

Boughton Fen Committee

RISK ASSESSMENT

BFC/RA003

Reviewed 23rd Jan 2026 (BFC Committee members at meeting 23rd Jan 2026)

Event: Working Party Activities including Tree Pruning/Branch Removal , Vegetation Clearance, Debris Burning	Originator: K.J.Fisher
Date: 13th May 2013	Reviewer: D.Cooper
Location: Boughton Upper, Middle and Lower Fen	Date of Assessment: 13th May 2013

Risk Factor = **Likelihood** 5 = Certain 4 = Probable 3 = Likely to Occur 2 = May Occur 1 = Unlikely
Consequence 5 = Multi Fatality 4 = Fatality 3 = Major Injury 2 = Minor Injury (Treatment required) 1=Minor Injury (No Treatment)
Risk = Likelihood x Consequence

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SUBJECT/ACTIVITY	RISKS	Degree of Risk			ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN TO CONTROL THE RISK	Comments	Residual Risk		
		L	C	R			L	C	R
Tree Pruning/Branch Removal and Clearance - Use of saw and loppers	Risk 1. Physical injury from tools. 2. Physical injury from timber, branches, logs, chippings and sawdust. 3. Slips or trips from untidy work area. 4. Entanglement in branches. 5. Manual handling injury through movement of timber, logs and branches. 6. Sawdust. 7. Entanglement/trips from use of ropes Harm 1. Cuts, Strains, Sprains, Bruises, falls, eye injuries. 2. Injury from falling equipment or pruned branches Persons at risk 1. Operative. 2. Other persons in the vicinity of the operative	3	2	6	Prior to work commencing 1. Must have suitable and proscribed PPE for the task. Operator should wear protective gloves and goggles. 2. Inspect and ensure that saw(s) and loppers are in good repair and working order. Control measures NO LONE WORKING. 1. Ensure area and equipment kept tidy. 2. Have a first aid kit on site and know how and where to summon help in case of injury. On completion 1. Tidy up site. Clear away all debris and dispose to appropriate site.		2	2	4

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Vegetation Clearance – Use of petrol powered tools i.e. brush cutter/trimmer/hedge cutter	Risk 1. Physical injury from powered tools. 2. Physical injury from defective machinery or equipment. 3. Physical injury from flying debris. 4. Slips or trips from untidy work area. 5. Physical injury due to vibration, ie ‘White Finger’. 6. Noise induced hearing loss. 7. Fuel leakage and fire. Harm 1. Puncture wounds, bruises, sprains and strains, eye injuries. Persons at risk 1. Operative. 2. Other persons in the vicinity of the operative	3	3	9	Prior to work commencing 1. User should be competent in the use of powered tools for the task in hand. 2. Must have suitable and proscribed PPE for the task. Operator should wear protective leggings, gloves, goggles, hard hat, ear muffers and protective boots. 3. Inspect and ensure that tool(s) is/are in good repair and working order and correctly adjusted. 4. Ensure familiarity with method statement/Safe System of Work for equipment and proposed work site. Control measures NO LONE WORKING. 1. Ensure the work area is cordoned off, warning signs are placed and area and equipment kept tidy. 2. BFC to maintain item 1 above and watch and warn operatives and others of possible encroachment 3. Suitable arrangements for storing and transporting equipment, fuel and materials. 4. Have a first aid kit on site and know how and where to summon help in case of injury. 5. Take hourly breaks of 5 minutes to allow muscles to recover. On completion 1. Tidy up site. Clear away all debris and dispose to appropriate site.		2	3	6

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Tree Pruning/Vegetation Clearance - Use of other hand tools	Risk 1. Physical injury from use of tools. 2. Slips or trips from untidy work area. 3. Entanglement in vegetation. 5. Manual handling injury through movement of timber, logs and branches. Harm 1. Cuts, Strains, Sprains, Bruises Persons at risk 1. All volunteers	3	2	6	Prior to work commencing 1. Advised to use suitable and PPE for the task. Volunteers should wear protective gloves and protective footwear. 2. Inspect and ensure that tool(s) is/are in good repair and working order. Control measures NO LONE WORKING. 1. Ensure area and equipment kept tidy. 2 Have a first aid kit on site and know how and where to summon help in case of injury. On completion 1. Tidy up site. Clear away all debris and dispose to appropriate site.		2	2	4

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Tree Felling - Use of chainsaw	Risk 1. Physical injury from chainsaw. 2. Physical injury from defective machinery or equipment. 3. Physical injury from timber, branches, logs, chippings and sawdust. 4. Falls from access equipment. 5. Falling branches, logs, access equipment, ropes. 6. Slips or trips from untidy work area. 7. Entanglement in branches or ropes. 8. Manual handling injury through movement of timber, logs, branches and other equipment. 9. Flying chippings and sawdust. 10. Physical injury due to vibration, ie 'White Finger'. 11. Noise induced hearing loss. 12. Fuel leakage and fire. Harm 1. Amputation, fatality from blood loss, stab wounds, falls, eye injuries. 2. Injury from falling materials or equipment. 3. Respiratory problems. Persons at risk 1. Operative. 2. Other persons in the vicinity of the operative	3	4	12	Prior to work commencing 1. User must be competent in the use of chainsaws for the task in hand. 2. Must have suitable and proscribed PPE for the task. Operator should wear protective leggings, gloves, goggles, hard hat, ear muffers and protective boots. 3. Inspect and ensure that chainsaw(s) is/are in good repair and working order and correctly adjusted. 4. Ensure familiarity with method statement/Safe System of Work for equipment and proposed work site. Control measures NO LONE WORKING. 1. Ensure the whole work area is cordoned off, proper warning signs are placed and area and equipment kept tidy. 2. BFSC to maintain item 1 above and watch and warn operatives and others of possible encroachment 3. Suitable arrangements for storing and transporting equipment, fuel and materials. 4. Have a first aid kit on site and know how and where to summon help in case of injury. 5. Take hourly breaks of 5 minutes to allow muscles to recover. On completion 1. Tidy up site. Clear away all debris and dispose to appropriate site.		2	3	6

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Disposal of Debris	Risk 1. Physical injury from debris. 2. Slips or trips from untidy work area. 3. Entanglement in vegetation. 4. Manual handling injury through movement of timber, logs and branches. 5. Fire Harm 1. Cuts, Splinters, Strains, Sprains, Bruises, Burns Persons at risk 1. All volunteers	3	2	6	Prior to work commencing 1. Advised to use suitable and PPE for the task. Volunteers should wear protective gloves and protective footwear. Control measures NO LONE WORKING. 1. Suitable arrangements for storing and transporting equipment, fuel and materials. 2. Ensure area and equipment kept tidy. 3. Have a first aid kit on site and know how and where to summon help in case of injury. 4. Burn on corrugated iron, do not over fire, monitor at ALL times, keep beater close to hand for stray ashes. Ensure fire is out before leaving site On completion 1. Tidy up site. Clear away all debris and dispose to appropriate site. 2. Return to site after fire burning activity to ensure all is safe		2	2	4

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Site Working Environment	Risk 1. Physical injury through contact with highway traffic (site access and egress). 2. Physical injury from trip hazards. 3. Physical injury from water hazards. 4. Slips or trips from untidy work area. 5. Entanglement in scrub. 6. Proximity to fire. Harm 1. Drowning 2. Fractures, Cuts, Splinters, Strains, Sprains, Bruises, Burns Persons at risk 1. All volunteers 2. Children /Young Persons	3	4	12	Prior to work commencing 1. All volunteers made aware of the specific on-site hazards 2. Reminded of necessity to supervise children at all times. 3. All volunteers made aware of emergency procedures. 4. All volunteers made aware of PPE available to them. Control measures NO LONE WORKING. 1. Ensure area and equipment kept tidy. 2 Have a first aid kit on site and know how and where to summon help in case of injury. 3. A controlled 'safe' area will be established for the conduct of 'work' by children/young persons. It is the parent or guardian responsibility to ensure adequate supervision of their children. On completion 1. Tidy up site. Clear away all debris and dispose to appropriate site.		2	3	6

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Use of pesticides/herbicides (Roundup)	Risk 1. Contact with undiluted product i.e. ingestion, splashes, etc. Harm Oral toxicity - World Health Organisation (WHO) toxicity rating - not classified. Roundup Pro Biactive is practically non-harmful by ingestion. Dermal Toxicity - World Health Organisation (WHO) toxicity rating - not classified. Roundup Pro Biactive is practically non-harmful by skin absorption. Inhalation - No risk in normal use situations Skin Sensitisation - No sensitising potential. i.e. No allergic reaction. Persons at risk Operative All volunteers	3	2	4	Use only in accordance with manufacturers instructions and cordon off treated areas Personal Protective Equipment Best practice is to wear protective coverall, rubber gloves, face protection and rubber boots. Storage of Unused Concentrate Unused product should be stored only in the original container. Unused Diluted Spray Ideally plan not to have any left over, or use later in making the next batch of diluted spray. Surplus spray should be sprayed out onto an untreated area where it will have a beneficial herbicidal effect, but not on Tarmac or concrete. The basis of COSHH is to avoid contact with the chemical. Empty Containers Empty cans of Roundup should be triple rinsed and stored safely until transferred to someone authorised to handle waste. In Case of Spill or Accident First Aid: Skin; Wash with water, remove contaminated clothing and wash before reuse. Eye contact; Rinse with plenty of potable water/sterile eye wash solution. For larger spills surround the area with sufficient absorbent, non-combustible material such as sand bags to prevent entry into drains, then sweep or shovel into suitable Aluminium, plastic, plastic-lined steel, stainless steel or fiberglass containers, label and seal. Containers should be collected by an appropriately authorised /licensed specialist waste disposal operator.		2	2	4

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MATRIX

Likelihood					
1	5	4	3	2	1
2	10	8	6	4	2
3	15	12	9	6	3
4	20	16	12	8	4
5	25	20	15	10	5
	5	4	3	2	1
	Consequence				

Likelihood

Certain 5
Probable 4
Likely to occur 3
May occur 2
Unlikely 1

Consequence

Multi Fatality 5
Fatal 4
Major Injury 3
Minor Injury (Treatment required) 2
Minor Injury (No Treatment) 1

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