting tool firmly and in a safe position. Ensure fingers and other parts of the hand are kept well clear of the edge. - Effective 4) Engineering: Check the handles (and extensions) for cracks and splinters. - Effective 5) Administrative: Ensure maintenance, setting and sharpening is carried out as specified in the manufacturer's instructions. - Effective	2 x 2 = 4 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	None	n n n	n/a
Health and Safety	Use of weeding and cleaning tools Incorrect use	Volunteers & Staff	1) Engineering: Make sure a firm stance is maintained and ensure there is enough clear, unimpeded space to swing the cutting tools safely. - Effective 2) Engineering: Do not swing the cutting tool directly towards the legs. - Effective 3) Engineering: When using a short-handed hook, keep your free hand well away from the cutting direction. A forked stick may be used to keep the free hand away from the cutting tool. - Effective	2 x 2 = 4 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	None	n n n	n/a
Health and Safety	Use of Hand Saws for brashing and pruning Incorrect use	Volunteers & Staff	1) Engineering: Maintain a firm stance and ensure there is enough clear, unimpeded space to swing the cutting tools safely. - Effective 2) Engineering: Be alert to hazards such as wasps' nests. - Effective 3) Engineering: Take extra care when working on broken ground, near drains etc. - Effective 4) Engineering: Stand clear of falling branches. - Effective 5) Engineering: Keep ditches clear of brash. - Effective	2 x 2 = 4 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	None	n n n	n/a

Using brushcutters and hedge trimmers

Type	Hazard Cause	Persons Affected	Control Measures	L S T Overall	Additional Control Measures	L S T Overall	Owner/Action
Health and Safety	Personal Injury or Injury to Others Incorrect use of tool, poorly serviced or maintained tool, lack of training, lack of spatial awareness	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Elimination: Lone working is not permitted when working with powered or mechanical machinery or tools. - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Elimination: Use the brushcutter at ground level only. Do not overreach. Keep proper footing and balance at all times. - Effective 3) CRITICAL - Elimination: Shut off engine before cleaning out clogged or stuck cutter. Stop the engine before putting cutter down. Do not leave running tools unattended. - Effective 4) CRITICAL - Elimination: Keep the cutter tool covered with the appropriate guard when the tool is not in use. - Effective 5) CRITICAL - Elimination: If the tool is not in good condition put a “Do Not Use” Notice on it and report it. - Effective 6) Substitution: First Aid kits, including eye wash kits, to be carried with the work group and ideally a first aider should always be present. - Effective 7) CRITICAL - Engineering: Rotating cutting tools can throw objects or cut the operator or those nearby, so a work area should be defined and other workers kept clear. - Effective 8) CRITICAL - Engineering: Replace bent, warped, damaged or dull cutting apparatus. Replace or tighten all loose or damaged parts or guards. - Effective 9) Engineering: Ensure that the cutting part is adjusted properly and is tight. - Effective 10) CRITICAL - Engineering: Where possible, clear the work area of stones, glass, metal and debris to avoid these items from getting thrown if hit by the rotating blade. This is not always possible in overgrown areas, so care should be taken when brushcutting in areas where the ground cannot easily be seen. - Effective 11) CRITICAL - Engineering: Start the unit on firm ground or other solid surfaces in an open area. Maintain good balance and a secure footing when operating. Adjust harness and hand grip to suit work positions. - Effective 12) Engineering: When refuelling, refer to "Handling hazardous substances" section. - Effective 13) CRITICAL - Engineering: HAVS: Use machines fitted with anti-vibration mounts where possible. Take regular breaks, performing other (non-power tool) duties in between if necessary to reduce HAVS risk. - Effective 14) CRITICAL - Administrative: Only those people who are trained and certified as competent may use brushcutters. The competency should be recorded on the Portal. - Effective 15) CRITICAL - Administrative: Read, understand, and follow instructions in the manufacturer's operating manual. - Effective 16) CRITICAL - PPE: Specialist PPE should be worn over and above the standard Railway PPE. The additional PPE can include (but is not limited to) overalls, brushcutter trousers, non-slip gloves, forestry helmet, safety goggles and hearing protection. - Effective 17) CRITICAL - PPE: Shorts, or short sleeved tops should not be worn when operating this equipment. - Effective	2 x 4 = 8 Medium - Risk to be minimised and controlled so far as is reasonably practical.	None	n n n	n/a

General use of chainsaws

Type	Hazard Cause	Persons Affected	Control Measures	L S T Overall	Additional Control Measures	L S T Overall	Owner/Action
Health and Safety	Personal injury or injury to others Incorrect use of tool, poorly serviced or maintained tool, lack of training, lack of spatial awareness	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Elimination: Lone working is not permitted when working with powered or mechanical machinery or tools. - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Elimination: Do not use a chainsaw if wind or other environmental conditions increase the risk or may cause you to lose control of any felling or fall direction. - Effective 3) CRITICAL - Elimination: Young persons must not use chain saws. - Effective 4) CRITICAL - Substitution: A minimum of two people must be present during all chainsaw operations and competent and equipped to initiate the emergency procedures without delay. - Effective 5) Engineering: When refuelling, refer to "Handling hazardous substances" section. - Effective 6) CRITICAL - Engineering: First Aid kits, which should include large wound bandages, to be carried with the work group and ideally a first aider with particular training in large wounds should always be present. - Effective 7) CRITICAL - Engineering: Be prepared to provide the emergency services with adequate information on how to find you including grid reference, distance from the road, suitability of access and know the nearest hospital. - Effective 8) CRITICAL - Engineering: Rotating cutting tools can throw objects or cut the operator or those nearby, so a work area should be defined and other workers kept clear. - Effective 9) CRITICAL - Engineering: Replace bent, warped, damaged or dull cutting apparatus. Replace or tighten all loose or damaged parts or guards. - Effective 10) CRITICAL - Engineering: Ensure that the cutting part is adjusted properly and is tight. - Effective 11) CRITICAL - Engineering: Start the chainsaw on firm ground or other solid surfaces in an open area. Maintain good balance and a secure footing when operating. - Effective 12) CRITICAL - Engineering: Shut off engine before cleaning out clogged or stuck chains. Stop the engine before putting the chainsaw down. Do not leave running tools unattended. - Effective 13) CRITICAL - Engineering: Keep the cutter tool covered with the appropriate guard when the tool is not in use. - Effective 14) CRITICAL - Engineering: If the tool is not in good condition put a “Do Not Use” Notice on it and report it. - Effective 15) CRITICAL - Administrative: Chainsaws are dangerous equipment and they must only be used strictly in accordance with this risk assessment and the safety guidance referred to. - Effective 16) Administrative: For specific tasks, the safe system of work set out in the following HSE Guidance Leaflets should be followed: (i) 301 – Using Petrol-Driven Chainsaws; (ii) 302 - Basic Felling by Chainsaw (iii) 303 - Chainsaw Snedding; (iv) 304 - Cross-Cutting and Manual Stacking; (v) 306 – Chainsaw Clearance of Windblow; (vi) 307 – Felling Large Trees; (vii) 308 – Use of Top-handled Chainsaws; (viii) 310 – Using Winches as an aid to Directional Felling of Trees - Effective 17) CRITICAL - Administrative: Everyone using a chain saw must be trained and certified as competent and have the appropriate training, information and instruction, including certification in chainsaws. The certificate of competency must be recorded on the Portal. - Effective CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE	2 x 4 = 8 Medium - Risk to be minimised and controlled so far as is reasonably practical.	None	n n n	n/a

Type	Hazard Cause	Persons Affected	Control Measures	L S T Overall	Additional Control Measures	L S T Overall	Owner/Action
			18) CRITICAL - Administrative: Read, understand, and follow instructions in the manufacturer's operating manual. - Effective 19) CRITICAL - PPE: Specialist PPE should be worn over and above the standard Railway PPE. The additional PPE can include (but is not limited to) overalls, chainsaw trousers, chainsaw boots, non-slip gloves, forestry helmet, safety goggles and hearing protection. - Effective 20) CRITICAL - PPE: Shorts, or short sleeved tops should not be worn when operating this equipment. - Effective				
Health and Safety	Using chainsaws for tree felling or cross-cutting Dangers	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Elimination: Refer to specific Risk Assessment LIN-46252-23 "Tree Felling and Cross Cutting with Chainsaws" - Effective	3 x 3 = 9 Medium - Risk to be minimised and controlled so far as is reasonably practical.	None	n n n	n/a

Working near overhead cables

Type	Hazard Cause	Persons Affected	Control Measures	L S T Overall	Additional Control Measures	L S T Overall	Owner/Action
Health and Safety	Electric shock, Burns, Fire, Explosion Unintentional contact with underground or overhead cables, arcing of electricity from cables, trees falling onto cables.	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Elimination: Never assume electric cables or lines are dead. Do not touch an electric cable or line at any time - automatic switching may reconnect the power. - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Elimination: No lone workers or young workers to work in close proximity to overhead power cables. - Effective 3) CRITICAL - Elimination: Long-reach tools, such as polesaws must not be used in the vicinity of overhead electric cables. - Effective 4) CRITICAL - Engineering: No trees to be felled if any part of the machine or the tree can come within two tree lengths of power lines without prior consent from the Electricity Network Provider. Only fell trees parallel to or away from the power lines (assume they are always live). Ensure the weather conditions and wind direction will not affect the control of the felling direction. - Effective 5) CRITICAL - Administrative: The rules set out in the GWR Rule Book Appendix T must be followed at all times when working near or under electric power lines along railway property. - Effective 6) Administrative: Anyone carrying out arboriculture work in close proximity to overhead power lines should refer to advisory leaflet AFAG804: "Electricity at work: Forestry and Arboriculture". - Effective 7) CRITICAL - Administrative: Establish safe working areas when working around electricity cables and pylons and determine no-go zones. - Effective 8) CRITICAL - Administrative: Ensure that the appropriate control measures are put in place to protect members of the public and other workers. - Effective	1 x 5 = 5 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	None	n n n	n/a

Lineside bonfires

Type	Hazard Cause	Persons Affected	Control Measures	L S T Overall	Additional Control Measures	L S T Overall	Owner/Action
Health and Safety	Safety to the operational railway Smoke affecting visibility. Lineside fires.	Everyone	1) CRITICAL - Elimination: Bonfires must not be lit on hot dry days where there is increased risk of the fire spreading and becoming uncontrollable. - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Elimination: Only wood and natural materials to be burnt. Plastics can release toxic gases and must not be added to bonfires. - Effective 3) CRITICAL - Elimination: Flammable materials, such as fuel cans, must be kept at a suitable distance from the bonfire that they do not ignite, explode or catch fire. - Effective 4) CRITICAL - Elimination: Petrol must not be used to light or enhance a fire under any circumstances. - Effective 5) CRITICAL - Substitution: Bonfires to be made on the side of the line which will prevent smoke from crossing the line where possible. Wind direction must be factored in. - Effective 6) CRITICAL - Engineering: Lineside bonfires to be kept small and controllable. - Effective 7) CRITICAL - Engineering: Bonfires must not be made near signals or other operational signage where the smoke may impair visibility of the signal or sign. - Effective 8) CRITICAL - Engineering: Suitable extinguishing methods must be available. - Effective 9) CRITICAL - Administrative: A member of the team to be designated as 'fire watcher' and they must ensure the fire is out before the team leave site. - Effective 10) CRITICAL - Administrative: If bonfires are taking place near stations, the Station Master must be informed so they are aware. - Effective 11) CRITICAL - Administrative: If necessary the local fire station should be informed in case of reports by members of the public. - Effective 12) Administrative: A note should be made on the Daily Operating Notices to advise crews of possible bonfire locations. - Effective 13) CRITICAL - Administrative: Those tending to bonfires should be careful in their choice of clothing; no light clothes should be worn and those wearing flammable or meltable clothing must stay clear. Suitable boots should be worn that can resist the heat of embers. - Effective 14) CRITICAL - Administrative: The person in charge must be aware of the nearest access point suitable for fire engines (using the What3Words system if necessary) in case of emergency and a 999 call needs to be placed. - Effective 15) Administrative: A burns kit should be carried and made available to first aiders. - Effective	2 x 2 = 4 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	None	n n n	n/a

Flora and Fauna

Type	Hazard Cause	Persons Affected	Control Measures	L S T Overall	Additional Control Measures	L S T Overall	Owner/Action
Health and Safety	Irritation or Poisioning Bites, Stings, Blisters or Rashes from plants on the lineside and animals hiding within the undergrowth	Volunteers & Staff	1) Substitution: Identify plants before commencing operations. If Giant Hogweed or Water Hemlock is identitied, report this so specialist contractors can be engaged to remove. - Effective 2) Administrative: Be concious of risk of adders in the undergrowth. If one is spotted, leave it well alone and inform others in the team of its presence. - Effective 3) PPE: Wear PPE covering all skin and safety goggles or face shield as well as mesh visor. - Effective 4) PPE: No shorts, or short sleeved tops to be worn, reducing the risk of skin contact with sap. - Effective 5) CRITICAL - PPE: Ensure hands are cleaned thoroughly before eating or drinking. - Effective	2 x 2 = 4 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	None	n n n	n/a

Working near water

Type	Hazard Cause	Persons Affected	Control Measures	L S T Overall	Additional Control Measures	L S T Overall	Owner/Action
Health and Safety	Bio-hazards through contact with water Infections from vermin - Weils disease, Legionella, Tetanus, Hepatitis, etc.	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Engineering: Beware of unidentified cannisters, bottles, cans and so on dumped on the lineside, the contents may not be as labelled. - Effective 2) Administrative: All personnel to be advised of the significant risks from bio-hazards through direct ingestion, entry by skin or eye contact and inhalation when in contact with contaminated soil or sewage. - Effective 3) Administrative: Ensure your tetanus and hepatitis inoculations are up to date. - Effective 4) CRITICAL - PPE: At all times keep all cuts and abrasions covered with waterproof dressings. Wear suitable gloves. Do not eat, drink or smoke whilst working. Wash hands thoroughly at the beginning and end of each shift and before using the toilet. Remove contaminated clothing before eating and drinking. - Effective 5) CRITICAL - PPE: Where the water is known to be or is suspected to be foul, do not touch your face unless you have washed your hands. Wear a P3 face mask and goggles over disposable coveralls if possible. Wear disposable nitrile gloves and waterproof boots. - Effective 6) PPE: If the work is likely to expose you to significant volumes of soil dust, moulds or spores, wear a face mask. Use wetting techniques if possible to minimise exposure. - Effective 7) PPE: If working with water systems where a water mist or spray is likely to be created (including disposing of dirty water or foul water), wear a suitable face mask (P3). - Effective 8) CRITICAL - PPE: Waterproof gloves should be worn when working in direct contact with water. - Effective	2 x 3 = 6 Medium - Risk to be minimised and controlled so far as is reasonably practical.	None	n n n	n/a
Health and Safety	Drowning Entering water intentionally or otherwise and being unable to escape	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Substitution: Retain stumps in riparian zones and aquatic habitats, where practicable, to reduce the potential for bank erosion. - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Substitution: Ensure that all water systems are identified before work commences to ensure that there is no risk of water inundation. - Effective 3) CRITICAL - Engineering: Clear up waste materials as work proceeds and dispose of correctly. Keep floor areas clean to prevent trip or fall hazards near water. - Effective 4) CRITICAL - Administrative: All personnel to be advised of the significant risks while working in and around water particularly the risks of falling into or being inundated by water or materials as a result of a ground collapse and of vehicles falling in. - Effective 5) CRITICAL - Administrative: Plan the works to avoid, where practicable, any activities in aquatic habitats and riparian zones. - Effective	2 x 4 = 8 Medium - Risk to be minimised and controlled so far as is reasonably practical.	1) Elimination: Any person unable to swim is not permitted within 10m of any body of water. - Effective 2) Substitution: Minimise riparian vegetation removal where practicable, and restrict access to the waterways to the minimum amount of bank length required for the activity. - Effective	1 x 4 = 4 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	n/a
Environmental	Environmental impact Contamination to land or water	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Substitution: Carry out any refuelling of plant and equipment, chemical storage and decanting at least 50 m away from aquatic habitats. - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Engineering: Clean up spills immediately and dispose of waste correctly. - Effective	2 x 1 = 2 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	None	n n n	n/a

Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway Plc
Risk Assessment for Working as part of the Lineside Clearance or Drainage Teams - Lineside Clearance

Type	Hazard Cause	Persons Affected	Control Measures	L S T Overall	Additional Control Measures	L S T Overall	Owner/Action
Health and Safety	Fast flowing water After a period of heavy rain, in flood/spate conditions, or during a weather warning	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Elimination: Do not work within 0.5 metres of any watercourse with a flow of over 1 mile per hour - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Elimination: Never work in or near to a watercourse after a period of heavy rain, in flood/spate conditions, or during a weather warning. - Effective	1 x 2 = 2 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	None	n n n	n/a
Health and Safety	Deep water After a period of heavy rain, in flood/spate conditions, or during a weather warning	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Elimination: Do not work in water (streams, rivers) deeper than wellington boot height. - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Administrative: Use stick to measure water and check the ground conditions of the waterbody before entering. - Effective 3) CRITICAL - Administrative: Identify two safe locations to enter and exit. - Effective	2 x 1 = 2 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	None	n n n	n/a
Health and Safety	Steep banks Streamside banks can be deceptively steep, slippery and obscured by vegetation	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Elimination: Know where the bank edge is by flattening vegetation first with a stick or pole. - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Administrative: Stand at least 0.5 metres away from the edge of any steep bank to survey for risks before starting work. - Effective 3) CRITICAL - Administrative: If entering the water, identify suitable locations where there is safe access / egress. - Effective 4) CRITICAL - PPE: Wear appropriate footwear - Effective	2 x 2 = 4 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	None	n n n	n/a
Health and Safety	Pollution Pollution incident upstream	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Elimination: Do not enter water if there is suspected pollution. - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Administrative: Advise the Infrastructure Manager if there is suspected pollution so an investigation can be instigated. - Effective	1 x 4 = 4 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	None	n n n	n/a
Health and Safety	Invasive or dangerous plant species	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Elimination: Do not enter water if blue-green algae is thought to be present. - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Administrative: Be aware of blue-green algae or toxic plants such as giant hogweed. - Effective 3) CRITICAL - Administrative: Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water at the end of the survey and before eating or touching face. - Effective 4) CRITICAL - PPE: Wear trousers and long-sleeved clothing. Wear suitable gloves if touching any plants. - Effective	1 x 2 = 2 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	None	n n n	n/a
Health and Safety	Ineffective safety equipment Safety equipment including throwlines could be damaged or faulty. Inexperienced volunteers may use safety equipment incorrectly.	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Elimination: If throwline is used, it should be washed, dried and stored appropriately for next use. - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Elimination: All equipment should be inspected regularly and after use. - Effective 3) CRITICAL - Administrative: Anyone carrying a throwline should be confident in how to use it in an emergency. - Effective	2 x 2 = 4 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	None	n n n	n/a

Damage to ecosystems and wildlife

Type	Hazard Cause	Persons Affected	Control Measures	L S T Overall	Additional Control Measures	L S T Overall	Owner/Action
Health and Safety	Work affecting local wildlife Inappropriate maintenance of the lineside	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Administrative: Check for nesting birds prior to starting work. - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Administrative: Check for animal or insect nests which may be affected. - Effective 3) CRITICAL - Administrative: Avoid using machines in nesting areas during nesting season. - Effective 4) CRITICAL - Administrative: Avoid contact with livestock. - Effective	2 x 1 = 2 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	None	n n n	n/a

Biohazards

Type	Hazard Cause	Persons Affected	Control Measures	L S T Overall	Additional Control Measures	L S T Overall	Owner/Action
Health and Safety	Biohazards Skin irritation, allergic reaction, disease (including Lyme disease, Tetanus and Weil's disease)	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Administrative: Be familiar with and check for potentially poisonous plants. - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Administrative: Check for bees nests or wasps nests in trees in and around the working area before starting work. - Effective 3) CRITICAL - Administrative: Advise fellow volunteers if you have any known allergies and what medication you carry and how to administer it in an emergency. - Effective 4) CRITICAL - Administrative: Stop work and seek medical advice if you start to feel unwell during, or after a session. - Effective 5) CRITICAL - Administrative: Be familiar with and check for adders. - Effective 6) PPE: Where appropriate, cover arms and legs. - Effective 7) CRITICAL - PPE: Clean and cover any skin lacerations prior to starting works. - Effective 8) CRITICAL - PPE: Wash hands before eating and drinking. - Effective	2 x 2 = 4 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	None	n n n	n/a

Working near the highway

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 pedestrians and/or damage to vehicles Working near public roads and pathways	Everyone	1) CRITICAL - Administrative: If work needs to take place near (or over) the public highway, undertake a dynamic risk assessment to determine whether it is safe to continue considering risks to passing people and vehicles. - Effective	3 x 1 = 3 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	None	n n n	n/a

Working in remote locations

Type	Hazard Cause	Persons Affected	Control Measures	L S T Overall	Additional Control Measures	L S T Overall	Owner/Action
Health and Safety	Working in remote locations Working at any location on GWSR property on the lineside	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Elimination: No lone working is permitted. - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Administrative: Ensure the Infrastructure Manager and/or Track Manager are aware of planned works and have given permission for the works to be carried out. - Effective 3) CRITICAL - Administrative: Ensure you have a working mobile phone with you in case of emergency. - Effective 4) CRITICAL - Administrative: An entry should be made on the Ops Daily Notices of any planned lineside works so train crews will be aware of your presence. - Effective 5) CRITICAL - Administrative: Be aware of the nearest access point for emergency services should they be needed. - Effective	2 x 2 = 4 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	None	n n n	n/a

Working on the lineside (general)

Type	Hazard Cause	Persons Affected	Control Measures	L S T Overall	Additional Control Measures	L S T Overall	Owner/Action
Health and Safety	Slips, trips and falls Undulating uneven terrain. Tools and general housekeeping rules.	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Administrative: All persons working in the area must help keep the site, equipment and tools tidy. - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Administrative: Have a clear escape route planned for the work being undertaken, in case of an emergency. - Effective 3) CRITICAL - Administrative: Be conscious of the surrounding area - holes, ditches, slopes, stumps etc. - Effective 4) CRITICAL - Administrative: Mark or cover any particular hazards. - Effective 5) CRITICAL - PPE: Wear appropriate footwear. - Effective	3 x 2 = 6 Medium - Risk to be minimised and controlled so far as is reasonably practical.	None	n n n	n/a

COSHH Assessments

There are no COSHH assessments associated with this risk assessment.

Reference Documents

- AFAG301 Using petrol-driven chainsaws leaflet - AFAG301 Using petrol-driven chainsaws leaflet - HSE publication, also available on the Volunteer Portal, along with other HSE publications relevant to the safe use of chainsaws.
- Brushcutter safety guidance leaflet - Brushcutter safety guidance leaflet
- HAVS Assessment - Power tools hand arm vibration and noise data assessment
- Lineside Clearance booklet - Introduction and Working Safely information booklet for all volunteers

Ends