

QUALITATIVE RISK ASSESSMENT (QRA) FORM

Document Number: **NDSME-RA-002**

Gardening Including Grass and Hedge Cutting

QRA Title (e.g. Work, Activity, MOC, etc.)

NDSME Site

Location(s)

J. McDonell

T. Wilcox

21/05/2025

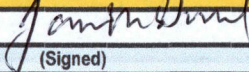
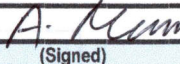
Qualitative Risk Assessment Team (Minimum 2 people)

Date

TASK, PROCESS STEP, or PROPOSED CHANGE	THREATS / HAZARDS / ASPECTS <i>How can the TASK, STEP, or CHANGE go wrong? What are the potential Consequences? What are the Gaps?</i>	CURRENT CONTROLS / BARRIERS <i>including</i> OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES <i>What are the existing CONTROLS / BARRIERS, if any, to Control, Mitigate, Eliminate, or Prevent the identified THREAT / HAZARD / ASPECT?</i> <i>NOTE: Barriers can be Equipment, Process, or People</i> NOTE: For a RISK SCORE of 9 or greater (RISK LEVEL > 2), additional CONTROLS / BARRIERS must be proposed.	RISK SCORE			Risk
			C	F	CxF	Level
Fallen Leaves	Slips and Trips, litter within leaves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use tools appropriate for the task such as plastic leaf/grass rakes. Wear suitable protective gloves, be aware of possible hazards from discarded needles, broken glass and other sharp objects. 	2	3	6	2
Dog Faeces	Toxocara canis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers are not to remove any dog faeces from the site, unless bagged and are using a litter picker provided. Wash/clean hands before eating/smoking etc. 	2	3	6	2
Chemicals used in the garden	Inhalation , skin or eye contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt environmentally sensitive approach where possible avoiding the use of chemicals. If chemicals are to be used, then manufacturer storage and use guidelines should be followed. Suitable protective or disposable gloves to be worn to reduce/prevent risk of skin burns or allergies. 	2	2	4	1
Sharps (e.g. syringes) /broken glass –	Cuts, lacerations, puncture wounds and possible infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers are not to touch/remove any syringes Please report syringe location to Park Authority. Use of suitable gloves Use of litter pickers to remove broken glass and other sharp items Place in box, bucket etc to reduce injury during transportation. Ensure all participants have current tetanus cover Seek medical attention if required. 	3	2	6	2
Working Near Bushes/hedge rows	Abrasions puncture wounds, eye injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where gardening is required under shrubs and hedgerows individuals must be aware of the potential danger of branches at eye height. Gloves to be worn to prevent skin scratches. Appropriate clothing to be worn. Protective goggles may be required subject to the task to be carried out and the nature of the bushes / hedge rows. 	2	2	4	1
Heavy or awkward items	Pulled muscles, strains or sprains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not move if too heavy for one Person. Share the load with others if safe to do so 	2	2	4	1
Weather conditions	Hypothermia, heat stroke, sun burn, Dehydration, Slipping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure suitable clothing is worn for the weather conditions Use of sun block Maintain hydration levels Paths that become slippery when wet or are subject to frost should not be used. 	2	3	6	2
Use of Step Ladders	Strains, bruising, limb breakages, concussion, lacerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where practical use other methods of access. Consider use of long reach hand tools. Users must be familiar with the risk assessment and safe system of work for using stepladders. A stepladder will have a visual inspection by the user prior to use for damage. Any defective stepladder will be clearly labelled and immediately taken out of use. 	2	2	4	1

Lone Working e.g. out on field	Non discovery of injured party when seriously injured.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If work is to be carried out on field ideally another member should be present. If not possible another member must be informed and both members should have a radio and check in with each other at 30 minute intervals. 	2	2	4	1
Dangerous plants, insects and other irritants,	Ingestion, allergic reaction, flicking branches, thorns and stings, eye injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control of poisonous plants through removing from the site Wear appropriate protective clothing and hands are washed. Be aware of dangerous plants and potential adverse health effects. Check for ticks if working within grassy areas. If tick located follow medical advice 	2	3	6	2
Use of Grass Cutting equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ejection of debris from machinery while cutting Eye injury from debris 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that machinery is in good repair and working order. Ensure that working area cleared of debris before starting mowing operations. Ensure guards on machinery in place and effective for protection. Always wear protective clothing and PPE (including full length trousers and eye protection) Always ensure that machinery is not moving and safely isolated before attempting any adjustment or clearing of moving parts 	3	2	6	2
Use of Hedge Cutting equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of coming into contact with blades when in use and also when being transported. Burns to hands from hot engine and exhaust system Hedge trimming causes cut, scrape or trip hazards Eye injury from debris 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not place any part of the body in the cutting blades. Always keep blades guarded when not in use. Do not hold or carry by the blades. Cut away from the body at all times, never towards the body Stand on a firm level footing to avoid accident slips which result in injury from blade contact. Do not stretch or over reach as this can cause accidental contact with the hedge cutter blades. If the blades are defective or are not working properly, then report them as defective and cease use of the machine Keep hands clear from engine and exhaust, even after use. Hot parts should be correctly guarded, if not then report as defective as above. Cut with trimmers from the base of the hedge upwards to avoid clogging of debris Wear gloves, and eye protection when cutting and handling material Avoid cutting above shoulder height to stop cut debris falling back onto operatives. Remove material from the ground quickly to avoid excessive trip hazards 	3	2	6	2
Vibration from machinery operations	Exposure to excessive vibration may cause ill health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure operatives are aware of the risks of vibration. Do not grip the handles too tightly. Keep your core body temperature warm and wear gloves to keep hands warm. Maintain equipment in good order, do not operate faulty or defective equipment. 	2	1	2	1
Refuelling Equipment, Storage of fuel	Contact with harmful substance including eye injury from splashes, Fire, Theft and Risk of pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear suitable PPE (minimum gloves and eye protection when mixing 2 stroke oil) Flammable substances must be kept away from naked flames and ignition sources. Refill machines on level ground when machine has cooled using a funnel or pouring spout from petrol can Flammable substances are stored in appropriate storage area and kept locked. See relevant SDS for petrol and oil 	2	1	2	1
Noise from machinery operations	Damage to hearing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear suitable hearing protection . 	2	1	2	1

It is the responsibility of every member to Stop Work when unsafe conditions are recognized.
NOTE: Risk Levels 4 and 5 REQUIRE STOP Works until controls are in place to reduce risk or impact.
For risk levels 3 and below, if identified controls can not be implemented the members must stop and reevaluate task and determine new controls that can be implemented.

Qualitative Risk Assessment Team Completed by:		J. McDonell	21/05/2025
	(Signed)	(Printed)	Date
Qualitative Risk Assessment Approved by:		A. Mann	21/05/2025
	(Signed)	(Printed)	Date

NOTE: C denotes the CONSEQUENCE SEVERITY if the identified IMPACT, THREAT, or HAZARD occurs or is encountered.
F denotes the FREQUENCY or LIKELIHOOD of the identified IMPACT, THREAT, or HAZARD occurring or being encountered.
Cx F denotes Risk Priority Number (RPN) also known as the Hazard & Qualitative Risk Assessment score.