

THE THREE BROOKS LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

THE THREE BROOKS NATURE CONSERVATION GROUP

GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT - Three Brooks Local Nature Reserve 2018 Version 1

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Assistant Risk Assessor - Emma Creasey (TBNCG)

Auditor - John Morris(SGCC)

Next General review Point: 01/01/2017

Significant changes between versions will be highlighted in red

Change Details	Issue Date	Updated By	Approved By
Initial Draft		D J Baker	
Section Numbers added. Minor changes to one or two risks	30/05/2009	D J Baker	
	01/06/2009	D J Baker	
Sheet numbers added. References to aquatic wildlife added			
Risk Assessors added. Note on unidentified risks added	02/06/2009	D J Baker	
Comments from Emma incorporated	07/06/2009	D J Baker	
Location of defib unit added	19/06/2009	D J Baker	
Warning about climbing trees added. Limitations for the elderly, pregnant women etc. added	25/06/2009	D J Baker	
Effects of insect bites and poisonous plants added	01/07/2009	D J Baker	
Service installations, risks to public, minor changes	14/07/2009	D J Baker	J Morris
Change to section numbering only	07/09/2009	D J Baker	
Caveat added to Introduction.	30/01/2009	D J Baker	
Introduction - paragraph on green Gym added, Leptospirosis added to section 6. - Contact with micro organisms such as Tetanus or Leptospirosis (Weils Disease),	21/01/2011	D J Baker	

Note added to general information regarding mobile phones.

Typographical, formatting and numbering errors addressed

A new section - Working on Water has been added

03/02/2012

D J Baker

A new section - Training has been added

A new section - Working with Danish Oil and other preservatives - added to the Site or Task Specific Hazards section

01/01/2013

D J Baker

Emma Creasey - SGCC in absentia

A new section - Isolation - added to the General Hazards section covering working alone and leaving the work site.

Section added to Health and safety concerning alcohol etc.

15/12/2013

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General Hazards

Section 2 - paragraph on hot water dispensers added.

Site or Task Specific Hazards

Section 8 - nest box work- paragraph on use of paint added.

Section 12 - scythe work - paragraph on boots added.

New section added to Health and Safety on Safeguarding

21/05/2014

D J Baker

New sheet 3.1 Safeguarding Risks added.

01/01/2015

D J Bkaer

Section 10 - Symptoms of Weils Disease added

Sub section on Aerosil cans added to the Litter Picking section

Reference to the use of chest waders has been added to the Pond Maintenance section.

Use of percussion tool such as hammers added to Misuse of Tools section

Note on tool talks added to Misuse of tools section

Minor grammatical changes made

Notes on stake installation added to live and dead hedging sections

D J Baker

Brush Cutter risk assessment section added

Section 11 Separate Lyme disease Section added

Note on Weils and Lume diseases added to section 7

Note on Weils and Lume diseases added to section 4

Air Ambulance grid references added

GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT - Three Brooks Local Nature Reserve 2015 Version 1

Introduction

The Three Brooks Local Nature Reserve (TBLNR) is an area of approximately 66 hectares located to the north east of Bradley Stoke adjacent to the M4 motorway. The reserve is of a reversed 'L' profile with the NW to SE Patchway Brook forming the vertical and the SW to NE Stoke Brook the horizontal. Both brooks drain into a small lake which in turn drains into the Bradley Brook which passes under the motorway and enters the River Frome at Winterbourne. The brooks are edged to a large degree with Hazel, Hawthorn, Blackthorn and other shrubs. In addition to the lake and brooks the reserve has four small amphibian friendly ponds.

There are three mature woods, Savages Wood being mainly Oak, Ash, Field Maple and Hornbeam with a sparse understory of hawthorn and hazel, Sherbourne's Brake being mainly Oak including Sessile and Turkey Oak, Ash and Black Poplar with an understory of hazel. Webbs Wood is largely Hazel with a number of specimen Ash trees. In all three woods the hazel is coppiced on a regular basis.

In addition to the mature woodland there are a number of Ash plantations planted during the 1980's. These are in the process of being thinned in rotation. The reserve also includes a number of flower meadows, a community orchard and an area of marshland.

The reserve has a number of surfaced paths and is well used by the public as walkers, dog walkers and cyclists and is also used for orienteering on a regular basis. The reserve is maintained by South Gloucestershire County Council and a local volunteer support group the Three Brooks Nature Conservation Group (TBNCG). The conservation group concentrates in the main upon the preservation and restoration of habitat and management of the wooded areas. These activities include the coppicing and felling of trees, the laying of live and dead hedges, planting wild flowers, removing hay from the meadows, stream and litter clearing, maintenance of the marsh area and other conservation tasks. The group spends one full Saturday per month on this work and in addition conducts a three hour weekly Green Gym (q.v.) each Thursday.

Green Gym is a nation wide health initiative managed by the Trust for Conservation Volunteers (TCV). Its aim is to improve health by useful exercise in the open air. The careful assignment of work to suit individual needs combined with a lively social atmosphere particularly suits the unemployed, retired, and those individuals suffering from, or recovering from a wide variety of physical, mental and emotional problems. It is common for a Green Gym to be established and initially run by TCV with responsibility eventually being passed to trained local project leaders. In addition to Project Leadership would be Leaders are also trained in first aid.

This Risk Assessment initially identifies those risks common to all conservation tasks carried out on the reserve. It then addresses those risks applicable to specific tasks and environments. Next it identifies risks particular to organised groups of visitors and other risks arising from working upon open water in boats. It includes sections covering special need, Wells and Lyme diseases and brush cutting. Before commencing any task the appropriate sections of this Risk Assessment should be reviewed for currency and to ensure all risks are addressed. New risks identified will be added to the Assessment and the Assessment will be raised in issue and re-distributed. Risks identified as specific to one off tasks not likely to be repeated will be issued as temporary, separate, addenda to this Assessment.

In addition to such changes the need for which as may become apparent during the year there will be a specific General Review held annually or as often as seems desirable. This Review will examine ALL sections of the Analysis for continued relevance, changes to Health and Safety requirements and changes to South Glos Council requirements.

Although the onus is on the individual prior to any work session or guided walk relevant risks, including the handling of tools must be clearly outlined.

Finally Three Brooks Nature Conservation Group, the Bradley Stoke Green Gym and South Gloucestershire Council accept no liability where the provisions of the Risk Assessment are ignored or incorrectly applied. The Risk Assessment is a living document and should not be considered as finite.

GENERAL INFORMATION

IMPORTANT NOTE:	Please note that this Risk Assessment is not exhaustive and there may be risks yet to be identified. Volunteers should not assume therefor that all risks pertaining to a particular task have been identified and should exercise caution accordingly. Additional risks identified and not listed herein should be detailed to the Group Risk Assessor or Assistant Assessor for inclusion in this Assessment
Access to the reserve:	There are numerous foot entrances to the reserve. The principal vehicular access is via the Brook Way gate opposite Braydon Avenue (Grid Ref: ST6228828). This gate is permanently locked but keys are available to the emergency services and an additional key is held in the TBNCG First Aid kit. On occasion it may be more appropriate for emergency services to access the reserve via the local Sports Centre car park. or nearby residential streets. The relevant emergency service will be advised as to the best approach when contacted.
First Aid Cover:	A number of members of the TBNCG hold current First Aid at Work certificates. At least one, preferably two will be present at any conservation task undertaken by the group.
Nearest defib unit	A defib unit is held at The Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre adjacent to the reserve. A second is held in the the Willow Brook Centre Mall(Tesco's).
Nearest 24 Hr A & E dept:	Southmead Hospital
Mobile Phone Reception	Good. Accordingly each physically separate work group must be in possession of at least one mobile phone at all times, carried by the Team Leader..
Nearest public phone	The Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre (Grid Ref; ST623839)
4wd needed	No



Three Brooks Nature Conservation Group

Health and Safety notice for workdays

The safety of our volunteers and the public is of paramount importance. We therefore ask volunteers on our workdays to adhere to a few simple rules.

1. **Next of kin details.** Please provide the Secretary with a name and phone number for the person you would like to be contacted in the case of an emergency.
2. **Working methods.** We always train new members in the activities we carry out – and are happy to re-demonstrate if asked. **Please work in the way that we show you.** The methods we use for felling, scything etc are those taught us by TCV officers as being the safest and least risk. If you are shown a particular method to use or told to work a certain way, please do so, even if you have done it another way in another group. Note that we normally focus on using traditional methods
3. **Avoid becoming isolated.** Please **work in pairs** or, at the very least, within sight of someone else. Please do not wander off to the very edge of a work area by yourself. If something happened to you, we might not notice until it's too late.
4. **Tidy work areas.** For the sake of the public using the woods – and for our own reputation – **please leave work areas tidied up.** Always clear up any tree you have felled and make sure you have left enough time to do so.
5. **Leaving early.** If you need to leave early, please **find a committee member and tell them that you are leaving**, before you go. This will save us from hunting for someone who isn't actually there in a rapidly darkening wood.
6. **Alcohol etc.** The consumption of alcohol and the use of all banned substances are not permitted during work sessions.

The committee members present are within their rights to ask people to leave if they do not adhere to these guidelines.

Committee members are currently: Dave Baker, Robin Jones, Rob Williams Gill Smith, Sara Messenger, Andy Moon and Paul Smith

SAFEGUARDING

Introduction

Safeguarding means enabling people to live their lives free from harm, abuse and neglect and to have their health, wellbeing and human rights protected. Those most at risk and in need of protection include:

Children – anyone under the age of 18

Vulnerable adults – someone over the age of 18 who is not permitted or not able to live independently.

Adults whose circumstances may lead them to be temporarily vulnerable.

The Law

Safeguarding Law and Application does differ across the UK in its application. Its purpose and content however remain the same.

In England and Wales the minimum standards are set by the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 as amended by the Protection of Freedoms Bill 2012.

It is a legal requirement that where you suspect abuse is taking place you must inform Social Service AND the police.

It is a legal requirement that if your organisation works with vulnerable people, you need to take the necessary steps to safeguard them.

Section 3.1 of the Risk Assessment attempts to outline the potential risk to both team members and team leaders. The ameliorations required are already in place within the Bradley Stoke groups. However there may be occasions when vulnerability is not disclosed and section 3.1 outlines the risks to Team Leaders and Committee members who must pursue any suspicion that vulnerability has not been disclosed with the individual's Key Contact (parent, carer, spouse or relative). This section of the Risk Assessment is only an outline and Team Leaders/Committee members leading tasks should make themselves familiar with the current Safeguarding requirements.

steps to safeguard them.

Safeguarding Risks

Section	Concerns	Amelioration Controls
3.1.1	Risks to Children	There are numerous risks to children and the controls required by law are many. The simplest application is to ensure that all children working upon tasks are accompanied at all times by their Key Contact, normally a parent or guardian. The duty of care is then placed upon that Key Contact not on the Group.
3.1.2	Risks to Adults under full or part time care	As above the simplest application is to ensure that vulnerable adults are accompanied at all times by their Key Contact, normally a Carer. The duty of care is then placed upon that Key Contact not on the Group.
	Temporary vulnerability	Temporary vulnerability applies to those individuals who, whilst normally in full control of their faculties, may have become vulnerable due to external circumstances such as grief, strife within the family or as the result of an accident. Such vulnerability may cause inattention and resultant accident and injury. In these cases it is important that the individual not be left to work alone and their behaviour monitored by a Task Leader or Committee Member so assigned.
	Risks to Team Leaders and others	<p>There are potential risks for Team Leaders when dealing with vulnerable individuals. These are obviated when all communication etc. is via the Key Contact. However ensure that the following guidelines should always be followed by all members of the group:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Do not spend longer than is necessary with a child or vulnerable adult away from the main body of the group. If privacy is needed leave a distance but ensure another team leader or Committee Member is aware of the situation and remains close by.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Do not have unnecessary physical contact with a child or vulnerable adult. Physical contact that benefits their best interests is acceptable, e.g. a reassuring hand on the shoulder of a distraught child or restraining someone about to run into a main road. Avoid boisterous physical play (e.g. play fighting).</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">If a child or vulnerable adult poses a risk to themselves or others, co-workers may need to intervene. Use only necessary force to restrain a person or defend against them – the level of force used must be appropriate to the level of risk presented at the time.</p>

Wherever possible do not take lone children or vulnerable adults on car journeys. Where this cannot be avoided it must only be done with the full knowledge and consent of the parents or carers. Make the route as short as possible and never plan to stop in isolated areas.

Do not arrange to meet children or vulnerable adults outside the work environment.

Do not engage in conversations relating to sexual issues.

Always provide a good example and positive role model to children and vulnerable adults.

Avoid conduct which could lead a reasonable person to question your motivation or intentions.

Do not allow children or vulnerable adults to behave inappropriately towards each other.

Defer to the Key Contact for any first aid/ physical care issues.

Always treat children and vulnerable adults with respect. Enforce a zero tolerance policy with regard to discriminatory behaviour of any sort.

If anything makes you feel uncomfortable, talk to other team leaders or committee members as soon as possible.

Do not exchange personal e-mail addresses/ social network details with children or vulnerable adults unless absolutely necessary as part of the team structure.

General Hazards

Section	Section 1 .General Hazards	Typical uncontrolled outcomes
1	These hazards are applicable to all types of conservation work carried out on the reserve	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="526 263 840 438">1. Trips and falls typically giving rise to minor cuts and abrasions, twisted ankles etc. <li data-bbox="526 438 840 550">2. Abuse and unwelcome advice from the general public <li data-bbox="526 550 840 678">3. Dogs <li data-bbox="526 678 840 885">4. Contact with thorns toxic plants and and other vegetation problems <li data-bbox="526 885 840 1452">5. Misuse of tools, particularly edged tools

6. Contact with micro organisms such as Tetanus or Leptospirosis (Weils Disease).

7. Dog faeces

8. Weather conditions

9. Fatigue

10. Cuts and lacerations from coming into contact with litter.

11. Back problems arising from frequent bending etc.

12. Inappropriate work

		13 Insect Bites, stings etc.
		14. Poisonous plants and fruits
		15. Bacteria / faeces contaminants in soil.
		16. Contact with micro organisms and dead animals.
2	<u>Section 2. Tea and Lunch Breaks</u>	<u>Typical uncontrolled outcomes</u> 1. Burns from fire 2. Scalds from boiling water 3. Contaminated hands 4 Fire
3	<u>Section Three Service installations</u>	<u>Typical uncontrolled outcomes</u>

		<p>1. Accidents involving volunteers due to contact with service installations, particularly gas or electric power lines.</p> <p>2. Damage to installations</p>
4	<u>Section 4 Work potentially hazardous to the general public</u>	<p><u>Typical uncontrolled outcomes</u></p> <p>1. Accidents involving members of the general public</p>
5	Isolation	Accidents involving isolated volunteers. Unnoticed absence of volunteers
6	Ticks	Lyme Disease

	PPE needed for General Hazards -	As applicable to the specific task in question. As a general principal gloves should be worn at all times except when handling edged tools. Hard hats are required for all woodland management tasks. Hands should always be washed with anti bacterial soap or gel at each tea, smoke or lunch break <i>irrespective of the nature of the task..</i>
	Special Notes:	Children (-16) may not attend any work session in the absence of their parents/Guardians. The adjacent precautions must be taken at all times when children are present.

Amelioration Controls

Clear safety instructions must be given as to the importance of remaining alert to local surface conditions, vegetation etc.

All such approaches to be referred to the Project or Walk Leader who will address these as appropriate.

All work with edged tools to cease when dogs are present. Dogs should not be approached without the owners consent. Volunteers bitten by dogs are to be taken to a hospital casualty unit. Hands must be washed with anti bacterial soap or gel after petting or touching dogs.

Gloves to be worn at all times. Long sleeves and trousers are preferable. The possible presence of poisonous or otherwise potentially dangerous plants to be advised prior to work commencing.

Volunteers ingesting poisonous plant material or contacting potentially serious irritants are to be taken to a hospital casualty unit.

Ideally each session should be prefaced with a safety talk by a competent person and relevant to the tools in use that day. Particular reference must be made as to safe working distances and the correct way to carry tools as appropriate to the tools in use. Where the bulk of volunteers are known to be experienced in the use of the relevant tools then this general safety talk may be suspended however instruction in the use of specific tools must be given to first time or inexperienced users and such inexperienced volunteers must be supervised by an experienced user throughout the session. In general tools not in use should be returned to the session tool store or laid flat on the ground in a clearly visible position. Gloves should be worn for all digging and scissor action tools and saws but must not be worn when using other edged tools such as bill hooks or 'slashers'. Care must be taken when using percussion tools such as hammers, sledge hammers, mells etc. to avoid striking fingers, heads etc. belonging to the wielder or others.

Children present may only work with tools appropriate to age (see special note)

All individuals should be familiar with the symptoms of Tetanus, Lyme disease or Leptospirosis (Weils disease). Gloves should be worn at all times except when using edged tools. Volunteers should be advised as to the need for a current Tetanus injection. The presence of ticks on volunteers must be reported to the Project Leader immediately

When working in or near water nitrile surgical gloves must be worn beneath working gloves.

Individuals suspected of ingesting potential contaminated water, or having open wounds suspected of making contact with potentially infected water must be taken to a hospital casualty unit without delay. [See sections 10 and 11 for more details on Weils and Lyme disease](#)

Dog or other animal faeces must be removed before starting work using bags and containers. Skin contact must be avoided.

Where the sun is strong volunteers must be advised to cover up and use high factor sun cream and hats. In high winds caution must be exercised in woodland areas and activities such as felling must be suspended. Volunteers should at all times endeavor to bring cover against heavy rain or snow.

Volunteers must be encouraged to work steadily and to take regular breaks. Volunteers must be encouraged to work within the limits imposed by their physical condition and age.

Gloves must be worn at all times. This includes pond and stream clearance where heavy duty nitrile gloves should be employed. Litter pickers should be employed wherever possible. Careful observation of work sites must be carried out particularly where pond and stream clearing are concerned. Care must be taken not to puncture pressurised cans even if supposed empty.

Where a task is likely to involve significant bending an initial warm up session should pay particular emphasis to back and lumber regions. As with fatigue frequent rests should be taken.

Volunteers must be encouraged to work within the limits of their current level of fitness and ability. This applies particularly to the elderly, those with physical, mental and emotional problems and pregnant women. Children must not be encouraged or allowed to attempt tasks or use tools more appropriate for adults.

Insect bites and stings are common hazards within the reserve. Volunteers with allergy problems must make the Team Leader aware of this at all times and if possible carry the appropriate antidote. Where possible volunteers should wear long sleeved garments and full length trousers and utilise insect repellent and after bite treatment. Volunteers must be aware at all times as to the possibility of ticks being present, particularly in bracken. Volunteers bitten by ticks must seek immediate medical help due to the risk of Lyme Disease.

To avoid poisoning from the effects of eating plants and fruits found on the reserve volunteers should resist the desire to taste. Many plants are poisonous in all their aspects as are many fungi. Even fruits like blackberries, commonly safe, may be polluted by pesticides blown from neighbouring farmland or by animal urine; volunteers should be advised of the risks associated with picking wild fruit.

Gloves should be worn at all times except when handling edged tools. Nitrile or rubber gloves should be worn in wet or damp situations, leather gloves at all other times

Gloves must be worn at all times. Dead animals must not be touched - inform the Environment Agency or equivalent. Work must not take place in water where sewage is known to be present.

Amelioration Controls

Where employed storm kettles must be safely located and mounted on a stable and level base away from the working area.

One team member experienced in the use of storm kettles and other heating devices is to be assigned responsibility for producing hot drinks.

Where hot water dispensers are used these must be secured in an upright position both during use and in transit. Such dispensers should not be used for fizzy drinks or for storing milk.

Due to the potential presence of Weils disease in the brooks or ponds, and contaminates in general all hands must be washed using an anti bacterial wash or gel prior to ingesting food or drink

No fire is to be left un-attended any time. A litre container of water must be available at all times to douse small fires. The team member responsible for producing hot drinks must ensure any fire used is totally extinguished before quitting the site.

Amelioration Controls

Where work could interfere with service installations that may be present, particularly activities involving digging, a full service investigation must be carried out prior to the project going ahead. A copy of the Service Information request form may be found on the Conservation Group Web Site. The request form should be submitted in a timely manner and accompanied by an explanatory note.

Where damage occurs to service installations despite the carrying out of a service investigation the appropriate service provider must be informed immediately as must South Glos Council authorities.

Amelioration Controls

Work areas accessible to the general public and of a nature where accidents may occur must be clearly marked by tape, notices, temporary path blockages etc. All work must cease when people and or dogs enter the work area. Particular points of risk are: coppicing, tree felling, hedge laying and work involving the use of edged tools such as scythes or slashers.

Volunteers must either work in pairs or remain in clear visibility of other volunteers. Volunteers must not leave the work site without first advising a nominated committee member or the designated Project Leader. (see the Health and Safety section).

Ticks are becoming more common on the reserve with the possible result from a tick 'bite' is the very unpleasant Lyme Disease. Long trousers, preferably tucked into socks or boots should be worn.

Volunteers are advised prior to the workday to wear suitable clothing (long sleeves/trousers, warm or waterproof clothing if appropriate) and stout boots. Project Leaders should note if anyone is wearing clothing that is likely to make the task more hazardous and advise accordingly.

Ensure that parents/guardians are aware that they are responsible for any under-16s with them.

Billhooks/slashers/saws should NOT be used by anyone under 14. Under supervision 11-14s can use loppers and secateurs. Under-11s can clear brash, watching out for thorns but must not handle edged or bladed tools. Children must be supervised at all times.

Site or Task Specific Risks

Introduction:

In all projects regardless of site or task ALL risks listed in General Hazards are taken to apply

Section the marsh contains irrigation channels often hidden by heavy vegetation.

1	<p><u>Working with cement or concrete</u></p>	<p><u>Typical uncontrolled outcomes</u></p> <p>1. Alkaline burns arising from mixing and laying concrete</p>	<p><u>Amelioration Controls</u></p> <p>Gloves, goggles and gloves to be worn at all times when using concrete. Care must be taken to prevent dry cement from drifting in the wind</p>
	<p>PPE needed: -</p>	<p>Gloves, goggles, long sleeved shirts or jumpers</p>	
2	<p><u>Marsh Work</u></p> <p>The marsh contains irrigation channels often hidden by heavy vegetation.</p>	<p><u>Typical uncontrolled outcomes</u></p> <p>1. Trips and falls caused by hidden irrigation channels</p> <p>2. Impact upon wildlife, particularly aquatic</p> <p>3. Weils disease from water</p>	<p><u>Amelioration Controls</u></p> <p>The introduction to the task must identify as best as possible the location of hidden channels. Volunteers should exercise caution at all times. Volunteers must work in pairs at all times.</p> <p>Care must be taken not to wade in irrigation channels unless absolutely essential. Attention must be paid at all times to the possibility of wildlife in the vegetation.</p> <p>Clear safety instructions to be given as to symptoms (see section 10). Nitrile gloves to be worn beneath work gloves. Workers to be warned of the need to contact doctor at first sign. If there is a possibility that water has contaminated open wounds or been ingested then hospitalisation is strongly recommended. Hands to be washed in antiseptic liquid or creams before food breaks.</p>
	<p>PPE needed: -</p>	<p>Wellington Boots - rubber gloves - nitrile gloves</p>	
3	<p><u>Pond Maintenance</u></p>	<p><u>Typical uncontrolled outcomes</u></p> <p>1. Mishandling of sharps, glass etc.</p>	<p><u>Amelioration Controls</u></p> <p>Clear safety use instructions to be given as to work and safe working practices, work to be monitored. Rubber or Leather Gloves to be worn. Solid containers (boxes or buckets) to be provided for glass, sharps and other rigid objects</p>

		2. Weils disease from pond water	Clear safety instructions to be given as to symptoms (see section 10). Nitrile gloves to be worn beneath work gloves. Workers to be warned of the need to contact doctor at first signs of illness. If there is a possibility that water has contaminated open wounds or been ingested then hospitalisation is strongly recommended. Hands to be washed in antiseptic liquid or creams before food breaks.
		3. Death by Drowning	Volunteers are to work in minimum of pairs at all times. When working in water thigh waders should be used where necessary. However in exceptional circumstances chest waders may be utilised by an individual specifically authorised by the Project Leader. Said individual must in addition wear a life preserver and where flowing water is concerned a safety rope must also be deployed.
		4. Impact upon wildlife	Unless unavoidable, pond maintenance must be carried out during the 'closed season' (Nov to Jan) when amphibian and insect life is expected to be absent, fish activity at a minimum and plant growth dormant. (See special note)
	PPE needed: -	Wellington boots - rubber gloves - Waders - nitrile gloves	
	Special Note	Care must be taken where the presence of amphibians and aquatic insects is suspected. Where populations of Great Crested Newts are believed to exist a current handling licence must be obtained from Natural England by at least one member of the participating group if work is to be carried out outside the 'closed season' (Nov to Jan)	
4	Litter Picking	Typical uncontrolled outcomes	Amelioration Controls
		1. Mishandling of sharps, glass etc.	Clear safety use instructions to be given as to work and safe working practices, work to be monitored. Litter pickers should be employed. Solid containers (boxes or buckets) to be provided for glass, sharps and other rigid objects
	2. Back problems due to frequent bending	The initial session warm up should concentrate on back and lumber regions in particular. Regular breaks should be taken.	
		3. Aerosol cans	Care must be taken when collecting aerosol cans. Contents of cans may be toxic and it should not be assumed that any can is empty. Therefore care must be taken not to puncture aerosol cans.
	PPE needed: -	boots - leather gloves - litter pickers - sack hoops.	
5	Himalayan Balsam Clearing	Typical uncontrolled outcomes	Amelioration Controls

		<p>1. working near water</p> <p>2. hazards from other vegetation, particularly the frequent presence of stinging nettles</p>	<p>Clear safety use instructions to be given as to safe working distances from edges of water. Volunteers must work in at least pairs at all times.</p> <p>Volunteers must be aware not only the risk to hands and arms but particularly to unprotected faces commonly when bending to pull HB.</p>
	PPE needed: -	boots - leather gloves long sleeve shirts or jumpers etc.	
6	<u>Making, hanging, Cleaning and Maintaining Bird Boxes etc.</u>	<p>Typical uncontrolled outcomes</p> <p>1, Carrying tools up/down ladders</p> <p>2. Defective ladder</p> <p>3 Ladder not secure</p> <p>4. Over-reaching</p> <p>5. Uneven ground/unbalanced ladder</p> <p>6. Falling tools and materials</p> <p>7. When making boxes, risks of splinters and impact injuries from hammers exist in addition to the normal hazards of using tools.</p> <p>8. Fumes etc, from paints or preservatives</p>	<p>Amelioration Controls</p> <p>Minimise tools and materials kept above ground and secure them.</p> <p>Check condition of ladder and do not use if defects found.</p> <p>Ladder must be tied off and a second person must be available to foot ladder. Ladders must not be used in high winds.</p> <p>Volunteers must be advised as to the dangers of overreaching. Do not lean or overload the side of the ladder. The 'foot' person must observe and warn if necessary.</p> <p>Care must be taken to place ladder on an even surface and at a suitable angle to the tree.</p> <p>Hard hats must be worn at all times during this task.</p> <p>Gloves should be worn and particular care taken when hammering (not to look away for example)</p> <p>When painting nest boxes all safety instructions on the relevant paint tin or container must be observed particularly with respect to fumes etc. Where there is a risk to eyes goggles must be worn. Appropriate skin cleansing materials must be supplied.</p>
	PPE needed: -	boots - leather gloves - hard hats - tie off ropes	

	Special Note.	Bird box making is a favourite pastime of children. Where children are involved the adjacent precautions must be taken.	Young children must not be left to handle nails, hammers etc. without the closest of supervision on a one to one basis. They must not handle saws or edged tools. Use of any form of hole drilling equipment must be closely supervised on a one to one basis.
7	Planting and Weeding	<u>Typical uncontrolled outcomes</u> 1. Back problems due to frequent bending 2. Over enthusiastic use of mattock, spades and trowels when clearing planting areas	<u>Amelioration Controls</u> The initial session warm up should concentrate on back and lumber regions in particular Volunteers to be advised to take frequent breaks, be shown how to use tools effectively to reduce strain and ensure rotation of tasks.
	PPE needed: -	boots - leather gloves	
8	Cleaning, Maintaining and Trimming vegetation such as bramble from path sides etc.	<u>Typical uncontrolled outcomes</u> 1. Hidden litter such as sharps or glass	<u>Amelioration Controls</u> 1. Advise volunteers of the risk and the need to keep aware at all times. Advice must be given as to safe working distances etc. when handling edged tools such as slashers.
	PPE needed: -	boots - leather gloves - goggles	
9	Coppicing, Tree felling and other woodland management tasks	<u>Typical uncontrolled outcomes</u> 1. Falls from trees	<u>Amelioration Controls</u> Under no account should volunteers climb up trees to free hang ups etc. Where necessary the use of pole saws must be employed.

		<p>2. Tripping or falling over stumps</p> <p>3. 'Hang ups'</p> <p>4. Falling trees/cut branches.</p> <p>5. Weather</p> <p>6. Strains etc. from lifting excessive weights</p>	<p>Where close to footpaths trunks/stems must be cut as low to the ground as possible. Where necessary the trunk/stem may need to be cut more than once to achieve this. Away from footpaths it is permissible to leave trunks approximately 0.5 metres high. This will encourage the development of beneficial fungi etc.</p> <p>The upper storey of trees/shrubs chosen for felling/coppicing must be checked for 'hang ups' and such items removed before felling. This applies to adjacent as well as target tree s/shrubs. Under no account should volunteers climb up trees to free hang ups etc. Where necessary the use of pole saws must be employed.</p> <p>All volunteers must be trained in the safe approach to felling trees and shrubs with particular attention to planning and clearing escape routes. Hard hats must be worn at all times during such projects.</p> <p>Tree felling must not be carried out in high winds.</p> <p>Plan any lifting, train in simple lifting procedures and provide carry aids such as wheelbarrows. All logs must be cut to manageable size before moving.</p>
	PPE needed: -	boots - leather gloves - hard hats	
	Special Note	It is easy to become isolated when working in woodlands. Volunteers must work in at least pairs at all times. It is particularly important that notices warning the general public that felling is taking place be placed at both ends of the work area.	
10	Dead Hedging	<p>Typical uncontrolled outcomes</p> <p>1. Splinters from dead wood</p>	<p>Amelioration Controls</p> <p>1. Gloves to be worn at all times</p> <p>Sturdy boots to be worn at all times. Specific instructions as to the correct way of holding stakes etc. should be given (see section below).</p>

		2. Contusions from being struck when placing stakes, Tennis Elbow, general injuries.	2. Where necessary holders should maintain a strong grip well down from the stake head (and the impacting hammer), heavy gloves/gauntlets should be worn. Both holder and hammerer should wear both helmets and goggles. Hammerers should not attempt to hammer stake heads above shoulder height and should take frequent rests.
	PPE needed: -	boots - leather gloves	
	Heavy, sustained or repetitive manual handling involved?	Yes when positioning stakes	Note: Particular care must be taken in the use of billhooks at all times. Goggles are advisable when laying hedges with large amounts of thorns.
11	Live Hedging	Typical uncontrolled outcomes	Amelioration Controls
		1. Thorn injuries	Volunteers are to be warned as to the hazards of thorns, particularly from Blackthorn. Goggles are advisable when laying hedges with large amounts of thorns. Gloves to be worn except when working with edged tools.
		2. Falling branches and debris	Volunteers should wear hard hats and check in branches for dead wood
		3. Injuries caused by volunteers working in too close a proximity	The safe working distance for hedge laying irrespective of tool is at least the height of the particular tree/shrub being laid.
		4. Repetitive Strain injuries can arise from repeated use of billhooks etc.	Project Leaders must ensure that adequate rest periods are taken and that teams are rotated in their duties.
		5. Injuries to limbs and eyes whilst installing stakes	Where necessary holders should maintain a strong grip well down from the stake head (and the impacting hammer), heavy gloves/gauntlets should be worn. Both holder and hammerer should wear both helmets and goggles. Hammerers should not attempt to hammer stake heads above shoulder height and should take frequent rests.
	Special Note:	Much hedge laying takes place along the borders of public footpaths etc. Clear warning signs must be placed on paths exposed in this way and work must cease whenever members of the general public pass by.	
12	Haymaking and general scythe work	Typical uncontrolled outcomes	Amelioration Controls

		<p>1. Injuries resulting from working with scythes</p> <p>2. Injuries incurred whilst sharpening scythes</p>	<p>Scythes are exceedingly sharp tools. All volunteers must be given thorough training in the correct uses of scythes including safe working distances, posture, periods of work between sharpening the scythe, the correct lifting techniques when using hay forks etc. to remove hay and the potential dangers from vegetation and hidden litter when gathering up hay by hand. As with all tools scythes must either be returned to the tool area when not in use or laid flat on the ground in a prominent and clearly visible position.</p> <p>The wearing of steel toecapped or sturdy boots is to be emphasized in pre-session briefings or emails.</p> <p>All volunteers must be given thorough training as to the correct method of sharpening a scythe. Kevlar gloves must be worn at all times when sharpening or assembling scythes.</p>
	PPE needed: -	boots - leather and Kevlar gloves - protective clothing is advisable particularly when gathering hay by hand.	
13	<u>Stream Clearance</u>	<p><u>Typical uncontrolled outcomes</u></p> <p>1. Death by Drowning</p> <p>2. Contact with micro organisms, dead animals and other debris and rubbish.</p> <p>3. Cuts, lacerations and other damage caused by overhead vegetation</p>	<p><u>Amelioration Controls</u></p> <p>Volunteers must work in at least pairs at all times. Where waders are worn (for all depths of water over wellington height) they should be of the type with individual leg sections and not the bib and brace type. The use of chest waders is discouraged in all but the slowest flowing water. Movement within water must be slow and measured, checking for hidden and buried objects, depth of mud beneath the water etc. Consideration must be given as to the wisdom of working in streams that are in full or partial spate. At least one team member must be a good swimmer and preferably be familiar with life saving techniques.</p> <p>Nitrile or otherwise waterproof gloves must be worn at all times. Dead animals must not be touched - inform the Environment Agency or equivalent. Work must not take place in water where sewage is known to be present.</p> <p>Where streams are overhung with vegetation then hard hats should be worn.</p>

		4. Impact upon wildlife particularly aquatic wildlife	Volunteers must pay keen attention as to the presence of wildlife. Areas where fish and/or other wildlife creatures are observed in numbers must be avoided. Care must be taken not to uproot or damage aquatic plant life. Wherever possible volunteers should move in an upstream direction so that disturbed mud is carried downstream and good visibility can be maintained.
	PPE needed: -	Wellington boots, waders, hard hats, nitrile or otherwise waterproof gloves.	
14	Log Work such as Building animal shelters or moving felled timber.	<p>Typical uncontrolled outcomes</p> <p>1. Strains and muscle damage from incorrect lifting techniques of excessive loads.</p>	<p>Amelioration Controls</p> <p>Volunteers must be instructed by an experienced individual in the correct lifting techniques. Volunteers must be discouraged from lifting excessively heavy loads.</p>
	PPE needed: -	Gloves, sturdy boots	
15	Tool Maintenance	<p>Typical uncontrolled outcomes</p> <p>1. Splinters, cuts and Bruises whilst removing and replacing tools and tool containers from Tool Store</p> <p>2. Injuries arising from maintaining tools</p> <p>3. Skin infections arising from the use of mineral oils</p>	<p>Amelioration Controls</p> <p>Leather or Kevlar gloves to be worn at all times, Stout boots to be worn.</p> <p>Correct instructions as to maintaining specific tools to be given. Care to be exercised at all times Leather or Kevlar gloves to be worn at all times. Kevlar gloves to be worn when sharpening edged tools such as scythes etc.</p> <p>Use non-mineral based oils such as vegetable oils</p>
	PPE needed: -	boots - leather/ Kevlar gloves	
16	Working on Slopes	<p>Typical uncontrolled outcomes</p> <p>1. Slips due to adverse environmental conditions</p> <p>2. Trips or slips on natural and man made hazards</p>	<p>Amelioration Controls</p> <p>Ascertain whether the slope area in question is subject to undercutting, subsidence or rapid erosion</p> <p>Take particular care of wet and slippery vegetation and substrate surfaces</p>

	<p>3. Injury due to poor lifting techniques when working on a slope</p> <p>4. Injury due to impact with person or persons slipping from higher up the slope given that working on slopes require a minimum of two people</p>	<p>Ensure that necessary equipment is available and correct lifting techniques for such work are applied</p> <p>Volunteers should avoid working directly beneath one another and must remain aware at all times as to the location of other volunteers. Where slipping is likely hard hats should be worn.</p>	
	PPE needed: -	Hard hats	
17	<u>Working with Danish oil and other preservatives</u>	<p><u>Typical uncontrolled outcomes</u></p> <p>Many preservatives such as Danish Oil are highly inflammable not only as a liquid but as vapour in the air and impregnated into cloth where spontaneous combustion can occur.</p> <p>Skin irritation due to contact with the preservative</p>	<p><u>Amelioration Controls</u></p> <p>Unless the container is clearly marked otherwise it must be assumed that the preservative is highly inflammable. Use of the preservative must take place in the open air. There must be no smoking or naked flames in the vicinity. Wherever possible preservative should be applied by brush said brush being kept in an otherwise empty flameproof bucket when not in use. If cloth or rag is used the cloth should be laid flat on a flameproof surface when not in use and never left 'screwed up in a ball'.</p> <p>Nitrile or otherwise spirit proof gloves must be worn at all times.</p>
	PPE needed: -	Nitrile gloves, flameproof buckets or similar	

RISK ASSESSMENT - Working on medium/large bodies of water

ITEM	HAZARD	CONTROL	MONITOR
<p>Note: During any work activity on bodies of water other than small streams appointed Bank Marshals must be appointed and in place in numbers appropriate to the activity.</p> <p>As per this assessment adequate means of communication must be carried at all times</p>			
Section 1. COLLISION			
	HAZARD	Amelioration Controls	Control Responsibility
a	Collisions with stationary objects / obstructions	All known stationary objects/obstructions must be identified to all workers prior to commencement of work. See also Section 2 - Capsize	Project Leader, Bank Marshals
b	Collision with other craft during activity	Follow all instructions given by Project Leader or Bank Marshals	Project Leader, Bank Marshals
c	Collision with debris	Check area at regular intervals & prior to start	All
Section 2 .CAPSIZE			
a	Risk of drowning due to capsize or sinking due to collision during activity	There must be sufficient bank marshals to keep all workers on or in the water in view at all times. There must be a reserve rescue vessel with a minimum crew of two available at all times	Bank Marshals, rescue personnel.
b	From wake of other craft	Keep boat speeds down during activity other than in an emergency	All support staff
c	From Collision with other vessels	Workers must remain aware as to the location of other vessels etc.	Rescue personnel, All
d	During retrieval of persons from water	Rescue craft to have enough freeboard/buoyancy and capacity to prevent swamping/overturning during rescue. Prescribed rescue/retrieval techniques. Minimum 2 rescue personnel per craft	Rescue personnel, Marshalls launches with radio communications
Section 3 Unintended immersion in water			
		Personnel involved with water elements of activity must be able to swim, and wear an approved buoyancy aid. Sufficient rescue craft to provide cover in event of water borne incident	All personnel

	Exposure to Weils disease from pond or lake water	Clear safety instructions to be given as to symptoms (see section 10) Workers to be warned of the need to contact doctor at first sign. If there is a possibility that water has contaminated open wounds or been ingested then hospitalisation is strongly recommended. Hands to be washed in antiseptic liquid or creams before food breaks.	
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Section 4 HYPOTHERMIA

a	Immersion	All craft where practicable to carry thermal/foil blankets	Rescue personnel
b	Cold weather	All personnel to wear/carry adequate layered clothing	All personnel

Section 5 INJURIES/MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

a	Accidents resulting in injuries to workers, marshals and Spectators	Adequate first aid cover on and off the water, with medical support. Ensure all workers are aware of the location of the first aid team.Ensure a communications net is operational and manned during the event. Means carried by all support personnel to attract Safety launch	All 1st Aiders present (minimum of one)
b	Medical emergencies while afloat	Fellow workers to take boat to appropriate bank in crews with more than one member	Fellow workers Bank Marshals Umpires, Rescue personnel,

Section 6 ADVERSE WEATHER

	Heavy rain affecting levels of the water, visibilty, vessel stability etc.	Cancel event	Project Leader
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Section 7.LAND BASED RISKS (including all those identified in the General Hazards section of this Assessment)

a	Temporary boat stages	Must be stable, with all planks secure. Step height natural. Area not cluttered with tools, clothes or equipment	Bank Marshals, Project Leader
b	Spectators falling in water	Assigned rescue team to assist	All support personnel
c	Temporary structures	Temporary structures e.g. Tents, Guy ropes easily visible	Personnel putting up structures

RISK ASSESSMENT -Hazards involving visitors

Section	Site or Task Specific Risks		
1	Guided Walks	Typical uncontrolled outcomes 1. Trips and falls typically giving rise to minor cuts and abrasions, twisted ankles etc.	Amelioration Controls Clear safety instructions must be given as to the importance of remaining alert to local surface conditions, vegetation etc.
		2 Insect Bites, stings etc.	Insect bites and stings are common hazards within the reserve. Walkers with allergy problems must make the Walk Leader aware of this at all times and if possible carry the appropriate antidote. Where possible walkers should utilise insect repellent and after bite treatment. See sections 10 and 11 regarding Weils and Lyme diseases.
		3. Poisonous plants and fruits	To avoid poisoning from the effects of eating plants and fruits found on the reserve walkers must be advised to resist the desire to taste. Many plant are poisonous in all their aspects as as most fungi. Even fruits like blackberries, commonly safe, may be polluted by pesticides blown from neighbouring farmland or by animal urine; visitors should be advised of risk.
		4. Weather conditions	4. Where the sun is strong walkers must be advised to cover up and use high factor sun cream and hats. In high winds walks through woodlands must be suspended. Walkers should at all times endeavor to bring cover against heavy rain or snow.
	Special Note:	1. The route must be planned with due consideration for the ability of the group 2. The walk must be led by an appointed Walk Leader , preferably wearing an appropriate 'hi-glow' jacket supported by an adequate number of assistants drawn from the group. 3. Walkers with special needs will require close supervision. 4. The walk must be cancelled in extreme weather conditions 5. Clear procedures must be established, in advance of the walk to deal with a walker apparently missing or in difficulties	

		6. The Walk Leader must be equipped with a radio or mobile phone as appropriate	
	PPE needed: -	Good footwear, hats and suitable clothing	
2	Pond Dipping	Typical uncontrolled outcomes 1. Trips and falls typically giving rise to minor cuts and abrasions, twisted ankles etc.	Amelioration Controls Clear safety instructions must be given as to the importance of remaining alert to local surface conditions, vegetation etc.
		3 Insect Bites, stings etc.	Insect bites and stings are common hazards within the reserve. Dippers with allergy problems must make the Group Leader aware of this at all times and if possible carry the appropriate antidote. Where possible Visitors should utilise insect repellent and aftr bite treatment.
		4. Poisonous plants and fruits	To avoid poisoning from the effects of eating plants and fruits found on the reserve Dippers must be advised to resist the desire to taste. Many plant are poisonous in all their aspects as as most fungi. Even fruits like blackberries, commonly safe, may be polluted by pesticides blown from neighbouring farmland or by animal urine; dippers should be advised of risk.
		5. Weather conditions	Where the sun is strong visitors must be advised to cover up and use high factor sun cream and hats. In high winds activity in/near woodlands must be suspended. Visitors should at all times endeavor to bring cover against heavy rain or snow.
		6. Contact with micro organisms, dead animals and other debris and rubbish.	Nitrile or otherwise waterproof gloves must be worn at all times. Dead animals must not be touched - inform the Environment Agency or equivalent. Work must not take place in water where sewage is known to be present.
		7. Weils disease from pond water	Clear safety instructions to be given as to symptoms (see section 10) Workers to be warned of the need to contact doctor at first sign. If there is a possibility that water has contaminated open wounds or been ingested then hospitalisation is strongly recommended. Hands to be washed in antiseptic liquid or creams before food breaks.

	8. Falls into water	Dippers must be closely supervised at all times. Care must be taken where dipping platforms are muddy or coated in algae etc. At least one activity leader must be a good swimmer and preferably be familiar with life saving techniques.
Special Note:	<p>1. Outdoor activities must safeguard the welfare of children and young people, by establishing management policies and practices as a means of preventing physical, sexual and emotional abuse by other children, strangers and volunteers,</p> <p>2. Volunteers leading the activity must be familiar with the area and any hazards associated with it.</p> <p>3. Volunteers leading the activity must be qualified first-aiders</p> <p>4. Volunteers leading the activity must be equipped with a functioning mobile phone</p>	
PPE needed: -	Good footwear, hats and suitable clothing	

RISK ASSESSMENT - Special Needs

Section	Site or Task Specific Risks		
1		Special Needs	Amelioration Controls
		<p>All hazards are of particular importance where visitors or volunteers with special needs are concerned.</p>	<p>Visitors or volunteers with special needs must be accompanied by at least one experienced carer at all times. If the use of specific equipment such as wheelchairs etc. is involved then the carer must be familiar with and competent in the use of such equipment.</p> <p>Carers must be familiar with the visitor or volunteer's particular needs. In addition carers must be familiar with the risks outlined in the Generic Risk Assessment PLUS any specific risks arising from the visitor or volunteer's special needs.</p> <p>Where volunteers with special needs are concerned the Project Leader must take particular care to ensure that tasks assigned are within the physical, mental and emotional capabilities of the volunteer</p>

TRAINING

It is essential that all volunteers and organisations carrying out work on the Three Brooks Local Nature Reserve shall be adequately trained in the methods they are carrying out and the tools they employ. For work carried out by the Group such training must be to the satisfaction of South Gloucester County Council , the Group committee, those committee members that may be present and in the case of Green Gym tasks, the Project Leader.

To this end any task carried out must be prefaced by suitable and adequate instruction as to the nature of the task to be carried out, the tools to be employed, their purpose and their use.

Said instruction must be given to all attendees regardless of any claim to prior knowledge unless the instructor and Project Leader/committee member decide that training may be waived for a given individual or individuals. This waiver may only be employed where the Instructor or Project Leader has personal experience as to the individual(s) competence.

The methods, tools to be employed and their use will be at the absolute discretion of the Project Leader(s)/committee members for the given task.

Signs & Symptoms of Weil's Disease

Leptospirosis runs itself much like the flu. The period of incubation within the body is about 3 weeks, with symptoms presenting themselves between 3 and 14 days. The disease will typically ebb after a few days, giving the appearance of recovery, before returning.

First Phase

The first phase will often last 3 to 5 days.

Second Phase

The second window of the disease does not open in mild cases. Typically restricted to moderate to severe cases of leptospirosis, a second phase will usually manifest itself after 2 to 3 days of apparent recovery. This second stage is usually more aggressive, with the return of the fever, headache and muscle pain, as well as pain in the upper torso and additional symptoms that mimic meningitis--neck stiffness, vomiting and kidney issues.

Mild cases will clear up completely in 3 to 5 weeks.

Signs of Severity

In more serious cases, people with leptospirosis can expect severe, and oftentimes, fatal, organ trauma. Jaundice will onset, indicative of liver and kidney failure. The bacteria will also cause infections in the heart and cause massive internal bleeding.

Individuals in poor health will see the disease onset and progress much quicker, with death an almost certainty.

It is essential that workers on the reserve use anti bacterial gel before eating and as frequently as possible when working with water.

Treating Weil's Disease

Massive doses of antibiotics are required to treat the disease. Doctors will prescribe chloramphenicol, erythromycin, penicillins and tetracyclines to fight the infection. In severe cases affecting the kidneys and liver, dialysis is considered a crucial treatment to assist the body in maintaining renal health.

LYME Disease

With a increase in the presence of ticks on the reserve (probably carried in originally by visiting deer) comes a increase in the risk of Lyme Disease arising from tick 'bites'

Lyme disease, or Lyme borreliosis, is a bacterial infection spread to humans by infected ticks.

Ticks are tiny spider-like creatures found in woodland and heath areas. They feed on the blood of birds and mammals, including humans. Ticks that carry the bacteria responsible for Lyme disease are found throughout the UK and in other parts of Europe and North America.

It's estimated there are 2,000 to 3,000 new cases of Lyme disease in England and Wales each year. About 15% of cases occur while people are abroad.

Lyme disease can often be treated effectively if it's detected early on. But if it's not treated or treatment is delayed, there's a risk you could develop severe and long-lasting symptoms.



Symptoms

Many people with early stage lyme disease develop a distinctive circular rash at the site of the bite, usually some 3-30 days after being bitten. This is known as 'erythema migrans' and is often described as looking like a bull's eye on a dart board. The affected area of the skin will be red and the edges may feel slightly raised.

Th

The size of the rash can vary significantly and it may expand over several days or weeks.

Typically it's around 15cm (6 inches) across, but it can be much larger or smaller than this.

Some people may develop several rashes in different parts of their body.

However, around one in every three people with lyme disease do not report seeing a rash.

Many other symptoms can easily be confused with flu or other common ailments and may also not appear.

Brush Cutting

Activity	Hazards	Who might be harmed	Risk Level (H, M, L)	Controls	Residual Risk Level (H, M, L)	Comments
Use of Strimmer / Brushcutter	Personal Injury	Operatives	H	Training. Correct PPE to be worn, First Aid Kit to be available.	M	Use only trained operatives
Use of Strimmer / Brushcutter	Flying Debris	Other operatives / public	M	<p>Check before using strimmer / brushcutter and remove any loose debris.</p> <p>Check area for stones or other material and remove.</p> <p>Strimming to be carried with back toward traffic where appropriate and when it is safe to do so</p> <p>Remain vigilant to the public at all times.</p> <p>Eye protection at all times during this operation.</p> <p>Ensure works are clearly signed for the benefit of the public.</p>	L	Use only trained operatives. Do not approach an operative from behind, they cannot hear you and may start at any contact. Always approach from the front so they can see you and wave enthusiastically. Keep the cutting blades close to the ground when using a brush cutter, do not raise a machine above your head for example.
Use of Strimmer / Brushcutter	Striking of hidden objects, stones, manhole covers etc.	Staff, operatives and general public	H	Visual check of area for any stones, raised manhole covers, old posts etc.	L	

Damaging surface laid electricity cables / communication cables with Strimmer / Brushcutter	Electric Shock, burns, fatality / Disconnection of services	Operatives	H	Visual check of area for surface laid / shallow services prior to carrying out grass cutting works. All exposed cables to be reported to the appropriate stats company immediately.	L	Report all unburied cables immediately to the Supervisor for reporting to the appropriate stats company.
On site maintenance of Strimmer / Brushcutter	Entrapment, hit by moving parts.	Operatives	H	Ensure motor is fully closed down and the engine given time to cool. Use only trained operatives to change blades, pull cords or plugs. Place machine on firm level surface.	L	Ensure proper tools are used.
Use of Strimmer / Brushcutter	Unauthorised use	Staff, operatives and general public	M	Strimmer never to be left unattended.	L	
Use of Strimmer / Brushcutter	Noise	Operatives	H	Mandatory wearing of ear defenders for operatives. Job rotation by trained operatives only. Reduce exposure. Reduce exposure by physical distancing if possible.	L	

		General public	M		L	
Use of Strimmer / Brushcutter	Vibration	Operatives	H	<p>Equipment to be properly maintained.</p> <p>Job rotation by trained operatives only.</p> <p>Reduce exposure.</p> <p>Gloves to be worn.</p>	M	<p>Operatives to be assessed for maximum trigger time and/or full body vibration and exposure reduced as necessary.</p> <p>Only use trained operatives.</p>
Fuelling Machine	Fire, Explosion	Staff, operatives, general public & Environment	H	<p>No smoking.</p> <p>Fuel to be in proper container and stored away from sources of ignition.</p> <p>Use funnel or proper nozzle when pouring.</p>	M	<p>Only use trained operatives.</p> <p>No refuelling to take place in the vicinity of forms of ignition.</p> <p>Fuel to be stored in secure place away from direct sunlight and sources of ignition.</p>

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Clean up spills immediately using dry spill granules.
Ensure Fire Extinguisher is available nearby.
Do not operate a brush cutter in the vicinity of the fuel

Operatives to be briefed on safe fuelling of machines.
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