



**Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway Plc**  
**Risk Assessment for Manual Handling and Fitting Track Components - Permanent Way**

**Risk Assessment - Manual Handling and Fitting Track Components**

Reference No: PER-44110-79  
Version No: 2  
Assessment Approver: Paul Fuller

Department: Permanent Way  
Date Of Assessment: 06 October 2020  
Review Due Before: 11 October 2026  
Lead Assessor: Andrew Young  
Team: Consolidation of old sources and new advice on working

**Handling Fishplates**

Type	Hazard Cause	Persons Affected	Control Measures	L Overall	S	T	Additional Control Measures	L Overall	S	T	Owner/Action
Health and Safety	Crushing Hands / Feet Dropping fishplate assembly or individual plates	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Elimination: Handle with decent grip gloves - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Elimination: Wear steel toe-capped boots - Effective 3) CRITICAL - Elimination: Ensure surfaces are clear on route and the target area is clear. - Effective 4) CRITICAL - Elimination: Ensure area is clear of people and trip hazards. - Effective	4 x	2 =	8	None	2 x 2 = 4 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	n/a		
Health and Safety	Skin contact with lubricant General handling plates and bolts	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Elimination: Wash hands before eating and finishing work - Effective 2) CRITICAL - PPE: Use gloves with good penetration protection - double up with latex inner gloves - Effective	4 x	2 =	8	None	n n n	n/a		

**Manual Handling Sleepers**

Type	Hazard Cause	Persons Affected	Control Measures	L Overall	S	T	Additional Control Measures	L Overall	S	T	Owner/Action
Health and Safety	Manual Handling From dropping or mishandling material.	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Elimination: Ensure area is clear of people and trip hazards. - Effective 2) CRITICAL - PPE: Use gloves with good grip - Effective 3) CRITICAL - PPE: Wear steel toe-capped boots - Effective	4 x	2 =	8	1) Elimination: Use sleeper chains and mechanically lift - Effective	3 x 2 = 6 Medium - Risk to be minimised and controlled so far as is reasonably practical.	n/a		
Health and Safety	Skin contact with creosote on timber sleepers Handling sleepers without protection	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Elimination: Wash hands before eating and finishing work - Effective 2) CRITICAL - PPE: Wear gloves with suitable penetration protection - Effective	2 x	2 =	4	None	n n n	n/a		

**Handling Rail**



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Type	Hazard Cause	Persons Affected	Control Measures	L Overall	S	T	Additional Control Measures	L Overall	S	T	Owner/Action
Health and Safety	Crushing hands / feet From dropping or mishandling material.	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Elimination: Ensure area is clear of people and trip hazards. - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Engineering: Use sleeper tongs / "dogs" for lifting rail - Effective 3) CRITICAL - PPE: Wear steel toe-capped boots - Effective 4) CRITICAL - PPE: Use gloves with good grip - Effective	3 x	3 =	9	1) Engineering: Employ mechanical lifting - Iron Man or lifting plant - Effective	2 x	3 =	6	n/a
				Medium - Risk to be minimised and controlled so far as is reasonably practical.				Medium - Risk to be minimised and controlled so far as is reasonably practical.			
Health and Safety	Overexertion or lifting beyond personal means Lifting rail / team lifting	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Elimination: PIC to control lifting movements ensuring all are lifting at the same time and the overall weight is not beyond the ability of the team - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Elimination: Anyone seen to be struggling should be stepped down - note on Critical Friend concept. It is not a sign of failure. - Effective	4 x	3 =	12	1) Elimination: Make use of ironman lifting apparatus if available. - Effective	3 x	3 =	9	n/a
				Medium - Risk to be minimised and controlled so far as is reasonably practical.				Medium - Risk to be minimised and controlled so far as is reasonably practical.			

**Installing / Removing Clips**

Type	Hazard Cause	Persons Affected	Control Measures	L Overall	S	T	Additional Control Measures	L Overall	S	T	Owner/Action
Health and Safety	Trapped fingers / feet From dropping or mishandling components or impact from hammering	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Elimination: Brief staff correctly on install/removal procedures - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Elimination: Wear gloves / PPE footwear with toe protection - Effective	4 x	2 =	8	None	n	n	n	n/a
				Medium - Risk to be minimised and controlled so far as is reasonably practical.							
Health and Safety	Impact from flying clips Impact / hammering to remove clips under spring	Everyone	1) CRITICAL - Elimination: Using the correct extraction / installation tools suitable for the clips being used - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Elimination: Place foot next to clip when extracting to ensure it doesn't fly off if using force to remove it. - Effective 3) CRITICAL - Elimination: Do not cut clips which are under tension unless the action of the cut can be clearly determined and planned. - Effective	4 x	2 =	8	None	n	n	n	n/a
				Medium - Risk to be minimised and controlled so far as is reasonably practical.							

**COSHH Assessments**

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