



Ashton Hayes and Horton cum Peel Parish Council

Trimming back of hedgerows and borders adjacent to pathways within the Parish RISK ASSESSMENT

Notes:

1. The permission of the relevant landowner(s) **MUST** have been obtained in writing before any work is started.
2. All volunteers involved in trimming work must have read this Risk Assessment and signed and dated a copy of the Indemnity attached as an Appendix.

RISK	LEVEL OF RISK	MITIGATION(S)
Misuse of equipment being used (i.e. strimmers, mowers, hedge cutters etc, whether petrol, battery or mains powered)	Medium	- Supplied manuals for all the equipment to be used must have been read and understood - Guidance should be sought from trained. and/or experienced users where possible - All equipment both safety and mechanical must be checked to ensure it is all fully functional before starting any work. - All involved must have read this risk. assessment and signed the Indemnity to agree that they have understood all the risks and the appropriate actions to mitigate the risks. - Harnesses, if appropriate must be correctly fitted.
Lone working	High	- At least two people must be present at all times. - One person must not be involved in the trimming activity but be acting as a look out. - At least one person to carry a working mobile phone at all times
Flying objects arising from use of equipment	High	All involved must wear appropriate PPE as described below.
Exposure	Medium	- Sun cream must be worn if the weather is clear. - Have a supply of drinkable water present to keep hydrated. - Weather must be appropriate i.e. no rain and minimal wind.

Injury	Low	• All involved must wear appropriate PPE as described below. • Appropriate footwear must be worn to minimise trips and slips. • No maintenance to be carried out on trimmer wires, or any part of the equipment being used unless battery is removed from battery powered equipment, power disconnected from mains, if mains powered, or petrol supply is cut and engine is stopped for petrol driven equipment. • If near a highway, care must be taken to avoid stepping into the highway without checking that traffic does not represent a hazard. • Do not enter hedgerows unless it is clear that there are no hidden hazards such as broken glass, bricks, holes, dog faeces etc. • Wash hands thoroughly at completion of trimming work. • Ensure that a first aid kit is always available. • Be prepared to phone 111 or 999.
Injury to public	Low	Stop all trimming work if a member of the public approaches the trimming area and only resume when they are well clear.
Collection of waste	Low	• If trimmed waste is collected, it must be bagged. However, bags must be only half filled to avoid any heavy lifting. • Trimming waste not bagged should be swept into the hedgerow and cleared from the footpath.

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE): High visibility jacket or waistcoat, safety goggles, safety gloves, heavy (Ideally safety) boots - definitely no open sandals, full length trousers, fully sleeved upper garment(s) and ear defenders.

Risk Assessment approved

[Redacted Signature]

Date

23rd June 2026

To be reviewed June 2027

Appendix to Trimming of Hedgerow Risk Assessment – Indemnity

Date of Activity _____ Location of Activity _____

We the undersigned understand and agree that we undertake this Trimming of Hedgerow work (the Activity) entirely at our own risk and that no personal liability shall devolve on the coordinator of the Activity, nor any volunteer or helper, nor shall any claim for such liability be considered by the coordinator, volunteer or helper/s. Ashton Hayes and Horton cum Peel Parish Council holds Public Liability Insurance.

A copy of the Certificate of Insurance is available upon request from the Clerk. As attendees of the Activity, we agree to volunteer our services for all reasonable activities to ensure the safety of ourselves and others. We will have read and understood the Risk Assessment prior to the start of the Activity and we have made ourselves aware of any known hazards. However, we recognise that there may be other or unknown hazards.

General care and attention should be applied by all those involved in the Activity at all times. Any accidents or personal injuries suffered during the visit are to be reported at the earliest opportunity to the Clerk of the Parish Council who will act as a focus for further action.

We agree that each of us are responsible for our own first aid provision.

As above we agree that we are responsible for our own Health and Safety. We agree to behave in a reasonable manner and ensure that none of our actions endanger either ourselves or any other person.

We will record below if we are under 18 years of age.

In signing this indemnity form, we confirm that we have read, understand and agree to the above, and the Risk Assessment for this Activity. We also confirm that we have read and understand the Parish Council's Policy on Health and Safety. We confirm that we are in good health, fit and able to undertake the Activity.

	Name (BLOCK CAPITALS)	Under 18?	Signature	Exited
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				

This document or a digital copy must be provided to Clerk within one week of completing the Activity.