

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
32. Sapling and bush felling	Steve Bolsover	11 th July 2025
For this activity a sapling is defined as a woody plant whose stem has a diameter of 7.5cm or less at breast height. Bushes are woody plants with leaf bearing branches at low level; to be covered by this assessment the main stem must have a diameter of 7.5cm or less at breast height. Woody plants with stem diameter greater than 7.5 cm at breast height are trees – see assessment “Tree felling and scrub cutting”		
HAZARD potential for harm	RISK LEVEL	PRECAUTIONS to remove hazard or reduce risk level. One precaution may tackle several hazards.
Larger saplings could cause minor injury if they were to fall on a bystander or other volunteer. Holly bushes could cause minor scratches if they fell on a bystander or other volunteer.	L	Volunteers will be instructed to be aware of people around them while felling larger saplings. If anyone moves into the area where the sapling will fall then sawing must cease until the area is clear again.
Holly and other prickly bushes could cause minor scratches for the volunteer doing the felling.	L	Volunteers will wear thick “rigger” gloves
Bowsaws could cause severe cuts to unprotected skin	M	Volunteers will wear thick “rigger” gloves, in particular on the hand that is not holding the saw.
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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RESTRICTIONS		
PREVENTATIVE MEASURES		
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT		
Volunteers will wear thick “rigger” gloves.		
TRAINING		
MONITORING		
Wardens will always be on hand to check that volunteers are working safely.		
INFORMATION		

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