

RISK ASSESSMENT Tree Work

Hazards	Risks	Who might be harmed	Risk level	Control measure already in use	Effectiveness of those control measures
General site Paths, uneven paths, steep paths, steps, ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Slips, trips and falls - Injury from collision with passing bicycles 	Staff Volunteers Public	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inspect site and clear/mark potential trip hazards - Warn about potential trip hazards - Ensure sturdy footwear is worn (normally steel toe-capped boots) - Keep to right hand side of main path to allow bicycles to pass - Ensure volunteers do not walk on steep sloped paths - For volunteers with physical impairments that effect walking i.e. those with walking sticks, wheelchairs, walkers, mobility scooters etc., ensure they know which paths are accessible for them and which aren't. Not all paths are wheelchair accessible. 	High
Litter, metal, glass, hypodermic needles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cuts - Puncture - AIDS and hepatitis 	Staff Volunteers	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inspect site prior to work - All staff and volunteers to wear gloves when carrying out practical work - Use litter-pickers for removal of litter, glass etc. - Volunteers to be told not to touch hypodermic needles but report finding to member of staff for safe removal 	High
Dog, Dog faeces Bee stings Contact with soil borne micro-organisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Toxocariasis - Exposure to pathogens - Tetanus - Allergic reaction 	Staff Volunteers	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If dog faeces comes into contact with skin or clothes, wash with soap and water without delay - Wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking - Participants to be advised to have tetanus inoculation - Any broken skin to be covered before work - Any cut received must be promptly washed and covered - Use tools or feet to move and firm soil, not hands - If hazardous substances are found on site, work will cease, and the supervisor informed 	High

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Adverse weather; extremes of hot, cold, wet, blizzard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sunstroke - Exposure/hypothermia - Slipping or falls on wet mud - Frostbite caused injury - Inability to feel cuts grazes etc. - Inability to use tools correctly due to loss of feeling - Disorientation; getting lost 	Staff Volunteers Public	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff and volunteers, visitors to wear suitable clothing and sturdy footwear in the likelihood of adverse weather - Sun block to be used when necessary - Stop work promptly if people are ill attired for conditions, in discomfort or the work is increasing in risk - Provide plenty of drinking water in hot conditions - Group supervisor to be notified if any participants are returning to centre/ site base, or if volunteers are leaving the site - Make sure all participants know way back to the centre / base or can go home if they need to - Stick to clearly defined paths - Avoid working in areas with snowdrifts - Do not work close to frozen water - Avoid periods of inactivity - Regular breaks as needed 	High
Medical problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteer and staff falling ill or injury 	Staff Volunteers	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First aider to be present - First aid kit to be taken out to area where working 	Medium

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Contact with plant <i>Japanese knotweed</i> Nettles Hemlock <i>Giant hogweed</i> Brambles and thorny bushes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poisoning - Blistering - Irritation - Scratches - Splinters - Nettle stings - Toxins in plant are harmful to humans - Eye injuries 	Staff Volunteers	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify presence and location of hazardous plants including hogweed, hemlock, nettles - Plan work to avoid contact with hazardous plants - Identification of plants provided for all participants - Instructions given for handling - Information provided about the identified risks - Wear protective thick long sleeves and trousers when working close to hazardous plants - Wear protective gloves - Wash exposed skin thoroughly in warm soapy water, rinse and dry after any skin contact and before eating, drinking or smoking - Dispose of plant debris carefully - Exercise caution when carrying Giant hogweed (staff only) - To reduce the spread of Japanese knotweed participants should handling it where possible. 	High
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Manual handling Lifting and moving heavy objects Including - Use of Wheel Barrows	- Back pain and damage in other muscles	Staff Volunteers	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plan in advance any lifting of heavy or awkward items - Train all in safe lifting, carrying and moving techniques - Designate people to load and unload tools if necessary - Provide carrying aids i.e. wheelbarrows - Heavy items to be carried between two people - Limit number of tools any one individual carries 	High
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<p><u>Working at height</u> Ladder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Injury to person/others - Slips, trips, falls 	<p>Staff Volunteers</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inspect ladder is safe and suitable for use. If not, do not use ladder and replace immediately. - Always place the feet of the ladder on firm level base never on soft ground and lean the ladder at 75 degrees from horizontal. The top of the ladder should rest against a solid surface. Secure ladder at the top and bottom whenever possible, and someone at the foot of the ladder - Check for any hazards at the top of the ladder prior to erecting it and ensure that the ladder does not come into contact with electrical cables - Ensure that the ladder is at the correct height for the job - Ensure ladder sections are within guide brackets and rung hooks are securely engaged - Check safety at the top of the ladder and have 1.1 meter of ladder (3 rungs) above the landing to provide a hold when stepping to and from the ladder - Never use the ladder upside down - No more than one person on the ladder at any one time - Always wear flat bottomed and firm soled shoes - Keep a secure grip when climbing the ladder - Ensure the ladder is placed a minimum distance away from other people. This distance should be at least equal to the length of the ladder - Never overreach on the ladder - Only climb the ladder if confident of heights - Two people should carry the ladder to avoid the ladder coming into contact with others - Look around to check for any passing members of the public prior to moving the ladders 	<p>High</p>
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<p><u>Use of hand tools</u></p> <p>Bow saws, secateurs, loppers, bill hooks, sickles</p> <p>Felling small trees; willow coppicing; wood chopping & Log splitting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cuts, splinters, bruises blisters and lacerations - Damage tools - Injury to person carrying tools and to others - Theft of tools, trips and falls - Damage to back and other muscles - Injury to other participants 	<p>Staff Volunteers</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Always wear gloves (except when using swinging tools), sturdy footwear and a helmet when felling trees or coppicing - Inspect tools before use and do not use any that are damaged or have loose handles - Brief all participants at start on safe use of tools and carriage of tools i.e. carry tools at their point of balance, down by your side and with blades or tines pointing forward - Assessment of each volunteer on how they use tools - Keep work site tidy and ensure unused tools stored safely in allocated area - Ensure correct tool is used for each job. Ensure it is maintained, in good condition and kept sharp - Carry tools at their point of balance, down by your side and with blades or tines pointing forward. If you can provide carrying aids e.g. wheelbarrows - Keep site, tools and materials tidy - If cutting with saws, do not line up cut with your hand - Ensure other gloved hand is well away from the cutting area - Try to use as much of the blade as possible - 2 people can use the saw together; one at each end and take it in turns to pull - If kneeling, check the ground first for glass, dog faeces, brambles, etc. - Check handles are smooth and free from splinters - Check blades are not split - Ensure safe distance maintained from other people using the site 	<p>High</p>
<p>Hazards in the tree</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Danger to bird, wasp and bees nests - Danger from electricity or telephone wires - Loose branches - Any other debris in the tree that will fall out when the tree is felled 	<p>Staff Volunteers</p>	<p>Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Check the tree to be felled and the surrounding trees for any birds, wasp or bees' nest - Do not fell if there are any nests in the tree. Seek professional advice on removing the nest - Loose branches in the tree will be removed before felling - When felling adjacent to overhead electric lines, a clearance of not less than twice the height of the tree must be maintained. Felling should be directed away from the electric line 	<p>Moderate</p>

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Felling small trees/willow coppicing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cuts, splinters, bruises blisters and lacerations - Personal injury to tree - Damage to back and other muscles - Injury to other participants 	Staff Volunteers	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear line of sight for where the tree is going to fall and the working area around tree (cutting area) from hazards such as brambles, vegetation, etc. that could snag a saw or deflect an axe or billhook - Clean the ground near the tree to ensure a good footing and be wary of slopes where you are standing, take a firm stance before felling - Wear a helmet, don't wear gloves when using edged tools, but ensure that a pair of gloves is at hand for removing any thorny branches and heavy timber - Before felling, plan an escape route, this has to be obstacle free. Should the tree fall the wrong way, do not turn your back and run, but get clear of the tree - Clear all people away from the danger zone (is a minimum of two tree lengths in any direction) - Inspect the tree for dead wood, should the dead wood be assessed as a hazard the tree cannot be felled - Aim to choose a felling direction that lets the tree fall freely so that it does not get caught up in the branches of neighbouring trees - Never fell the tree over an adjacent stump, boulder or another felled tree, as there may be kickback and the stem could break - Do not fell within 15m of power cables - Check the tree for any wires in the stem where the blade is to be going through. This is especially true if near an old fence line or boundary - The direction of the wind can seriously affect felling safety and the direction of tree fall. The wind direction and force must be estimated as to how much it is likely to deflect the tree when it falls. It is important not to fell in strong winds - It is good practice to cut as low to the ground as possible as it is consistent with safety and efficiency. However, in some situations it is safer to fell some of the higher branches first then cut through the stump. If the plan is to remove the stump completely then it is vital that the cut is high so that there is adequate leverage when winching - Ensure correct sawing procedure is carried out 	High
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Felling small trees/willow coppicing/wood chopping & Log splitting in areas with public access	- Personal injury to passers-by from the falling tree	Staff Volunteers Public	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain safe working distance from other people; twice tree length when felling, 5m if cross cutting. Work must stop if anyone unauthorised person enters this area - Cordon off area of work, display caution sign at 5 meter distance or twice the timber length whichever is the greatest from working area - If needed, use trained 'look out' standing 5 meters away from worker to warn passers-by chainsaw work/tree felling 	High
Lone Working	- Lack of access to first aid / urgent medical attention	Staff Volunteers	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Felling small trees/willow coppicing/wood chopping must not be undertaken alone - Ensure others know where you are working - Carry a first aid kit and take a mobile phone 	Moderate

Reviewed: 1st May 2024 (Maria Gill, Green Corridors Officer).

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Tree Risk assessment		
Print Name	Signature	Date