

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
29. Use of weed slashers	Stephen Bolsover	17 th April 2023
HAZARD potential for harm	RISK LEVEL	PRECAUTIONS to remove hazard or reduce risk level. One precaution may tackle several hazards.
Injury from sharp tools during transport to the work site	M	The weed slashers will be transported in a wheel barrow, not carried by hand.
Injury to feet and legs from sharp tool during use at the site	M	Volunteers will be advised to wear boots and long trousers. Volunteers will be shown how to safely use the tool, swinging it well forward of the legs, and to work at least two tool distances from the next volunteer.
Injury to other volunteers from a thrown tool	M	Volunteers will be told not to wear gloves while using the weed slashers, putting gloves on as necessary to handle the cut material.
Short term back pain from stooping while using the tool	M	Volunteers will be shown how to use the tool, keeping the back straight and extending the arms as necessary to get the cut at the appropriate height. Volunteers will be told to stop and take a short break every half an hour or whenever they feel an ache in the back.
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

ACTIVITY ASSESSED	ASSESSOR	ASSESSMENT DATE
29. Use of weed slashers	Stephen Bolsover	17 th April 2023
RESTRICTIONS Users will be instructed in the safe use of the tools. In particular, as with all bladed tools, users must not wear gloves while using the tool since gloves reduce adhesion, increasing the risk that a swung tool could fly off and hit a bystander.		
PREVENTATIVE MEASURES Users will be advised to wear boots and long trousers. Users will be shown how to safely use the tool, swinging it well forward of the legs, working at least two tool distances from the next volunteer, keeping the back straight and extending the arms as necessary to get the cut at the appropriate height. They will be told to stop and take a short break every half an hour or whenever they feel an ache in the back.		
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT Users will be advised to wear boots and long trousers.		
TRAINING Users will be shown how to use the tools safely before beginning work. They will be shown how to safely use the tool, swinging it well forward of the legs, working at least two tool distances from the next volunteer, keeping the back straight and extending the arms as necessary to get the cut at the appropriate height. They will be told to stop and take a short break every half an hour or whenever they feel an ache in the back.		
MONITORING Supervisors will keep an eye on volunteer workers and intervene if the tools are not being used appropriately and safely.		
INFORMATION Weed slashers are L-shaped tools with a wooden handle and sharpened bottom section. They cannot cut tough material but are excellent for quickly cutting soft plants such as bracken or Japanese knotweed.		

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