

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 time consuming. Use the box at the bottom to create the local review, or add extra pages as necessary. **SEE ACCOMPANYING SAFETY NOTES**

ACTIVITY ASSESSED 31. Pruning scrub, including prickly bushes, using secateurs and loppers	ASSESSOR Steve Bolsover	ASSESSMENT DATE 24 th July 2024
HAZARD potential for harm	RISK LEVEL	PRECAUTIONS to remove hazard or reduce risk level. One precaution may tackle several hazards.
Secateurs and loppers have sharp blades that can injure	M	Volunteers will be trained in the safe use of the tools. This includes: • Always locking secateurs closed when not in use or when moving across the site • Always carrying loppers by the lower handle • Always wearing gardening gloves while using the tools
Scrapes, cuts and puncture wounds on skin from thorns and prickles	L	Volunteers will wear leather gardening gloves while doing the work and will be recommended to wear stout boots, long sleeved shirts and long trousers.
Thorns and small pieces of cut material can get into eyes	L	The first aid kit accompanying the team will include an eye bath to wash out small pieces of cut material. This will be within its use by date.
Small puncture wounds and scrapes can transmit tetanus	M	All volunteers must be up to date with tetanus inoculations.
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
31. Pruning scrub, including prickly bushes, using seccateurs and loppers	Steve Bolsover	24 th July 2024
RESTRICTIONS		
PREVENTATIVE MEASURES Volunteers will be trained in the safe use of the tools. This includes: • Always locking secateurs closed when not in use or when moving across the site • Always carrying loppers by the lower handle • Always wearing gardening gloves while using the tools		
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT Volunteers will wear leather gardening gloves while doing the work and will be recommended to wear stout boots, long sleeved shirts and long trousers. No gloves, even those sold as “thornproof”, can completely protect against pricks from thorns, but by using leather gloves and wearing clothes that cover the legs and arms the danger is minimized and any injury is likely to be very minor.		
TRAINING Volunteers will be trained in the safe use of the tools. This includes: • Always locking secateurs closed when not in use or when moving across the site • Always carrying loppers by the lower handle • Always wearing gardening gloves while using the tools		
MONITORING Wardens will always be on hand to check that volunteers are working safely.		
INFORMATION		

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