

STUMP GRINDING

ACTIVITY RAMS — ADAPT TO SITE BEFORE USE

Grinding out stumps beside the services that always run past them

KD-RAMS-AB-005 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

Mechanical stump grinding — machine transport to position, service checks around the stump, grinding, and reinstatement of the arisings — in grounds, verges and construction sites.

This document does not cover: stumps over live services that cannot be proven clear (excavate by hand around them first under KD-RAMS-GW series), and grinding within the root protection area of retained protected trees without the arboricultural method statement for the site.

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. Striking hidden services when drilling, cutting or fixing

At risk: Operatives

Controls: Check drawings and the services register, scan with a CAT before drilling or chasing into existing fabric, respect safe zones, and stop and reassess if an unrecorded service is found.

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

3. 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

4. Hand-arm vibration from power tools

At risk: Operatives

Controls: Select low-vibration tools, keep cutting edges sharp, rotate operatives to keep exposure below the action value, and record trigger time where the assessment requires it.

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

5. Thrown debris from the grinding wheel

At risk: Operators, public, glazing and vehicles

Controls: Debris guards and curtains fitted and used; the exclusion sized to the machine's throw — not to the nearest convenient fence; grinding stops when anyone enters the zone; windows, vehicles and paths within range boarded or the machine re-oriented.

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

6. Machine stability and run-away on slopes and soft ground

At risk: Operators

Controls: Ground and gradient assessed against the machine's limits; tracked positioning up and down slopes, not across; the machine never left running unattended.

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

- Services scan and plan check around every stump before the machine arrives — the grinder must never find the service first.
- Exclusion and debris protection established; guards down before the wheel turns.
- Grinding in passes across the stump, working down to the specified depth; the operator at the controls throughout.
- Arisings raked, backfilled or removed per the specification; the hole left safe — filled or fenced.
- Machine cleared, blades inspected, and transported with the wheel locked.

SITE-SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS TO THE SEQUENCE

5 PLANT, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

- Stump grinder with guards and debris curtains
- Service scanner (CAT and genny)

- Barriers, boards for glazing protection

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

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

7 PERMITS REQUIRED BEFORE THIS WORK STARTS

A permit authorises this work in that place, on that day. It extends the safe system of work in this document — it does not replace it (HSE HSG250). The site issues the permit; record its number before work starts.

KD-PTW-EX-005 — Excavation & Permit to Dig

Where the site operates dig control — grinding is excavation to the services beneath

PERMIT NUMBER

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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NAME	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE

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.