



**Task Risk Assessment**  
**Task: Hedgelaying**

**Date: 13/11/2024**

This risk assessment will be updated annually following a review or whenever further risks or control measures are identified.

Prior to the task taking place the task leader will assess the task and give a risk assessment briefing to all staff and volunteers to include use of tools, site conditions, manual handling etc.

<b>PPE required to carry out this task:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sturdy footwear</li> <li>• Gloves</li> <li>• Eye protection to EN166</li> </ul>
<b>Training required to carry out this task:</b>	In-house training.
<b>Can this task be carried out by a lone worker:</b>	Yes
<b>Minimum level of first aid required to carry out this task: (EFAW, FAW, FAW+F)</b>	Emergency First Aid 1:50

HAZARD Potential Harm	PEOPLE AT RISK	EXISTING CONTROL METHODS Staff and volunteers instructed or trained to:	FURTHER ACTIONS REQUIRED	CORRECTIVE ACTIONS		
				WHO	WHEN	COMPLETED
<b>Loading, transporting, unloading of tools:</b> Injury	Staff and volunteers	Tools are loaded securely with protective guard(s) in place where appropriate. Operators to read, understand and adhere to the <a href="#">manual handling risk assessment</a> .				
<b>Use of hand tools:</b> Muscular or skeletal injury, lacerations, puncture wounds.	Staff, volunteers & public	Follow <a href="#">hand tools risk assessment</a> paying particular attention to: Adhere to safe working distances of 2x the tool length. Appropriate gloves to be worn. Ensure tools are well maintained and sharp.				
<b>Use of a chainsaw:</b>	Staff, volunteers & public	Chainsaw only to be used by a trained operator and in strict accordance to the <a href="#">chainsaw risk assessment</a> .				

Severe lacerations.						
<b>Laying hedgerow trees</b> Crush injuries, puncture wounds.	Staff, volunteers & public	Adhere to safe working distances i.e. twice the length of the height of the tree being felled. Site safety signage erected when working alongside or close to a footpath / bridleway.				
<b>Handling species with thorns</b> Puncture wounds, lacerations, eye injury.	Staff, volunteers & public	Gloves to be worn at all times when handling thorny material. Eye protection available if necessary.				
<b>Use of swinging tools (Axe, billhook).</b> Lacerations	Staff, volunteers & public	Stakes must be sharpened on a stable block and on even and firm ground. Ensure the correct height of chopping block to avoid bending over excessively. Position the end of the stake in the centre of the chopping block. Wear gloves with good grip when using swinging tools.				
<b>Operator fatigue:</b> Repetitive movements	Operator	Group to take regular breaks. Individuals advised to work at own pace and take rest as required. Alternate with other tasks to reduce risk of strains and injuries associated with repetitive movements.				

The task covered by this risk assessment should only be carried out by a member of staff or volunteer who is trained and authorised to do so. If you have any medical condition which might increase the likelihood of an accident or injury resulting from carrying out this task then you must discuss this with and be authorised by your line manager, before you attempt the task.

	<b>Assessment date</b>	<b>Assessor</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>Initial assessment undertaken</b>	Nov-2009	Alison Vallance	Community Reserves Warden
<b>Review 5 Completed:</b>	07/11/2014	Loretta Waters	Neighborhood Wildlife Warden
<b>Review 6 Completed:</b>	01/11/2015	Steven Wrigley	Warden
<b>Review 7 Completed:</b>	21/12/2016	Lucy Tomkinson	Community Reserves Warden
<b>Review 8 Completed:</b>	13/09/2017	George Cooper	Land Management Apprentice
<b>Review 9 Completed:</b>	11/12/2018	Chris Parker	Head of Land Management
<b>Review 10 Completed:</b>	08/10/2019	Chris Parker	Head of Land Management
<b>Review 11 Completed:</b>	13/11/2024	Tim Read	Countryside Manager