Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway Plc
Risk Assessment for Use of Woodchipper Machine - Estates Management

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Risk Assessment - Use of Woodchipper Machine
Reference No: EST-45099-29
Version No: 1
Assessment Approver: Kevin 'Kev' Jarvis

The GWSR has purchased a machine that is used to break down branches, twigs, sticks etc into much smaller, easier to handle, particle sizes. These can then be disposed of easier or used as mulch around the railway. This RA assesses the risks involed in using this machine and outlines control, actions to be followed to ensure safe working.

Department: Estates Management
Date Of Assessment: 22 June 2023
Review Due Before: 10 July 2026
Lead Assessor: Steve Yells
Team: Kevin Jarvis & Mike Peers

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 appropriste 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: Due 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

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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 or 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 an 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 al 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 carryiong 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