





STRIMMING & MOWING (12D & 12AB)

RAMS047-CEN

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Version	Date	Name	Details
1	03/06/2025	Steve Usher	New draft
2	16/01/2026	Steve Usher	Reviewed, updated with changes and reissued. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Removed Depot manager and replaced with Supervisor. - Updated RA's

Note Under no circumstances is this document to be modified in any way without the QHSE Managers consent. Uncontrolled when Printed or Downloaded

1 Document Summary

- 1.1 This RAMS document sets out the procedures for TTM operatives to ensure safe and effective delivery of vegetation management (strimming and mowing) under live highway conditions using Temporary Traffic Management (TTM).
- 1.2 Applies to all operatives engaged in vegetation works near or on public highways with TTM in place (12D for minor roads and 12AB for high-speed roads).
- 1.3 Applicable standards.
 - Chapter 8 Traffic Signs Manual
 - Safety at Street Works and Road Works Code of Practice
 - PUWER / LOLER / COSHH Regulations
 - CDM 2015
 - Company QHSE Policies
- 1.4 A Task Briefing will be given for all works, detailing any site-specific information relevant to the specific works being undertaken. Risk Assessments with continuous monitoring, are essential to safe operation of street works.

Note Any deviation from these RAMS or any linked documents mentioned below, must be agreed with the QHSE Manager.

2 Training





- 2.1 TM Operatives working under these RAMS must have undergone suitable training and competency assessments to satisfy the requirements of the nationally recognised standard.
 - Sector Scheme 12D
 - LANTRA Strimmer/Mower Training (Familiarisation of Ground Care Equipment and Health and Safety Awareness Near Waterways and in Public Areas (Skills Card)
 - 12D M1-M6 for minor roads
 - 12AB for high-speed dual carriageways and motorways
 - National Highways Passport
 - Manual Handling Awareness
 - Site-specific induction and briefing
 - Use of Fire Extinguisher(s)

3 Vehicle & Equipment

- 3.1 At a minimum, a traffic management maintenance/inspection or installation vehicle will be used in accordance with Chapter 8 Traffic Signs Manual.
- 3.2 Other equipment required but not limited to:
 - Strimmer with guard and safety switch
 - Ride-on or pedestrian mower
 - Fuel/oil stored in approved containers
 - Spill kit and fire extinguisher

4 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

4.1 Minimum requirements on site for these RAMS for all personnel are:

Hard Hat	Eye Protection	Hi-Vis Clothing	Safety Gloves	Safety Boots
				
<p>Colour dependent on role, with 4-point chin strap that meet EN397 & EN12 492 standards, with visor and ear defenders</p> <p>Hearing protect (minimum SNR 25dB)</p> <p>Head torch to be worn for night working and poor visibility</p>	<p>Safety glasses or goggles (Impact Resistant)</p> <p>To be worn for task specific work or when required by client / site</p>	<p>Long sleeve Hi-Vis Jacket EN 20 471 class 3</p> <p>Hi-Vis trousers EN ISO 20 471 class 1</p> <p>Strimmer Trousers or Leg Guards</p>	<p>Minimum of cut level F or Chainsaw safety Gloves</p>	<p>(laced only) metatarsal if required by client / contractor</p> <p>S3 steel toe cap, midsole with ankle support</p>
Harness will be needed for Strimming Operations				

Black	White	Blue
		
SMSTS Managers and SSSTS Supervisors	General use, Managers, Clients and Competent Operatives	Trainee workers and Site visitors

Note The above PPE requirements apply to either Yellow or Orange (this could depend on Client's requirements). PPE is to be clean, fit for purpose and identifiable with the company logo.

5 Dynamic Risk Assessment Throughout the Works

- 5.1 To ensure that all site operatives maintain a high level of situational awareness and activity identify and control risks associated with the changing site conditions, particularly in relation to ground hazards, equipment placement, and manual handling during the installation or removal of temporary traffic management (TTM) equipment, the steps below are to be used throughout the works, and if the works become unsafe STOP and speak to your line manager.
- 5.2 **Key Elements**
- 5.3 Pre-Ground Condition Check

- Inspect ground surface at and around the intended work zone/areas prior to any activity (e.g., loading, unloading, placing signage).
- Identify and clearly mark any hazards such as ruts, potholes, uneven surfaces, or soft ground.
- Relocate materials and equipment placement areas (e.g., signs, cones, Quick Fit Frames) to stable and level ground whenever possible.

5.4 Signage and Equipment Placement

- Avoid placing signage in or adjacent to unstable or compromised ground (e.g., near ruts or slopes).
- Ensure signage bases are level, secure, and positioned in low-risk zones for both workers and road users.
- Continually reassess placement suitability as site conditions evolve, especially after rainfall or heavy vehicle movements.

5.5 Loading & Unloading Practices

- Conduct a brief DRA prior to manual handling activities such as lifting or loading equipment onto vehicles.
- Confirm the immediate area is free of slip/trip hazards and that stable footing is available.
- Reposition loading zones as needed to avoid hazards or unstable ground conditions.

5.6 Ongoing Ground Surveying

- All operatives must adopt a "look and reassess" mindset throughout the work period.
- Periodically check walking and working surfaces for new or worsening hazards (e.g., rutting from vehicle movements, water pooling).
- Use hand tools or marker cones to highlight hazards as they are identified, and report findings to the team supervisor immediately

5.7 Best Practice

- Wear suitable PPE for the terrain and task — footwear should be company approved S3 Standard, appropriate for uneven ground, checked for condition and fully laced up.
- Document any significant changes to site conditions or risks using task sheets, daily logs, or digital reporting tools if available.
- Engage with the client during site handover or initial briefing to gather information on known ground conditions or previous incidents.
- Wherever practicable, the loading and unloading equipment shall not be undertaken from the live traffic side of the vehicle.
- All temporary traffic management equipment shall be clean and fit for the purpose and be regularly maintained in such condition until completion of the work.
- Measures must be taken to stabilise traffic signs/frames, with ballast in the form of sacks containing fine granular material, or to otherwise secure them to permanent fixtures.
- Placement of vehicles in the verge should avoid restricting the sightlines of passing vehicles.

Note At night or in poor weather conditions you MUST wear a hard hat with a head torch attached and switched on.

6 Pre-Works

6.1 Prior to leaving the depot the TM Operative(s) must ensure the following:

- They have the correct PPE to undertake the works in accordance with the site specific Task Briefing and any client specific requirements.
- They have in their possession their relevant Lantra training record card.
- All the required documentation is available on the Field Service System for the works they are to undertake.
- They understand what is required of them through the Task Briefing, if in doubt they are to speak to their Supervisor/Manager.
- Check equipment condition and fuel levels.
- Welfare and first aid arrangements confirmed.
- Environmental Checks (e.g., Nesting birds, watercourses).
- Utilities/service checks.

Note Depending on the client's requirements the TMO's working on site may be required to attend a daily briefing.

- They understand RAMS and other associated documentation for the works.
- Completed, Vehicle Daily Walk around check, including trailer if required.
- Kit is suitable for the works to be undertaken; defective kit is not to be used. All signage is to have the company logo, and the local area contact number on them.
- Kit that is required for the works is as per the traffic management plan, plus spares.
- Kit is securely loaded on to the vehicle and the vehicle is not to be overloaded

7 Communication

- 7.1 Two-way radios or/and mobile phones, fully charged up (spares if required)
- 7.2 Supervisor contact details to be given and understood
- 7.3 Communicate with members of the public in a clear
- 7.4 Use radios or mobile phones to communicate with supervisor and / or client representative.
- 7.5 Escalate aggressive or persistent individuals to the supervisor or Police if needed.

Note Do not engage with confrontational members of the public. Retreat to a safe location and escalate the issue to your supervisor and / or client representative.

8 Method of Work

8.1 Arrival & Site Set Up

- Traffic Count to be undertaken
- Complete team briefing and dynamic risk assessment
- Set up advance warning signs as per TTM plan
- Establish taper, work zone, and closure (if required)

8.2 Vegetation Management

- Strimming and/or mowing with constant situational awareness of traffic/pedestrians
- Cut debris to be cleared regularly to prevent trip/slip hazards

- Strimming and/or mowing to be carried out in teams of 2, when mowing a banksman if required.

8.3 During the Works

- Constant communication maintained
- Operators to work away from live traffic where possible
- Rotation of tasks to avoid fatigue

8.4 Completion of Works

- Check site for missed debris
- Remove TTM in reverse order
- Team debriefs and site handover if necessary

9 Emergency Procedures

- 9.1 **STOP** work immediately if unsafe conditions arise
- 9.2 In case of accident, follow the site emergency procedures.
- 9.3 Contact emergency services via 999.
- 9.4 Inform supervisor and client representative immediately.
- 9.5 Spill control for fuel or hydraulic Oil
- 9.6 Fire response, using the extinguisher or call 999.
- 9.7 Complete incident report form.
- 9.8 Complete incident report form.

10 Monitoring

- 10.1 Maintain presence during agreed site working hours.
- 10.2 Supervisor site audits to be carried out.
- 10.3 Report any incidents through the required procedure

11 Linked Documents

Document Name	Location
Safety at Streetworks and Road Works Code of Practice (Red Book)	Documents/QHSE/Support Documents/Traffic Management Support Docs
Site Specific Risk Assessment	TBS
OF20-CEN Task Briefing Sheet	Documents/QHSE/Approved RAMS
PY002-CEN Vehicle Policy	Documents/QHSE/Policies/Policies
PY003-CEN Incident Reporting Policy	Documents/QHSE/Policies/Policies
PR006-CEN Spillage Procedure	Documents/QHSE/Procedures

PY007-CEN Lone Working Policy	Documents/QHSE/Policies/Policies
PY036-CEN Health & Well Being Policy	Documents/QHSE/Policies/Policies
PY051-CEN Working at Height Policy	Documents/QHSE/Policies/Policies
PY053-CEN Personal Protection Policy (PPE)	Documents/QHSE/Policies/Policies
RA015-CEN Working Near Water	Documents/QHSE/Approved RAMS
TR001-DHB (Drivers Handbook)	Documents/QHSE/Drivers Handbook

Note All the above documents can be found on the field service tablets

12 Risk Assessments

12.1 The following risk assessments are based on Generic TTM; the following operational hazards and risks provide a general indication of what may be encountered during normal TTM works and applies to all TTM works:

- Collision of plant or personnel with moving vehicles, highway traffic or work vehicles
- Working at night
- Manual handling
- Lone working
- Driving
- Noise
- Uneven ground (slips / trips / falls)
- Violence / abuse from members of the public
- Weather conditions & visibility
- Road layout

12.2 The list is not exhaustive and operational personnel **MUST** carry out an on-site dynamic risk assessment. Risk assessment to be completed on the Field Service tablet before any sector scheme work is undertaken.

12.3 If any risks, operational or environmental are identified when carrying out the on-site dynamic risk assessment, you **MUST** inform your supervisor immediately and prior to the deployment of traffic management equipment.

12.4 If at any point throughout your work, you encounter an unsafe situation you **MUST** stop work and contact your supervisor immediately for guidance.

12.5 The risk assessments **MUST** be communicated to all personnel undertaking any traffic management works.

12.6 Risk Scoring Methodology & Risk Assessment

Likelihood Categories		Severity Score				
Category	Description	1	2	3	4	5
1	Extremely Unlikely	1	2	3	4	5
2	Unlikely	2	4	6	8	10
3	Occasional	3	6	9	12	15
4	Likely	4	8	12	16	20
5	Expected	5	10	15	20	25
Severity Score Description						
1	Minor Injuries/inconveniences. Employee can continue to work - short term local damage					
2	Minor Injuries. Operative requires first aid treatment. Stops work - medium term local/short term regional damage.					
3	Reportable/LTI or illness - long term local/regional damage					
4	Major injury or illness with long term effects - long term widespread damage					
5	Fatalities - Widespread permanent damage					
Risk	Action Required					
Low	Check that no other risks can be eliminated by modifications of design then proceed with design. Record residual risks					
Medium	Reduce risks as far as reasonably practical. Consider alternative design or construction method. If alternatives are not available, specify precautions to be adopted. Record residual risks.					
High	Seek alternative solutions. If alternatives are not available, specify precautions to be adopted & advise Senior Management & Supervisor (if appropriate). Record residual risks					
Examples of Persons at Risk	Inexperienced					
	Vulnerable Road Users (VRU's) including Public, Cyclists, Horse riders.					
	Lone workers (LW)					
	Operative (OP) (TMO or/and Ganger)					
	Site Personnel (SP)					
All						

12.7 Risk Scoring Methodology & Risk Assessment Works Environmental

Category	Control	Severity Score				
Likelihood	Description	1	2	3	4	5
1	High degree of control	1	2	3	4	5
2	Medium degree of control	2	4	6	8	10
3	Moderate degree of control	3	6	9	12	15
4	Slight degree of control	4	8	12	16	20
5	Negligible degree of control	5	10	15	20	25
Severity Score Description						
1	All aspects fully controlled or have negative effect upon the environment					
2	Aspects exist at recognisable levels, which may impact on the environment; but any change is easily recoverable with no lasting effect					
3	Will have an effect on the environment - Damage is short term and is always recoverable					
4	Major Impact - Damage is not permanent, but may take some time to remedy					
5	High Impact - Risk of severe environmental damage					
Risk	Action Required					
Low	Low impact identified - Control measure to be adopted and monitored					
Medium	Medium impact identified - Ensure that the aspect & impact assessment is reviewed, further controls may be necessary					
High	High impact identified - Re-evaluate the aspect & impact assessment and develop / determine greater controls					
Examples of Receptor	Air (A)					
	Land (L)					
	Water (W)					
	Natural Resources (NR)					
	Community/Residence/Pedestrians (CRP)					
	Operative (O)					
	Ecology /Habitat (EH)					
	Carbon Footprint (CF)					
Key Environmental Issues						
Local effects of Pollution (air quality, noise, waste, lighting, odour)			Carbon emissions and greenhouse effect global warming			
Water source and ocean Pollution			Deforestation, soil erosion and land quality			
Material resources & Land despoliation, supply chain issues & inequal disruption to impacts			Energy Supplies, innovations in food and fuel			
			Agricultural issues arising from global trade			

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Hazard(s)	At Risk	Risks	PRE-RCM				Risk Control Measures	POST-RCM			
			Risk score (L x S)					Risk score (L x S)			
			Likelihood	Severity	Risk Score	Risk Level		Likelihood	Severity	Risk Score	Risk Level
Incompetent or unqualified Operative	All	Operator may suffer serious injury.	3	3	9	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Operative using the powered strimmer or mowers must be trained to use them b. The Supervisor/Manager programming the ISU works must ensure to check the Operator(s) are qualified/trained to use the power strimmer's/Mowers c. Operatives must hold a recognised certificate for the powered strimmer's/mowers they are to use. 	1	3	3	L
Operator not familiarised with the particular strimmer/mower	TMO	Operator may suffer serious injury.	3	3	9	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Operative must receive familiarisation on with the particular strimmer/mower by a competent person. b. The HS016-CEN-Product Familiarisation Authorisation Form must be completed and sent to the QHSE Administrator & HR. c. Operatives must hold a recognised certificate for the powered strimmer's/mowers they are to use. 	1	3	3	L
Un-serviced/maintained Equipment	TMO	Operator may suffer serious injury.	2	3	6	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Supervisor to ensure that the Strimmer's/Mowers are serviced in line with the item's instructions. b. Supervisor to ensure that the next service/maintenance due date is given to the QHSE team to enter onto the Field Service system and a reminder set to inform them when its due. c. Pre use checks to be conducted by the Operative. d. Damaged equipment is not to be used. e. Report any issues with the plant to the Supervisor. 	1	3	3	L

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Live Traffic	TMO/P	Collision or injury during set-up or mowing/trimming.	3	4	12	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Traffic Management if required, will be subject to TM specific risk assessment. b. Vehicles are to be parked in a position of safety identified during the planning stage prior to entering TM. c. PPE to be worn as per section 4 of this document. d. Operatives to be briefed on other works within the TM and to be aware of plant movements. 	1	4	4	L
Flying debris	TMO/P/ Vehicles	Eye injuries, lacerations, impact injuries	2	3	6	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Face visor to be worn when strimming b. Light eye protection safety glasses must be worn under the visor c. Ensure guards and deflectors are positioned to avoid airborne debris d. Ensure line trimming line is fitted e. Operators to maintain a safe distance [min 15m(50ft)] from by-standers (members of the public not in vehicles) f. Maintain exclusion zone. 	1	3	3	L
Noise from machinery	TMO/CRP/A /EH	Hearing damage, nuisance to public	2	4	8	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ear defenders must be worn. b. Compliance with PPE requirements to be monitored through regular Supervisor visits and inspections. c. Monitor noise levels if near residential areas. d. Only conduct during daylight working hours 08:00 – 17:00 	1	4	4	L
Vibration from tools	TMO	Hand-arm vibration syndrome (HAVS)	2	4	8	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Check tools before using them to ensure they are in good condition and properly maintained and stored. b. Use anti-vibration tools c. Keep warm and dry to encourage good blood flow. d. Limit exposure time (task rotation) e. Record usage hours per shift f. Avoid smoking as it reduces blood flow g. Massage or exercise your fingers during work breaks h. Report any symptoms to your Doctor and Supervisor i. Ask your health and safety representative for advice. 	1	4	4	L

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Operating Strimmer	TMO	Manual handling injuries (strain, sprain, back injury)	3	2	6	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ensure good housekeeping throughout the work area b. All spill hazards, such as oil and grease to be cleared immediately c. Operatives are to wear appropriate non-slip protective footwear with steel toe caps and mid-soles at all times d. Task to be conducted at walking pace e. Suitable and sufficient lighting to be provided by use of headlights, vehicle task lighting and or helmet lights if work is being conducted at night or in poorly lit areas and there is not sufficient public lighting present f. Harness to be worn and attached to strimmer when in use or and carrying. g. Operator not to work in water/wet weather 	2	2	4	L
Lifting SLG items (signs, cones, frames) by hand	TMO	Manual handling injuries (strain, sprain, back injury)	4	4	16	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. TMO carries out a full site risk assessment b. TMO not to proceed with work if site unsafe and report to supervisor. c. Manual handling training d. Team lifting for heavy/bulky items e. Use of mechanical aids (e.g., Tail lift, sack truck or trolley) f. Plan load layout in advance to minimise handling 	1	4	4	L
Lifting above shoulder height onto flatbed	TMO	Musculoskeletal injuries, falling items	4	4	16	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Hard Hat to be worn and fastened up. b. Use drop-down tailgates or steps c. Use two-person lift or mechanical hoist if available d. Store heavier items lower on vehicle 	1	4	4	L
Poor visibility during loading (early morning/night)	TMO	Trips, vehicle collisions	4	4	16	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use adequate task lighting, vehicle lights, work lights on rear of vehicle. b. Wear Hi-Vis PPE c. Site lighting in depot d. Position vehicle in well-lit area e. Use Head torch in inclement weather or/and at night 	1	4	4	L
Traffic movement during site loading	TMO	Hit by vehicle	4	4	16	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Temporary Traffic Management in place b. Use of Lookout/Signaller/2ndTMO c. Exclusion zones around loading areas to be used where required 	1	4	4	L

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							d. Vehicle beacons and hazard lights to be switched on when outside the works area				
Unsecured items during transit	TMO/P	Falling load during transit	3	1	3	L	a. Use of vehicle-specific securing systems (straps, ratchets) b. Regular checks during journey, retighten straps when required c. Use a Load configuration plan	1	1	1	L
Fatigue during long shifts	TMO	Reduced awareness, increased injury risk	3	2	6	M	a. Shift planning and breaks b. Rotate tasks where possible c. STOP work and report to your line manager if you are feeling fatigued.	2	2	4	L
Slips, trips, falls	TMO	Injury from uneven terrain, cuttings on ground	4	4	16	H	a. TMO carries out a full site risk assessment before works commences b. Ensure good housekeeping throughout the work area c. The work area and pedestrian routes must be kept clear of tripping hazards such as tools, materials and waste d. All spill hazards, such as oil and grease to be cleared immediately e. Operatives are to wear appropriate non-slip protective footwear with steel toe caps and mid-soles at all times (S3 Type) f. Tasks to be conducted at walking pace g. Suitable and sufficient lighting to be provided by use of headlights, vehicle task lighting and or helmet lights if work is being conducted at night or in poorly lit areas and there is not sufficient public lighting present h. Potential hazards such as open maintenance holes and unprotected excavations, must be reported immediately to a supervisor and made safe TMO carries out a full site risk assessment i. TMO not to proceed with work if site unsafe and report to supervisor. j. Clear vegetation frequently k. Take small, short steps	1	4	4	L

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Contact with hidden objects (metal, glass, needles)	TMO	Lacerations, puncture wounds, biohazard	3	3	9	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Site walkover before work starts b. Use Cut level F gloves and S3 boots (steel Toe cap, Ankle Support and midsole) c. Report and dispose of sharps safely 	1	3	3	L
Public interface (verbal abuse, aggression)	TMO	Stress, physical injury	4	4	16	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Brief staff on dealing with aggression b. Avoid confrontation c. Escalate to police if needed 	2	4	8	MO
Fuel / oil spills	All	Fire hazard, environmental pollution	3	3	9	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Store fuel in approved containers b. Refuel away from watercourses c. Carry spill kits on site d. Immediate cleanup procedure e. No smoking, only smoke in designated areas 	1	3	3	L
Fire risk from hot engine/exhaust	All	Burns, brush fire	3	2	6	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Do not refuel near dry vegetation b. Fire extinguisher available c. Allow engines to cool before storing 	1	2	2	L
Strimming near wildlife or nesting areas	H	Habitat disturbance, legal offences	3	1	3	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Pre-check for active nests, protected species b. Avoid works in sensitive zones during breeding season c. Stop work if wildlife is encountered and report 	1	1	1	L
Littering from green waste	All	Environmental pollution, visual nuisance	3	1	3	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Bag or clear debris promptly b. Use appropriate disposal method c. Avoid blockage of drainage 	1	1	1	L
Exposure to weather (sun, rain, heat)	TMO	Heatstroke, hypothermia, reduced visibility	3	2	6	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Weather-appropriate PPE b. Monitor forecasts c. Provide shelter and hydration 	1	2	2	L
Risk to health	TMO	Ingestion of waste or bacteria Cuts or abrasions	3	2	6	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Correct PPE must be worn as per section 4 of this document. b. Avoid direct contact with contaminated water c. Do not put hands up to mouth or face when working d. No eating or drinking on worksite e. Cuts and abrasions must be covered f. Wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking 	1	2	2	L

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								g. Carry leptospirosis information card, although Operatives will be aware of symptoms and will inform GP if necessary.					
								h. Wash off any splashes with clean water					