



GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT GR15: GRASSLAND & HEATHLAND WORK

ACTIVITY ASSESSED		ASSESSMENT DATE	
GRASSLAND & HEATHLAND WORK inc BRACKEN MANAGEMENT page 1 of 2		DECEMBER 2014 rev DEC 2021	
ACTIVITY LOCATION	ALL SITES	DATE FOR RE-ASSESSMENT	ASSESSED BY
persons at risk: all volunteers; especially young persons risk level: generally moderate except as indicated			GRASSROOTS

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION	PRECAUTIONS
Grass cutting by strimmer Gorse clearance Kickback/whip Bracken clearance by hand tools Fire Ticks (Lyme disease) Uneven ground and muddy slopes	
HAZARD OR HAZARDOUS EVENT	PRECAUTIONS
Grass cutting by strimmer see also GR16: Strimmers	Stop machine if ground gets too rough Stop working if vegetation gets too thick to cut correctly; do not cut brambles or bracken
Gorse clearance	Wear long sleeves/long trousers/gloves Care to be taken Use saws only on large branches & trunks
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
Bracken clearance by hand tools	Wear gloves/long sleeves/long trousers/gloves Leave at least 10 metres between workers as hand tools will be used whilst wearing gloves Wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking If any major disturbance of bracken is involved, wear a fine pore mask (BS EN 149 dust mask)
Bracken bashing	Wear gloves/long sleeves/long trousers/gloves Leave at least 10 metres between workers as hand tools will be used whilst wearing gloves Wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking If any major disturbance of bracken is involved, wear a fine pore mask (BS EN 149 dust mask)
Fire see also GR02: Fires on site	GrassRoots do not normally burn arisings from grassland work but may be required to burn gorse: this will normally be on private property & only under the supervision of the client/landowner Fires are not to be lit if weather has been very dry Grass & scrub to be cleared from fire site and fire break of at least 5 metres from centre of fire site Fire beaters to be on hand

GrassRoots Conservation Group Charity No: NIC102932

GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT GR15: GRASSLAND & HEATHLAND WORK

ACTIVITY ASSESSED	ASSESSMENT DATE	
GRASSLAND & HEATHLAND WORK inc BRACKEN MANAGEMENT <p style="text-align: right;">page 2 of 2</p>	DECEMBER 2014 rev DEC 2021	

Ticks /Lyme disease see also: GR26/Lyme Disease	Advise volunteers to check themselves for signs of ticks at the end of the working day and at home; ticks can crawl into clothing Arms and legs should be covered when working in bracken and heather particularly between May and September Trousers must be tucked into socks Wear gloves for clearance work If a tick is spotted remove immediately If a tick has already attached seek medical advice for removal and indications of onset of Lyme disease Advise volunteers of link to Grass Roots website information on Lyme disease (to all working in dunes/grassland)
Uneven ground and muddy slopes	Check site for ground conditions & hazards Sturdy footwear with a firm grip should be worn