

CHIPPING AND PROCESSING ARISINGS

ACTIVITY RAMS — ADAPT TO SITE BEFORE USE

Wood chippers, the feed that must never take a person, and the stack that feeds it

KD-RAMS-AB-004 Rev A0

Statutory basis: HSWA 1974 s.2(2)(a) and MHSWR 1999 regs 3 and 5 — this document is the recorded safe system of work. PUWER 1998 governs the chainsaws, chippers and stump grinders: reg 4 suitability, reg 5 maintenance, regs 8 and 9 information and training — chainsaw operators hold current certificates of competence for the operations they carry out, and a chainsaw is never operated by, or within reach of, anyone untrained. The Work at Height Regulations 2005 govern climbing operations and LOLER 1998 the climbing and rigging equipment, thoroughly examined at the statutory intervals and inspected before each use. Noise and vibration are assessed under the Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 and the Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005 — tree gangs run chronic doses of both — and the Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 govern the timber the trade moves by hand. Felling and works to protected trees observe TPO and conservation-area consents as a condition of the work. Prepared against legislation current at 10/08/2026.

1 DOCUMENT AND PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

RAMS REFERENCE	PROJECT / SITE REF	SITE NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE PREPARED	NEXT REVIEW DATE
CLIENT / PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR	PLANNED START	DURATION	OPERATIVES	SUPERVISING THE WORK

2 SCOPE OF WORKS

Processing tree arisings through wood chippers — siting, feeding, blockage clearing and discharge management — and the handling of brash and timber that feeds the machine.

This document does not cover: firewood processing machinery, and chipping within units or enclosed yards without the ventilation assessment for exhaust.

SITE-SPECIFIC SCOPE, LOCATIONS AND LIMITATIONS

3 RISK ASSESSMENT — SCORE EACH RISK FOR THIS SITE, THEN ADD WHAT IS MISSING

The hazards and controls below are the starting point for this activity, written by a working main contractor. They are not complete for your site until a competent person has scored each risk, added the site-specific hazards, and struck out anything that does not apply. Rate risks High / Medium / Low before and after controls.

1. The public, occupiers and traffic around tree work

At risk: Public, road users

Controls: Work areas closed with barriers and signage before the saws start; banksmen on footpaths and accesses that cannot be closed; highway works only under the traffic management the permission requires; arisings never left across paths or sightlines at breaks.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

2. Noise from cutting, fixing and plant

At risk: Operatives, others in the area

Controls: Select quieter methods and tools where practicable; hearing protection in designated zones and for noisy operations; agree noisy-works windows with the occupier in occupied buildings.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

3. Manual handling of boards, materials and components

At risk: Operatives

Controls: Mechanical aids first — trolleys, board lifters, hoists. Two-person lifts for boards and long components; order materials in manageable sizes; plan storage close to the workplace; keep carrying routes clear and lit.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

4. The chipper infeed — machinery that cannot tell brash from arm

At risk: Operators

Controls: Operators trained on the specific machine; loose clothing, gloves with cuffs, and lanyards kept clear of the feed; brash fed butt-first from the side of the infeed, never straddled or pushed by hand past the feed table — the next branch is the pusher; the feed control bar tested at the start of every session and nothing cleared until the machine is stopped, isolated and the blades are still.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

5. Discharge and thrown debris

At risk: Public, operatives, parked vehicles and glazing

Controls: Discharge aimed into the truck or a closed area, never across paths or roads; the discharge zone kept clear; chip forming an unstable stack pulled down as it builds.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

Site-specific hazards not listed above — every site has at least one:

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HAZARD	WHO IS AT RISK	CONTROLS	INITIAL HI...	RESIDUAL...	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

4 METHOD — SEQUENCE OF WORK

- Chipper sited on firm level ground, discharge into the collection vehicle, exclusion around infeed and discharge.
- Machine checks per the daily schedule — feed control bar, emergency stops, guards, knives — before the first branch.
- Brash presented butt-first, fed from the side, forked material broken down first; hands never past the feed table.
- Blockages cleared only with the machine stopped, isolated and proven still; tools not hands.
- Chip managed at the discharge; the machine shut down, cleared and secured at every break.

SITE-SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS TO THE SEQUENCE

5 PLANT, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

- Wood chipper — daily checks, feed control tested
- Hand tools and pole for blockage clearing (machine stopped)

Barriers and signage

INSPECTION / THOROUGH EXAMINATION REFS

COSHH ASSESSMENT REFS

6 PPE — THE LAST LINE OF CONTROL, NOT THE FIRST

- Head protection
- Safety footwear
- High visibility
- Gloves — task-rated
- Eye protection
- Hearing protection
- Close-fitting clothing; ear defence for all within the noise zone

RPE TYPE, FACE-FIT STATUS, AND ANY OTHER PPE REQUIRED

7 PERMITS REQUIRED BEFORE THIS WORK STARTS

No permit is normally required for this activity. The site's own rules may still require one — check before starting, and record any permit issued below.

PERMITS ISSUED FOR THIS WORK (OR NONE)

8 EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS — COMPLETE FOR THIS SITE

FIRST AIDER AND LOCATION	NEAREST A&E	ASSEMBLY POINT
HOW THE ALARM IS RAISED	EMERGENCY ACCESS FOR THIS WORK AREA	SPILL / ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE

9 BRIEFING RECORD — EVERYONE WORKING UNDER THIS RAMS SIGNS BEFORE STARTING

By signing you confirm the contents of this RAMS have been explained to you, you understand the hazards and controls, and you will work to the sequence stated. Tell the supervisor if the work or the site does not match this document — work stops until it does.

NAME	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE

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10 PREPARED AND ACCEPTED

Prepared / adapted for this site by — I confirm I have adapted this document to the site, scored the risks, and that it describes how the work will actually be done.

PRINTED NAME	ROLE / COMPETENCE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME

Accepted for the site by — principal contractor or site manager review.

PRINTED NAME	ROLE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME

Review this RAMS if the work, the site or the law changes, and at least before each new phase of the works. Flatten the completed PDF before filing so the record cannot be silently edited.

R REVISION HISTORY

Every revision of this document, and every review that found nothing to change. The revision on the front of this sheet is the one you are holding — check kubitdocs.com for the current one before use.

Rev	Date	Class	What changed	Authorised by
D0	2026-08-31	first-issue	First issue.	— not yet approved —
D1	2026-08-31	material	Actions the internal H&S director review. Chainsaw controls gain the personal trauma dressing, the forestry (+F) first aider and the evacuation plan; lone felling prohibited with a minimum crew of two; AB-002 exclusions restated.	— not yet approved —
A0	2026-08-31	review	Approved for issue by the author. Content unchanged from the reviewed draft; the draft status strip is removed. No independent third-party review has been carried out.	Author — director, UK principal contractor, SMSTS. Not an independent review.

Class: first-issue · material (the law, a control, a field or the scope changed — past buyers are notified) · editorial (wording or layout only) · review (checked, nothing changed) · withdrawal. Revision prefix D = draft, not approved and not for sale; A = approved for issue by the person named, on the date shown.