

Friends of Hell Wath Risk Assessment

Assessment: Coppicing, felling & scrub clearance

Scope: Activity [Task]

Assessment Summary: Coppicing, felling & scrub clearance;		
<p>Coppicing, felling & scrub clearance</p> <p>Written: 01/11/2024</p>	<p>Typical uncontrolled outcomes</p> <p>Slips and trips; strained muscles; scratches to face and head; inflammation of joints; puncture wounds; cuts and lacerations; blood borne infections; concussion; serious injury</p>	<p>Typical groups at risk</p> <p>Volunteers; other site users; general public</p>
<p>Insurance considerations</p> <p>FOHW insurance does not cover the use of chain saws or other mechanised equipment.</p>		
	<p>Hazards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact with hand tools • Slips, trips and falls • Eye injuries • Falling debris and branches • Unexpected movement when cutting timber under tension/compression • Thorns • Presence of man-made detritus, e.g. broken bottles, barbed wire • Repetitive movements • Blackthorn injuries 	<p>Controls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tools: See "General Conservation Activities" risk assessment. • Slips, trips and falls: See "General Conservation Activities" risk assessment. • Wear safety glasses to prevent eye injuries from protruding branches and branches under tension. • Volunteers recommended to wear hard hats. • Demonstrate felling techniques emphasising importance of maintaining clear escape route and the meaning dangers of 'kickback'. • Place warning signs at entry points and ensure visitors are kept away from main work area. • Check for broken glass, barbed wire, etc. and clear from work area. • Do not work in the vicinity of dead trees or trees containing deadwood in windy conditions. • Check for hanging dead wood and dead wood which may be brought down by activity; clear if possible. • Ensure sufficient space available between volunteers - greater than height of any trees to be felled. • Cut back branches and other vegetation to give clear access and good visibility. • Check ground for thorns or other sharp objects before kneeling. • Clear brash regularly to reduce trip hazards. • Wear gloves when handling thorny material. • Remove the thorns of blackthorn immediately and seek medical attention if wound becomes infected.

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take frequent breaks when undertaking heavy or repetitive tasks such as when hammering or using slasher or strimmer, or alternate with other (lighter) task to reduce risk of strains and other injuries associated with vibration and repetitive movements.• Avoid working near power lines and other overhead cables.• If tree caught in overhead cables do not touch, call responsible authority immediately. |
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