


GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT GR20: Himalayan Balsam

ACTIVITY ASSESSED	ASSESSMENT DATE	
Himalayan Balsam <p style="text-align: right;">page 1 of 1</p>	MAY 2022	
ACTIVITY LOCATION	DATE FOR RE-ASSESSMENT	ASSESSED BY
persons at risk: all volunteers; especially young persons		GRASSROOTS
risk level: generally moderate except as indicated		

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION	Access through/over fences Contact with grass & weed stalks Contact with branches/ twigs Muscle strains from pulling Himalayan Balsam Slips, trips and falls Contact with soil borne micro organisms Contact with infectious diseases – depending on location Uneven ground and muddy slopes Contact with general public
HAZARD OR HAZARDOUS EVENT	PRECAUTIONS
General manual handling	Some work sites maybe remote from the access point Designate people to load and unload tools Provide carrying aids, e.g. wheelbarrow, if necessary Limit number of tools any one individual carries
Access through/over fences	Access is may be through gates or over stiles Ensure less able volunteers have assistance
Contact with grass & weed stalks	Advise of risk to eyes from grass & weed stalks Eye protection should be worn
Contact with branches/ twigs	Advise of risk to eyes from twigs Advise of risk from thorns, especially from blackthorns that infect easily
Muscle strains from pulling Himalayan Balsam	Advise volunteers that tools should be used to clear any overhanging branches or ground level scrub but only where access is impeded or where it poses a trip hazard Volunteers may choose to use kneelers or stoop to work & should be advised wrt back strain & taking rests as appropriate
Slips, trips and falls	Rank vegetation is hazardous wrt tripping Always leave tools in clear, safe place Inspect site and clear/ mark inherent trip hazards
Contact with soil- borne micro-organisms	Wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking Participants must be advised to have Tetanus inoculation Any cut received must be promptly washed and covered; cover any broken skin before work; promptly wash and cover any cuts received Wear leather or PVC protective gloves to prevent contact with soil