

<b>RISK ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>Emergency Services / Mountain Rescue</b>	<b>999</b>	TASK	Bracken control
<b>FRIENDS OF NEVIS</b>	<b>Police - Fort William</b>	<b>01397 702 361</b>	DOCUMENT	RA11
<b>NEVIS LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP</b>	<b>Belford Hospital - Fort William</b>	<b>01397 702481</b>	TEAM REVIEWED DATE FOR REVIEW	26/04/21 April 2022

<b>PRIOR TO THE EVENT THE LEADER MUST:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check weather forecast</li> <li>• Review this risk assessment and update as necessary</li> <li>• Ensure correct PPE is available for all staff and volunteers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure First Aider present at all volunteer events</li> <li>• Ensure First Aid Kit is complete and present at all volunteer events.</li> </ul>	<b>PRIOR TO THE EVENT THE VOLUNTEER MUST:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Come appropriately dressed for weather conditions and activity</li> <li>• Read this risk assessment and seek clarification where necessary</li> <li>• Ensure leader is aware of any relevant medical conditions.</li> </ul>
--	---	--

COMMON HAZARDS	WHO IS AT RISK?	RISK RATING	CONTROL MEASURES	RESIDUAL RISK	
Bracken control	Slips trips and falls, severe drops in woodland	Staff & volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site familiarisation, noting potential hazards and ground conditions</li> <li>• Tool talk to cover keeping tools and materials stored safely and tidily</li> <li>• Appropriate footwear with ankle support</li> </ul>	Low
	Lifting heavy weights – tools, bags of cleared bracken	Staff & volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate supervision of all operatives on site</li> <li>• Break down loads where possible, take regular breaks, use appropriate lifting technique</li> <li>• Wear suitable clothing, footwear and gloves</li> <li>• Rotate tasks between operatives</li> <li>• Seek assistance when required</li> </ul>	Low
	Injury from tools	Staff & volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure tool talk given at start of works</li> <li>• Ensure tools in serviceable condition – hand scythes sharpened and handles secure.</li> <li>• Wear appropriate PPE for task - gloves, eye protectors available on site</li> <li>• Ensure 1<sup>st</sup> aid kit carried on site and trained 1<sup>st</sup> aider available</li> </ul>	Low
	Working remotely	Staff & volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid lone working where practical</li> <li>• Ensure appropriate communications available on site – mobile phone, Spot device or PLB, short wave radios when groups are split</li> <li>• Use NLP offsite / lone working / late back working procedures</li> </ul>	Low
	Sting, rash blistering from hazardous plants	Staff & volunteer	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gloves, long trousers and long sleeves advised</li> <li>• Identify any dangerous plants on site prior to work if possible – avoid contact</li> </ul>	Low
	Injury from sharps	Staff & volunteer	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear gloves</li> <li>• Avoid clearing bracken with hands – appropriate hand tools to be used.</li> </ul>	Low
	Use of fertilizers – Rock phosphate	Staff & volunteer	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear gloves when applying and avoid ingestion or contact with eyes. Rock phosphate is an organic fertilizer and has very low human and environmental risks.</li> </ul>	Low
	Use of Power Tools: Line cutters / brush cutters	Staff & volunteer	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power tools should be checked to be in safe working order prior to use.</li> <li>• Operators should only use line trimmer if they have received full training in its use</li> <li>• Brush cutter only to be used by appropriately ticketed NLP staff</li> <li>• PPE to be worn inc hand, eye, ear protection</li> <li>• Observe COSHH regulations &amp; guidance when handling fuel and ensure safe storage.</li> </ul>	Low

Weather	Extreme weather conditions	Staff Volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advise all to wear sun hats, cover up bare skin, use sunblock.</li> <li>• Provide more frequent rest breaks</li> <li>• Educate all about recognising the early symptoms of heat stroke</li> <li>• Ensure appropriate clothing for conditions with food and drink carried by operatives</li> <li>• Manage site relevant to weather and ability of group</li> <li>• Consider river crossings and avoid in spate conditions</li> </ul>	Low
Disease, dog fouling	Midge – reaction to midge bites	Staff Volunteers	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take along an appropriate insect repellent</li> <li>• Encourage midge head nets to be carried at all times during season</li> <li>• Wear long sleeves and trousers</li> </ul>	Low
	Tick-borne diseases	Staff Volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep your legs and arms covered, tuck socks into trousers, wear gaiters</li> <li>• Check your body for ticks after the event tick bites are painless and can go unnoticed</li> <li>• Remove ticks as soon as possible using a tick remover and avoid squashing the tick body</li> <li>• A red target can appear anywhere away from bite site so encourage operatives to check themselves once home</li> </ul>	Low
	Weils disease (Leptospirosis)	Staff Volunteers	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cover cuts when possible and wash with anti-bacterial agent as soon as is practical</li> <li>• Wear gloves</li> <li>• Wash your hands or use alcohol sanitiser before eating, drinking or smoking.</li> <li>• See your doctor if you develop symptoms such as persistent headache, sore joints or flu-like symptoms</li> </ul>	Low
	Tetanus, dog fouling	Staff Volunteers	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All operatives to maintain their tetanus vaccinations</li> <li>• All operatives to wear gloves</li> </ul>	Low