


ACTIVITY ASSESSED		ASSESSMENT DATE	
WOODLAND MANAGEMENT inc FELLING ACTIVITIES		OCTOBER 2014	
see also see also: GR1 General Site Safety GR3 Laurel & rhododendron clearance GR4 Coppicing		page 1 of 3	
ACTIVITY LOCATION	ALL SITES	DATE FOR RE-ASSESSMENT	ASSESSED BY
persons at risk: all volunteers; especially young persons			GRASSROOTS
risk level: high			


VOLUNTEER INFORMATION	Site safety Falling trees and flying wood Contact with overhead power lines Use of a chainsaw Preparation Felling Kickback Hung up trees Use of ropes Handling timber Repetitive movements Thorn injuries Chemicals for stump treatment
------------------------------	--

HAZARD OR HAZARDOUS EVENT	PRECAUTIONS
Site safety	GrassRoots do not normally undertake felling work in areas where there is public access; cordons, hazard tape & warning signs are not required GrassRoots do not normally undertake felling work in plantations Sites where there is public access will be subject to a specific risk assessment Large trees will normally be dealt with by others Volunteers to be advised about falling branches/bushes; trip hazards such as uneven ground & fallen wood; slippery ground conditions
Falling trees and flying wood	Cease work in high winds Hung-up trees should be dealt with in accordance with good practice; they should be dealt with immediately; risk should be assessed & a felling plan decided before dealing with hung up trees/timber Minimum safe working distance from any other person is the equivalent of twice the height of the tree being worked on Trees containing large deadwood in crown to be cordoned off using hazard tape if necessary Warn all of danger from deadwood in the canopy loosened by falling trees Wear helmets when felling trees over 3m
Contact with overhead power lines	GrassRoots do not undertake felling work within two tree lengths of overhead lines In the event that a tree does touch an electricity cable do not touch it and call the electricity company immediately

This assessment is based on information from The Conservation Volunteers as amended for GrassRoots Conservation Group activities.

The information contained in this generic risk assessment is produced in good faith It does not render BTCV liable for its use, misuse and no responsibility for any occurrences arising out of its use will be accepted Insurance is essential for groups carrying out conservation activities. Grass Roots is a Registered Charity number NIC102932

© BTCV 1996-2008 Reg Charity in England 261009 and Scotland SC039302 Sedum House, Mallard Way, Doncaster DN4 808

ACTIVITY ASSESSED	ASSESSMENT DATE	
WOODLAND MANAGEMENT inc FELLING ACTIVITIES	OCTOBER 2014	


page 2 of 3

HAZARD OR HAZARDOUS EVENT	PRECAUTIONS
Use of a chainsaw	<p>The client/land owner may use chainsaws</p> <p>Volunteers must work in an area remote from the chainsaw operator while cutting is ongoing</p> <p>Fuel cans & chainsaws should be visible at all times and moved as necessary</p> <p>The chainsaw operator is responsible for all equipment</p>
Preparation	<p>Clear all obstacles from around the tree first so that you can move easily and escape if you need to</p> <p>Establish a safe place to stand while it falls</p> <p>If possible, try to fell in the direction the tree is naturally leaning</p> <p>Remove all the lower branches from the tree</p> <p>Plan an escape route behind the tree, but not directly behind - slightly to the left or right</p>
Felling	<p>The first cut is the sink cut (front of tree) which controls the direction of the fall; it is done in two parts; the cuts should not be more than one quarter of the tree's diameter</p> <p>Cut downwards at an angle of 45 degrees (60 degrees if downhill) ensuring the saw is at 90 degrees to the intended direction of the fall; this cut may be less than 45 degrees if felling over raised obstructions so that the hinge may break earlier</p> <p>The second part of the sink cut is horizontal and must meet the 45 (or 60) degree cut exactly</p> <p>Start the felling cut (back of tree) by aligning the saw slightly above the bottom of the sink cut; ensuring you are standing to the side of the tree when making this cut; stop cutting when there is a parallel strip of uncut timber not less than 1/10th of the diameter of the tree This is the "hinge" - the tree should now start to fall, so move quickly out of the way to your safe place</p> <p>Only with smaller trees if the tree does not fall, cut further into the hinge; use a rope and/or a helper/s to guide the tree to slide/pull the trunk off the stump</p>
Kickback	<p>There is always danger of kickback where the tree falls and bounces back over the stump</p> <p>Minimise the risk by directing the fall to as clear an area as possible</p> <p>Cut as close to the ground as possible</p> <p>Another method is to cut the bottom cut at an upward angle so that the total angle of the hinge is greater than 90 degrees – this reduces the chance of the tree kicking back</p>
Hung up trees	<p>When a tree is prevented from falling by being caught up in other trees it must be dealt with immediately</p> <p>Agree a plan</p> <p>Cut away one side of the felling hinge/cut in the direction the tree needs to fall</p> <p>If it still remains stuck use a rope to slide/pull the trunk off the stump</p>
Use of ropes	<p>Ensure that all ropes have been checked before taking them out on site, and any rope with signs of fraying must not be used</p> <p>Polypropylene rope of at least 16mm thick to be used</p> <p>Rope must be long enough to ensure those using it are clear of felling area</p>

This assessment is based on information from The Conservation Volunteers as amended for GrassRoots Conservation Group activities.

The information contained in this generic risk assessment is produced in good faith It does not render BTCV liable for its use, misuse and no responsibility for any occurrences arising out of its use will be accepted Insurance is essential for groups carrying out conservation activities. Grass Roots is a Registered Charity number NIC102932

© BTCV 1996-2008 Reg Charity in England 261009 and Scotland SC039302 Sedum House, Mallard Way, Doncaster DN4 808

ACTIVITY ASSESSED	ASSESSMENT DATE	
WOODLAND MANAGEMENT inc FELLING ACTIVITIES <p style="text-align: center;">page 3 of 3</p>	OCTOBER 2014	

HAZARD OR HAZARDOUS EVENT	PRECAUTIONS
Handling timber	<p>Cut logs to manageable size</p> <p>Train all in general safe lifting and moving techniques</p> <p>Clear all extraction routes of tripping hazards prior to manual removal of timber</p> <p>If large amounts of lifting and carrying to be done, complete detailed manual handling assessment</p> <p>Plan extraction routes to minimise carrying</p> <p>Provide carrying aids, eg wheelbarrow</p>
Repetitive movements	Everyone should take regular rest breaks and vary any repetitive actions
Thorn injuries	<p>Clear ground of material before kneeling</p> <p>Use protective kneelers or mat</p> <p>Leather protective gloves to be worn when handling thorny material</p> <p>Protective goggles , BS EN 166, must be worn when there is a risk that thorns may go in eyes</p> <p>Remove any blackthorn thorns immediately</p> <p>Warn of the dangers of infection from blackthorn thorns</p>
Chemicals for stump treatment	<p>The client/land owner normally deals with chemicals.</p> <p>Experienced volunteers only may assist with painting stumps, and must wear suitable PPE: nitrile gloves, goggles/face shield, protective suit as appropriate.</p> <p>GrassRoots do not undertake spraying.</p>