

WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL



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| RISK ASSESSMENT | Coppicing |
| LOCATION | Wickham Market Public Spaces |

Assessment of hazards associated with coppicing in open space. To be used in conjunction with relevant Site and Volunteer Work Party risk assessments.

| HAZARD | POTENTIAL HARM | PERSON(S) AT RISK | PRECAUTIONS & CONTROL MEASURES | OCCURRENCE LIKELIHOOD | HAZARD SEVERITY | RISK FACTOR | PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE |
|----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| Hand tools | Muscle strain Head injury Puncture wounds Bruising Crushing | Supervisor Participant | Inspect tools before and after each use, maintain in good condition; Provide users with tool use and safety information; Use correct tool for the job; Ensure firm and stable stance and wear sturdy footwear; Wear gloves unless using a swinging tool; Do not use when handles are wet; Maintain safe working distances | 2 | 3 | 6 | Supervisor Participant |
| Manual handling | Musculoskeletal disorders | Supervisor Participant | Explain basic manual handling during safety talk (avoid heavy loads/twisting/ straining); Use the right tool for the right job; Take regular breaks during the session; Don't over-exert – work within your means; Use mechanical aids or get help when moving heavy loads. | 2 | 3 | 6 | Supervisor Participant |
| Arisings | Slips, trips, falls Bruising Puncture wounds | Supervisor Participant | Discuss the terrain during the safety talk; Volunteers to wear sensible, sturdy footwear; Ensure safe working distances between volunteers; Ensure arisings and unused tools are left in a designated place; Encourage participants to work together to tidy arisings as they are cut. | 2 | 3 | 6 | Supervisor Participant |
| Stems to be coppiced | Head injury Puncture wounds Bruising Crushing Death | Supervisor Participant Public | Coppicing technique to be demonstrated at the start of the session for new participants; Participants to work two tree lengths apart to prevent any injuries when felling a stem; Participants to wear hard hats; Large stems to be felled in pairs, with one person helping to guide the stem; Communication essential between participants when felling to ensure no one is in a danger area. | 1 | 4 | 4 | Supervisor Participant |

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|---------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Coppice stool | Slips, trips, falls Puncture wounds Bruising | Supervisor Participant Public | Participants to wear sturdy footwear and to be reminded of uneven terrain and coppice stools as trip hazards; Coppiced stems to be cut on a slight angle to avoid rotting, but not a severe angle that would create a point to fall on; Stems to be coppiced as low to ground level as possible to reduce stump hazard; Avoid coppicing stools directly alongside footpaths, or create a barrier to prevent public tripping if necessary. | 2 | 3 | 6 | Supervisor Participant |
| Dead-hedge | Head injury Puncture wounds Bruising | Supervisor Participant | Dead-hedging technique to be demonstrated at the start of the session for new participants; Participants to wear sturdy footwear and gloves and to be aware of ground conditions; Participants to work in small groups to build dead hedge, maintaining distances to avoid being struck by branches; Dead-hedges not to be built in the line of stem-felling. | 2 | 3 | 6 | Supervisor Participant |
| Wind | Head injury Puncture wounds Bruising Crushing | Supervisor Participant Public | Coppicing in woodlands only to be undertaken when winds are light; Site to be inspected after strong winds and before task starts to check for any dead/hanging limbs which may be a hazard; Hard hats to be worn at all times; If wind increases to levels where debris is falling, session to be cancelled. | 1 | 5 | 5 | Supervisor Participant |

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| RISK ASSESSMENT FOR: Wickham Market Parish Council | ASSESSMENT UNDERTAKEN BY: NAME: SIGNED: CC DATE: | LAST UPDATED ON: DATE: |
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| RISK MATRIX | | | | Hazard Severity | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|----------------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | | | | Low | Slight | Moderate | High | Severe |
| Doing this activity every day: | | | | Minor injury not requiring First Aid | Moderate injury resulting in First Aid | Injury or disease resulting in >7 days off work | Death or major injury to one individual | Multiple death |
| Likelihood of occurrence | 1 | Unlikely | Injury may occur less than once in a lifetime | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | 2 | Possible | Injury may occur less than once a year | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 10 |
| | 3 | Occasional | Injury may occur two or three times per year | 3 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 15 |
| | 4 | Likely | Injury will occur more than three times per year | 4 | 8 | 12 | 16 | 20 |
| | 5 | Very likely | Injury is probably going to occur | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 |

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| | If control measures are followed as described, risk factor is low enough to continue |
| | Hazard carries a moderate level of risk. Attempt to eliminate or isolate hazard; if this can't be done, decide whether task is essential and who is competent to ensure it is carried out safely. Additional control measures may be necessary |
| | Hazard is very high risk. Unless it can be isolated/eliminated, do not carry out task. Find alternative solution. |