



Task Risk Assessment
Task: Scrub Cutting and Coppicing

Date: 12/11/2024

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.

PPE required to carry out this task:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sturdy footwear • Heavy duty gloves • Safety helmet EN 397:2012 when applicable • Eye protection (EN166.1 min class F rating - low energy impact) available but not mandatory.
Training required to carry out this task:	In-house training.
Can this task be carried out by a lone worker:	Yes
Minimum level of first aid required to carry out this task: (EFAW, FAW, FAW+F)	EFAW 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
Loading, transporting and unloading of tools: Cuts/strain injury	Staff, volunteers.	Tool talk given on correct carrying techniques including manual handling. Tools to have protective guards in place in transit (as appropriate). Correct PPE issued and worn (see above). Follow manual handling risk assessment.				
Using hand tools: Direct injury, tripping and falling on tools	Operators & bystanders	Give tools talk to include safe carrying, use of tools, techniques and safe storage when not in use - see hand tools risk assessment for further detail. Ensure safe working distances of 2x tool length are adhered to.				

		Correct PPE issued and worn (see above).				
Using power tools: Chainsaw, brushcutter, hedge trimmer	Operators & bystanders	Power tools only to be used by trained operators. Member of staff to read, understand and adhere to the relevant risk assessment (Chainsawing risk assessment , brushcutting risk assessment and hedge trimmer risk assessment).				
Uneven surfaces, slopes/ banks: Slips, trips and falls incl. falling on sharp stumps,	Operators & bystanders	Wear sturdy boots with a good grip. Ensure that stumps are cut as low as possible and left with a flat or shallow sloped stump.				
Tree felling / cutting of substantial sized branches: Falling vegetation causing head/ eye injuries, trees falling out of control	Operators & bystanders	Use signage and banks men as appropriate to exclude people from the area during felling operations. Eye protection to be used when necessary to prevent eye injuries e.g. from protruding branches or thorny vegetation. Hard hats to be used when necessary to prevent head injuries when felling large material.				
Thorns: Cuts, Blackthorn	Operators	Correct PPE issued and worn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy duty gloves • Eye protection (EN166.1 min class F rating - low energy impact) available but not mandatory. Advise volunteers of Blackthorn – remove thorns immediately and seek medical attention if swelling or loss of mobility occurs.				
Moving vegetation: Cuts/strain injury	Staff & volunteers	Advise to not exceed personal capabilities Adhere to guidance in the manual handling risk assessment .				

<p>Working alongside roads, byways, public footpaths: Risk of trees/scrub falling into road or onto passers by Risk of staff and volunteers being hit by traffic</p>	<p>Staff, volunteers and Public</p>	<p>High-vis vests to be worn by all workers on or adjacent to the road. Erect signage to alert drivers of work. Adhere to the working on or near roads risk assessment.</p>				
<p>Operator fatigue: Repetitive movements</p>	<p>Staff & volunteers</p>	<p>Advise individuals to work at own pace and take breaks as required. Alternate with other tasks to reduce risk of strains and injuries associated with repetitive movements.</p>				

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.

	Assessment date	Assessor	Position
Initial assessment undertaken on	Nov-09	Alison Vallance	
Review 1 completed	09/09/2013	Lorretta Waters	Neighborhood Wildlife Warden
Review 2 completed	31/10/2014	Chris Parker	Head of Land Management
Review 3 completed	17/09/2015	Lucy Tomkinson	Community reserves Warden (CRW)
Review 3 completed	06/09/2016	Lucy Tomkinson	CRW
Review 4 completed	12/09/2017	George Cooper	Land Management Apprentice
Review 5 completed	11/12/2018	Lucy Tomkinson	CRW
Review 6 completed	08/10/2019	Chris Parker	Head of Land Management
Review 7 completed	01/09/2021	Tristan Leslie	Ranger
Review 8 completed	13/11/2024	Tim Read	Countryside Manager