



# GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT 04: COPPICING

ACTIVITY ASSESSED		ASSESSMENT DATE	
<b>COPPICING</b> see also: GR1 General Site Safety GR5 Woodland Management <p style="text-align: right;">page 1 of 2</p>		OCTOBER 2014	
ACTIVITY LOCATION	PRIVATE SITES	DATE FOR RE-ASSESSMENT	ASSESSED BY
persons at risk: all volunteers; especially young persons		rev 12-11-17	<b>GRASSROOTS</b>
risk level: high			

<b>VOLUNTEER INFORMATION</b>	Site safety Woodland Contact with overhead power lines Use of a chainsaw Falling timber and flying wood Kickback/whip Fires Handling timber Repetitive movements Eye injuries Thorn injuries
<b>HAZARD OR HAZARDOUS EVENT</b>	<b>PRECAUTIONS</b>
Site safety	Volunteers to be advised about falling branches/bushes; trip hazards such as uneven ground & fallen wood; slippery ground conditions Volunteers to be advised that cut timber should be removed to stock pile or trailer regularly to ensure the work area is clear & safe Eye injuries: working around bushes/grass/weeds Large trees will normally be dealt with by others but see GR5: Woodland Management Where vehicles are in use volunteers must keep clear Riding on or driving vehicles is at volunteer's own risk; children under 16 must not be allowed on vehicles unless parent/s are present and agree
Woodland	Areas of hazel; sometimes close to taller trees Cease work in high winds Trees containing large deadwood in crown to be cordoned off using hazard tape if necessary Warn all of danger from deadwood in the canopy if necessary
Contact with overhead power lines	Hazel does not normally reach overhead lines
Use of a chainsaw	The client/land owner may use chainsaws Volunteers must work in an area remote from the chainsaw operator while cutting is ongoing Fuel cans & chainsaws should be visible at all times and moved as necessary The chainsaw operator is responsible for all equipment
Falling timber and flying wood	Volunteers must ensure that others are clear of their work area Minimum safe working distance from any other person is the equivalent of twice the height/length of the wood/branch being worked on Volunteers should review safe working distances continually cont./

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HAZARD OR HAZARDOUS EVENT	PRECAUTIONS
	Volunteers throwing wood towards wood stack must review direction to ensure no volunteers are within the minimum safe working distance; call out warning Hung-up timber should be cleared immediately Wear helmets when felling wood over 3m
Kickback/whip	Undercut large branches Assess tangled branches before starting work on each bush Where branches are very tangled cut in smaller sections from free end Plan and keep clear escape routes Each volunteer should ensure they have a clear area to step back into
Fires	Fires are not normally part of coppicing work See Risk Assessment GR2
Handling timber	Cut timber to manageable size Train all in general safe lifting and moving techniques Clear all extraction routes/route to free of tripping hazards prior to manual removal of timber If large amounts of lifting and carrying to be done, complete detailed manual handling assessment Plan extraction routes to minimise carrying; cut timber is usually stacked on site or loaded onto a trailer; travelling distances are minimal Carrying aids, e.g. wheelbarrow, not normally necessary
Repetitive movements	Sawing/swinging tools/handling timber Everyone should take regular rest breaks and vary any repetitive actions
Thorn injuries	Coppicing does not normally involve thorn bushes but it may be necessary to clear small thorn or, most likely, brambles. Take care when cutting & handling brambles; check along length of stem before cutting or pulling to prevent injury from pulling mass of bramble towards cutter; beware of sudden breaking of stems that may cause falls Clear ground of material before kneeling Use protective kneelers or mat Leather protective gloves to be worn when handling thorny material Protective goggles , BS EN 166, must be worn when there is a risk that thorns may go in eyes Remove any blackthorn thorns immediately Warn of the dangers of infection from blackthorn thorns