

This risk assessment relates only to the *generic* features of a common activity; it does not cover those *specific* to a location or group. It therefore must not be used without completing the local review, making additions as necessary to take account of local circumstances. However, such a local review need not be timeconsuming. Use the box at the bottom to create the local review, or add extra pages as necessary. **SEE ACCOMPANYING SAFETY NOTES**

ACTIVITY ASSESSED	ASSESSOR	ASSESSMENT DATE
15. HEDGELAYING	STEPHEN BOLSOVER	11 th May 2016
HAZARD Potential for harm	RISK LEVEL	PRECAUTIONS to remove hazard or reduce risk level. One precaution may tackle several hazards.
Injury from sharp tools being used by yourself or others	M	Although safe working distances are difficult to maintain when hedging in a group, the need for this and for people to be aware of who is near them at all times when working must be stressed at the start and monitored by the leader during the work. All tools must be in good condition and used safely. Special attention should be paid to make sure that nobody wears gloves on the hand holding the tool: losing your grip on a billhook for example is dangerous to all nearby.
Injury or disease from hedge or soil materials	M	Gloves should be worn when holding/handling hedging materials, especially if in, on or soiled with earth, but not to hold a tool. See generic assessment General Safety on Site for Conservation Activities, particularly concerning the need to get and maintain anti-tetanus protection. All personnel should have had a tetanus jab.
Thorn injuries: scratches	L	Gloves to be worn when safe but personnel to be made aware that they will not protect from all wounds and care must be taken.
Thorn injuries: puncture wounds	L	Puncture wounds to the knee can be serious so the ground should be cleared of material before kneeling. If available, protective kneelers should be worn.
Thorn injuries: eye wounds	H	Personnel should be aware of the danger to the eyes from thorns and twig ends and protective goggles used in areas of high risk.
RISKS AND PRECAUTIONS SPECIFIC TO THE SITE OR DAY ASSESSOR ASSESSMENT DATE APPLICABLE DATES (This is likely either to be one specific day, or “until further notice”.)		

Risk level: L = Low, M = Medium, H = High

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15. HEDGELAYING	STEPHEN BOLSOVER	11 th May 2016
RESTRICTIONS Don't use tools that are not sharp, if edged, or otherwise not in good condition. Work should not start until first aid kit is readily available and first aid arrangements are known to all present.		
PREVENTATIVE MEASURES Hand tools must not be held by a gloved hand as the grip is then unreliable. Erect hazard warning/access prohibition signs at approaches to work area, plus cordoning off and posting of lookouts if higher risks present, e.g children in vicinity.		
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT Wear gloves on hands handling materials. Wear protective kneelers if available but always clear ground of materials, including thorns, before kneeling. If there is a likelihood of thorn/twig end injury to eyes, e.g clearing face height dense brash, wear goggles. Hard hats to be worn if cutting material above shoulder height. All to wear sturdy good grip footwear.		
TRAINING Adequate briefing at start of work on safe and effective use of tools and hedging techniques. All present to be warned of danger of injury from thorns and twigs, of tendonitis from not taking suitable rest breaks and of need to keep a good working distance from others: 1 1/2 times the combined length of your arm and the tool in use is a good minimum.		
MONITORING Check that site is kept clear of obstructions and created hazards like tools left on ground. Regularly resharpen blunted edged tools. Ask who has had Tetanus jabs in last ten years and strongly urge these are acquired/kept up to date.		
INFORMATION		

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