

## Balsam Bashing RISK ASSESSMENT

Hazards	Risks	Who might be harmed	Risk level	Control measure already in use	Effectiveness of those control measures
<b>Use of tools: Spades, forks , secateurs, loppers, slashers etc</b>	Cuts and bruises Eye injuries Damage to loppers and secateurs	Staff Volunteers Public	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instruction given in use of tools</li> <li>• Keep loppers away from face and eyes</li> <li>• Keep two lopper length distance from other workers</li> <li>• Do not attempt to cut anything thicker than thumb with loppers or secateurs</li> <li>• Assessment of each volunteer on how they use tools</li> </ul>	High
<b>Lifting and moving heavy objects</b>	Back and other injuries.	Staff Volunteers Public	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lift in appropriate manner</li> <li>• The assistance of other employees / volunteers should always be sought for moving large quantities or for lifting heavy and awkward loads.</li> <li>• When lifting in a team, take instructions from one person only.</li> </ul>	High
<b>Litter, metal, glass, hypodermic needles</b>	Cuts, puncture, toxic poisoning	Staff Volunteers Public	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspect site prior to work</li> <li>• All staff and volunteers to wear gloves when working on site</li> <li>• Use litter-pickers for removal of litter, glass etc</li> <li>• Volunteers to be told not to touch hypodermic needles but report finding to member of staff for safe removal</li> </ul>	High
<b>Dog faeces</b>	Toxocara Canis (micro-organism in dog faeces which can cause blindness in children)	Staff Volunteers Public	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If dog faeces come into contact with skin or clothes, wash with soap and water without delay</li> </ul>	High
<b>Brambles and thorny bushes Nettles</b>	Scratches, stings Cuts and punctures Eye injuries	Staff Volunteers Public	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear gloves and use litter-pickers to remove rubbish from brambles and other thorny bushes</li> <li>• Wear long sleeves to protect arms</li> <li>• Exercise caution when pulling out long stretches of bramble</li> <li>• Pile bramble cuttings in specified area</li> <li>• Exercise caution when carrying brambles</li> </ul>	High

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<b>Adverse weather – extremes of hot, cold, wet</b>	Sunstroke etc Slipping on wet mud	Staff Volunteers Public	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff and volunteers etc. to wear suitable clothing and footwear in the likelihood of adverse weather</li> </ul>	High
<b>Steep banks, uneven paths, steps, ground</b>	Slips, trips, falls	Staff Volunteers Public	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paths and steps checked regularly for obstructions etc.</li> <li>Inspect site prior to work</li> <li>Warn about potential trip hazards</li> <li>Ensure stout footwear is worn</li> <li>Ensure volunteers do not walk on steep slopes of banks near water</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	High
<b>Damaged tools</b>	Risk of splinters and other injuries	Staff Volunteers Public	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check handles smooth and free from splinters</li> <li>Check blades and prongs not split</li> <li>Check pickaxes and sledgehammers</li> </ul>	High
<b>Carrying tools (spade, pickaxe, sledgehammer, fork, mattock..)</b>	Injury to person carrying tools and to others	Staff Volunteers Public	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brief all participants at start on safe use and carriage of tools</li> <li>Carry tools at their point of balance, down by your side and with blades or tines pointing forward</li> </ul>	High
<b>Tools on site</b>	Trips, falls Theft of tools	Staff Volunteers Public	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep site tidy</li> <li>Ensure unused tools stored safely in allocated area.</li> <li>Always lay spades, forks or shovels flat with blade or tines pointing downwards</li> <li>Keep all tools within sight</li> </ul>	High
<b>Giant Hogweed: invasive species</b>	Poisonous sap can cause blistering and severe irritation	Staff Volunteers	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instruct volunteer that this must not be handled, even if wearing fgloves</li> <li>Identification of plant provided for all participants</li> <li>Information provided about the identified risks</li> <li>Wash skin which has been in contact with plant</li> </ul>	High

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<b>Japanese Knotweed: invasive species</b>	Scratches, Splinters Eye injuries Rhizomes	Staff Volunteers Public	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear long sleeves and gloves when handling</li> <li>Identification of plant provided for all participants</li> <li>Footwear should be thoroughly cleaned before leaving the site.</li> </ul>	High
<b>Himalayan Balsam: invasive specie</b>	Spread of plant	Staff Volunteers Public	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identification of plant provided for all participants</li> <li>To reduce the spread of Himalayan balsam care should be given when handling</li> <li>All cuttings should be piled in a specified area.</li> <li>Footwear should be thoroughly cleaned before leaving the site.</li> <li>Do not pull whilst seed heads are visible</li> </ul>	High
<b>Digging and use of pickaxe / mattock</b>	Back strain Injury to foot Injury to fellow volunteers	Staff Volunteers Public	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use leg muscles when digging and keep back straight</li> <li>Do not use instep to depress spade</li> <li>Ensure stout footwear is worn</li> <li>Make sure there is two handle-lengths distance between you and anybody else</li> <li>Avoid wearing gloves when swinging tools</li> </ul>	High
<b>Bee stings</b>	Allergic reaction	Staff Volunteers Public	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Co-ordinator / Group leader to be aware of potential problem</li> </ul>	High

Reviewed: 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024 (Maria Gill, Green Corridors Officer).

Approved: 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 (Jonathan Dent, Green Corridors Manager)

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[illegible]06<sup>th</sup> September 2019