

Generic Risk Assessment

General Conservation and Tree Planting

Activity: General Conservation Activities		Location	
Date of Generic assessment: January 2024		Date of local revisions	
Common hazards or hazardous events: Physical hazards Gas equipment Slips, trips and falls Manual handling Contact with hand tools Attack by members of public Contact with underground or overhead services Contact with traffic	Health hazards: Contact with micro-organisms such as tetanus, Leptospirosis Contact with plant sap Weather conditions	Local or site specific hazards:	
Typical uncontrolled outcomes* Minor cuts and bruises; burns; lower back pain; verbal abuse; electric shock; contracting disease; blisters; sunburn		Typical groups at risk* Volunteers; workers; members of the public	
Current risk control measures Site gas and equipment on level ground and away from sources of combustion. Keep site and materials tidy. Slips, trips, and falls (STF). Plan route to work area avoiding STF hazards where possible. Plan access around work area removing or reducing STF hazards from access routes. Plan any lifting, train in simple lifting procedures, and provide carrying aids e.g. wheelbarrow. Use and maintain tools and equipment. Sturdy footwear, with good grip must be worn. Leave no one isolated on site. Wash hands before eating, drinking, and smoking. Protect any cuts, advise all workers to ensure tetanus inoculation. Avoid contact with stream or pond water. Inform workers of more common diseases that they may be exposed to, their signs and symptoms and what to do if they feel unwell. Wear long sleeves when working close to hazardous plants. Identify any on site; wash exposed skin thoroughly after work. Check weather forecast before arriving on site and review risks according to forecast. If extreme weather is forecast cancel project. Advise workers to keep skin covered and use high factor sun cream on exposed skin. Stop work when weather conditions deteriorate.		In place?	Local/further risk control measures

Current risk control measures continued...	In place?	Local/further risk control measures
Check for underground services as part of site inspection, mark and avoid. Use hand tools for digging within 1m of services, do not use crowbars. Park vehicle to unload away from traffic. Use barrier where appropriate. Longer roadside working to follow legislative requirements. Post lookout to slow traffic whilst vehicles are manoeuvring. Park vehicle to enable quick access and departure in case of emergency. Clear site of debris/hazardous litter particularly around cutting area. All projects involving children or vulnerable adults must control risks of abuse. Avoid anyone working alone with children or vulnerable adults, Report any concerns to authorities immediately. Hazardous rubbish. Do not work on sites used by drug addicts without a full risk assessment. Where needles are found avoid the area and leader to clear up using safe procedure, appropriate PPE and a sharps disposable box. Ensure there is an emergency plan in place for serious incidents requiring emergency services.		

Specific Activity in addition to General Conservation: Tree Planting		
Common hazards or hazardous events: Contact with branches and twigs, especially when planting the tree. Contact with hand tools. Digging and moving earth Manual handling of bags of plants Slips, trips, and falls from slopes, uneven ground or items on the ground. Thorns Use of fertilisers or other chemicals	Health hazards: Fatigue - leading to complacency and mistakes. Soil borne organisms causing infections.	Local or site specific hazards:
Typical uncontrolled outcomes* Scratches to hand, arms, and face; stomach upsets; toxocariasis; muscle strains; lower back strains; chemical burns	Typical groups at risk* Practical workers; working during Pregnancy (from toxocara)	

Current risk control measures	In place?	Local/further risk control measures
All workers must wear leather protective gloves to handle thorny material. All workers will be warned of risk of scratches, safe working distance will be kept between workers. Broken skin must be covered with waterproof plaster before work starts. Contact with sharp tools - Train all workers in safe tool use. supervise and correct any unsafe practice. Ensure tools are maintained and safe to use. Maintain a safe working distance between workers and ensure safe storage of tools. Cuts received will be washed and treated immediately. Keep site and materials tidy, especially access routes. Provide wheelbarrows and other handling aids to move plants and tools over longer distances. Remove all blackthorns from skin immediately. Workers should seek medical treatment for blackthorns thorns that cannot be removed. Sturdy footwear must be worn. Train all in safe lifting, carrying, and moving techniques. Use tools and feet to move soils, and to firm soils around plants. Wash hands before eating, drinking, and smoking. Wear protective gloves if working in or moving soil by hand. Workers will take frequent rest breaks from repetitive impact tasks. A COSHH assessment will be followed for all chemical use.		

Is lone working expected? (If so, ensure a safe system in place to enable the lone worker to be located and supported in the event of an incident – record this here)	Are any special groups at risk?
Is heavy, sustained or repetitive manual handling involved? (If so, a detailed manual handling assessment is required)	First aid cover***
PPE needed: Safety boots / Safety Wellingtons / Goggles / Leather gloves / PVC rubber gloves / Hard hat / Ear defenders / Dust mask / Other (please specify)	
Form completed by	Checked by
Position	Position

*Death; Major injury; Moderate injury; Property damage; Serious ill-health.

**Staff; Volunteers; Trainees; Young workers; visitors/public; pregnant workers

***Based on typical uncontrolled outcome. If death or major, minimum 1 First Aid at Work needed; if moderate but site is remote, minimum 1 FAW; all other sites require Emergency First Aid.