



VALE PATH VOLUNTEERS (VPV)

PATH MAINTENANCE TEAM OF THE RAMBLERS VALE OF WHITE HORSE GROUP

Date assessed/re-assessed	1 March 2023 20 Aug 2024
Work operation	BRUSH CUTTER use
Assessor's name & designation	Patrick Rosum, VPV Coordinator

(1) Hazard	(2) Hazard effect	(3) Measures to control the risk from hazard effect
Revolving blades (operator)	Serious damage to hands.	Machine is switched off before blades are examined.
Revolving blades (other team members and members of the public)	Serious damage to body.	Machine is not operated near other people. A VPV team with a brush cutter comprises at least two people in addition to the machine operator. These, act as banksmen to warn the public and alert the operator to their presence. Brush cutting ceases when people get to within 15 metres of the machine operator. 'Men at work' warning triangles are placed on both flanks of a VPV team.
Operator falls over.	Sundry injuries as with any fall. (The brush cutter harness would keep the blades away from the operator.)	Operator has good balance at all times, feet firmly on the ground, and not over-reaching. 'Dead man's handle' on machine turns machine off if it is dropped.
Operator falls over, losing control of machine. (Other people)	Brush cutter could hit other people, causing cuts.	Mitigations as for 'oscillating blades (other team members and members of the public)' above.
Fuel container damaged by brush cutter.	Splashing of face and other part of body. Risk of damage to eyes, fire, burning.	Fuel container is placed well away from the brush cutter when it is in action. Fuel container is placed off the PRow but remains fully visible.
Noise of brush cutter	Could cause animals e.g. horses, dogs, on PRow to panic which could cause harm to animal, volunteer and/or member of the public.	Machine is not operated near other people or animals on a PRow. In addition to the mitigations above, the machine is turned off until the operator judges that the animal has moved a safe distance away.
Debris flying (operator)	Could hit face.	Operator wears safety spectacles, safety helmet with visor and suitable clothing, including leg guards.

Debris flying (Others)

Could hit face or other part of the body.

Brush cutting ceases when people approach to within 15 metres.