



Managing banks and slopes safely

Andrew Turner
Head of Safety Section
Agriculture, Waste and Recycling Sector
HSE

Introduction



- Challenges in maintaining banks and slopes
- The mistakes made by Local Authorities in managing banks and slopes
- Common themes in accidents and recent prosecutions

Aims



-
- Highlight the pitfalls than many organisations fall into
 - Lessons learned from accidents will provide pointers towards good practice
 - Sign post further advice
 - Answer questions

How safe is your industry?



How safe is your industry?



Landscaping/amenity accidents



- Over the last 10 years there have been an average of
 - 2 fatal accidents per year
 - 2 major injuries per week
 - 6 over 3/7 day injuries per week
 - cases of HAVS

Health and safety – what's your problem?



- Moving vehicles
 - Being hit by a moving vehicle
 - Mower overturns
- Manual handling
- Slips and trips
- Hand arm vibration syndrome
- Contact with moving machinery
- Struck by an object

Recent prosecutions



- An employee was killed when a mower overturned. Employer prosecuted and fined £20,000 and £20,425 costs
- 29 employees diagnosed with HAVS. Employer prosecuted and fined £25,000 and £9.417 costs
- An employee was injured when a mower overturned. Employer fined £12,000 and £17,000 costs

What am I trying to achieve?



- Compliance with a myriad of health and safety regulations?
- Avoid prosecution?
- Trying not to be sued?
- Trying to prevent accidents?

What am I trying to achieve?



How can I make it easier for the operator to do things the right way, rather than the wrong way?

What does success look like?



- Mowing on slopes being properly planned, with risks assessed and control measures put in place, carried out by appropriately equipped, competent workers (or contractors) adequately supervised and appropriately monitored.

What went wrong?



-
- Work was not planned by a competent person
 - Risk assessment –not site specific
 - Unsafe systems of work, including HAVS
 - Untrained operator, no information about slopes
 - Machine operating outside manufacturers recommendations
 - Inadequate supervision and management
 - Inadequate health surveillance

Good practice - planning



Planning the work to control significant risks

- adequately trained and competent workers
- suitable work equipment
- safe systems of work
- arrangements for equipment maintenance
- provision of information to employees
- selection and management of sub contractors
- on site supervision/management
- monitoring of performance

Good practice – risk assessment



- Risk assessment
 - Generic elements
 - Site specific elements
 - Dynamic components
 - Suitable and sufficient

Good practice – risk assessment



- Risk assessment for mowing on slopes
 - Does it *really* need mowing?
 - Alternatives:
 - Plant it
 - Landscape it
 - Spray it
 - Leave it
 - Graze it

Good practice – risk assessment



- Risk assessment for mowing on slopes
 - The scale and steepness of the slope - considering access/egress, topography and “run-off” areas.
 - Identify who is at risk from the operation consider the operator, members of the public, property, traffic, etc.
 - Availability of suitable equipment - is specialised machinery available to hire or via a subcontractor.
 - Weather and surface conditions likely to be encountered during the operation + consider disturbed areas.
 - Operator competence and identify any specific training requirements.
 - Health surveillance

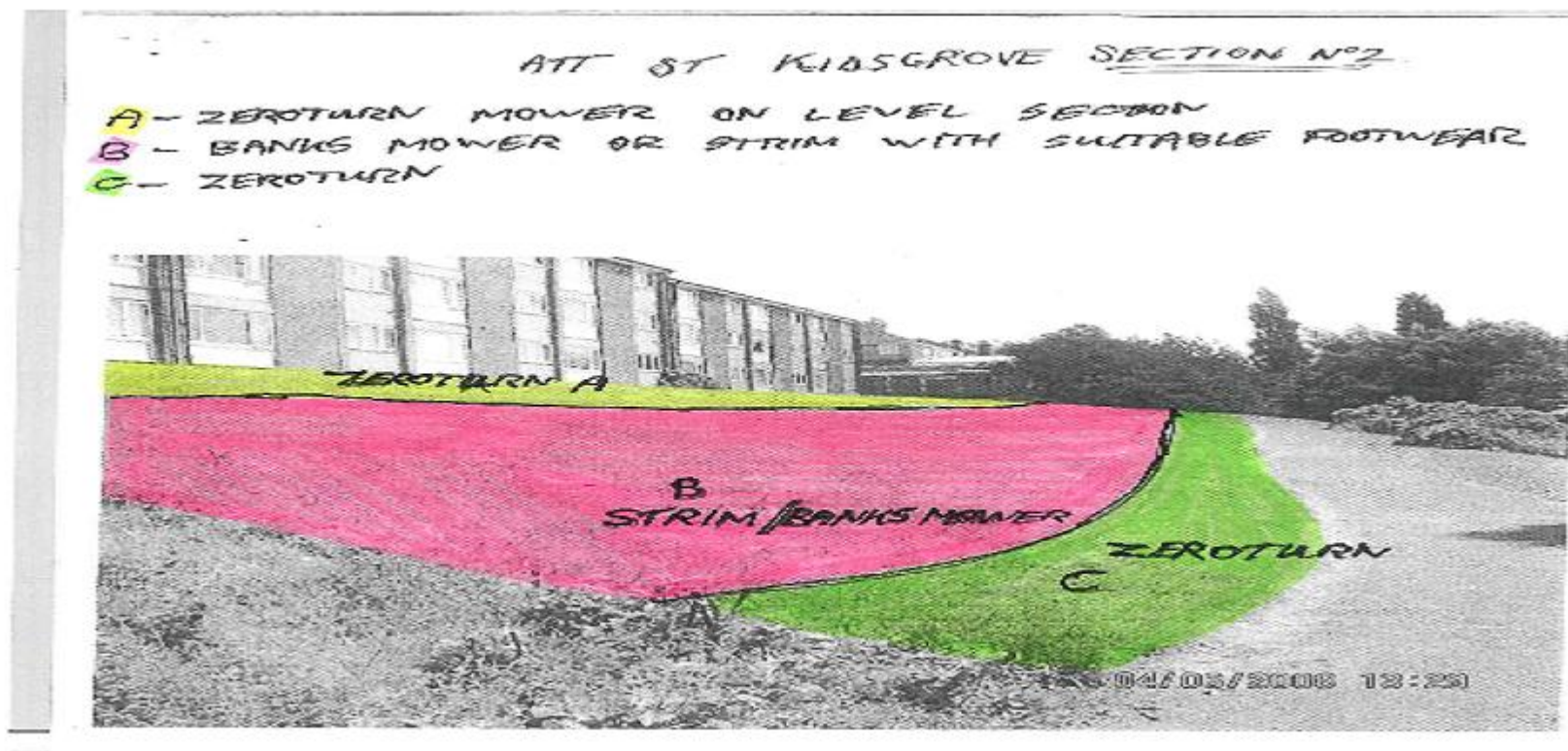
Good practice – risk assessment



- Measure slopes, guesswork is almost certainly wrong. There are Apps for this



Good practice – risk assessment



Good practice - equipment



- Suitable – ride on v pedestrian controlled v remote controlled
- ROPS
- Seatbelts
- Adequately guarded
- Properly adjusted
- Maintained (brakes, tyres)
- Trained operatives

Good practice - training



- Training
 - Operatives
 - What are they trained in?
 - Supervisors and managers

Good practice - instruction



- Information and instruction
 - Informing them of any hazards to be controlled e.g. public access, utilities, traffic, diseased trees, angle of slopes
 - Agreeing safe methods of work – using risk assessment, and for unusual jobs, a method statement
 - Monitoring and reviewing performance – make occasional visits to site, record performance

Good practice - supervision



- Supervision
 - Is it done
 - Is it effective
 - How is it recorded?

Tree management



- Several recent serious incidents
- Flurry of activity among LA's
- Make sure you ensure continuity of arrangements
- Staff training
- Common sense management of trees



Where to go for advice?

- All HSE guidance has been revised in the last three years

www.hse.gov.uk

- Increasing emphasis on digital delivery
- Risk assessment guidance, templates and example assessments

www.hse.gov.uk/risk/assessment.htm