

Cockermouth Angling Association (CAA) – Risk assessment to support those undertaking repair and maintenance work on CAA fisheries – February 2022

Cockermouth Angling Association is committed to maintaining the safety of members who volunteer to help maintain our fishing environments.

The association provides risk assessments to ensure that work is undertaken safely for the protection of all working in organised working parties or alone on behalf of the association. **ALL** must follow the risk assessments related to the work they are doing otherwise they place at risk themselves, other working party members and the association itself who might be held liable for injury or death. (Note: The death of a working party member in Birmingham Angling Association in 2021 resulted in the tragic loss of the individual and also the club being fined £66,000 for its negligence in the safe working arrangements of chainsaw work.

This document provides sight of risks and required controls for the range of activities that are likely to be faced by working parties. It provides detail of the requirements around the use of equipment that has higher potential to cause significant injury i.e. Chainsaws and Brush cutters.

Those using chainsaws on behalf of the association must have the planned work discussed at a CAA committee meeting in advance and the committee will agree the safety / capability of the named operator, based on knowledge and experience. Specific risks and the risk assessment arrangements will also be agreed. No work should be undertaken by volunteers on branches larger than 200 or 380 mm or above shoulder height. In such cases a suitably trained forestry professional must be employed. Operators must also follow the detail for chainsaw operations identified in this risk assessment.

The assessment has been drawn up using guidance from the Angling Trust (AT) – “Volunteering – Best practice guide” and advice from an Angling Trust on line forum held in January 2022 and follow up information provided.

Key to impact and likelihood: 3 = High 2 = Medium 1 = Low

Relevant information

IMPORTANT NOTE: Any accidents or injuries that do occur should be reported to the CAA health and safety lead on 07854355441 and followed up by e mail with the following detail:

Date and time of incident

Name of person reporting the incident

Name(s) of person(s) subject to the accident / injury

Condition of person

Action taken to deal with accident / injury i.e. first aid / 999 etc

The detailed circumstances that lead up to the incident – i.e. what were they doing, was equipment involved, did they have the appropriate PPE, had they received a briefing before the commencement of work, was the risk assessment being followed and any other

Who else were in attendance at the time of the incident

Weather conditions at the time

Completed by Mark Hastings CAA committee member and responsible for risk management Date: 3rd February 2022

No	Risk	Assessment of risk (assumes no control measures in place)			Risk Control Measures	Assessment of residual risks (with control measures in place)		
		Impact	Likelihood	Risk rating		Impact	Likelihood	Risk rating
1	<p>Chainsaw operation including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety of operator • Safety of others in the vicinity of the working area <p>Note: there will be certain jobs that require the use of contractors. When assessing work for working parties the option to employ a contractor should be considered given their training, certification and availability of specialist tools for the work. In cases of branches over 200 or 380 mm in diameter or situations where the branch is above shoulder height contractors are to be used.</p> <p>It is important to note that the association might still carry liability if they fail to satisfy themselves that the contractors system of work and risk assessments are in place and in good order.</p>	3	2	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chainsaw operators must be follow the requirements identified above. • They must not work alone • The area where trees are being cut should be cordoned off with bollards and/or tape to ensure no access to the area where falling trees, branches or bushes might cause injury. The area cordoned off should extend by at least twice the height of any tree that might be felled. In addition no one should go within 5 metres of anyone operating a chainsaw. • A second person ('Banks man') should be in attendance with the operator as "additional eyes" to ensure the cordoned area remains clear of people. The second person can also advise the operator of any other hazards that they perceive as they observe the system of work being applied. The advice of the banks man must not be ignored by the operator • Communication between the operator and banks man is key to this risk assessment. The banks man will maintain a line of sight to the operator and carry an orange fluorescent baton to be waved at the operator who must then immediately stop work. • Specific requirements for the operator include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ensuring the chainsaw is fit for use o Protective leg guards / Chainsaw gloves / helmet (also to be worn by banks man), ear defenders and safety goggles or visor o Ensuring the emergency break is positioned (while cutting) to operate as intended o The climbing of trees to use a chainsaw by CAA members is not permitted; the use of a contractor or manual cutting tools must be considered if higher branches or bushes need to be removed. o Any trees that become 'hung up' during felling operations must be cordoned off with tape and made safe. 	3	1	4
2	<p>Strimming including with brash cutter attachment – risk of foot / ankle, leg and eye injury to operator and others in the vicinity.</p>	3	2	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operator should ideally not work alone but if working alone they should carry on their person a mobile telephone with which to summon assistance in the event of incident. Note: 999 will work in areas where your provider does not have a signal as long as another provider covers that area – this is normally the case). • Using the Brush cutting attachment requires care and caution and should be used only by those familiar with the operation of the equipment and using leg guards - Stihl FS 3 Protect Trousers or similar. Eye protection must be used at all times • With the normal strimmer injury can still occur and appropriate footwear and shin protection, and eye protection must be used • Strimming must cease if any person comes within 15 metres of the operator. 	3	1	4

3 General bank maintenance provides opportunity for injury from a range of situations including trimming, inappropriate use of tools (Shovels, cutters, saws etc), lifting, eye injuries while cutting branches	2	2	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All bank maintenance should have a lead person and this person must make themselves known to other members of the working party through a short introduction to the work planned for the day and highlighting the risks and mitigating factors contained within this risk assessment. (This might be the person organising the work but not necessarily). • Those operating manually operated tools (powered equipment is subject to specific risks within this assessment) should be certain that they can operate them safely • The river bank contains many hazards from falling in the water to tripping. Care must be taken when working on the river bank. Do not take chances putting yourselves and others at risk. If in doubt ask advice of the working party lead. • Lifting heavy objects can damage backs – use movement and handling techniques rather than lifting. • Individuals should use eye protection (Glasses) when cutting small branches to avoid injury from small twigs penetrating eyes. 	2	1	3
4 Cleaning Cogra Moss outflow grill	3	2	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take care whilst standing in the water removing debris from the grill (normal depth is about 300mm on the concrete outflow). Do not try to remove debris whilst the water level is higher after very heavy spells of rain or during high winds when waves are being thrashed at the grill. 	3	1	4
5 Spraying using chemicals	3	3	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have the correct spraying equipment and protective clothing and be properly trained in using chemical sprays. 	3	1	4
6 Managing risks of injury with respect to all activities specified above			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A site check must be undertaken prior to any activity to check for trip hazards and any debris such as wires and broken glass which might cause injury to the machine operator or others present • This site check should take account of the risks of tripping and falling into the river. Riverside work should normally be undertaken in times of lower flows and planned work should be abandoned or modified when river levels are high. • When working in areas with public access-e.g., close to public footpaths-warning signs should be used and those working should be observant and cease operating when members of the public approach. • An appropriate First Aid kit must be available on site. 			