

CORMONACHAN WOODLANDS ASSOCIATION

Risk Assessment / Induction Form

In this risk assessment, the hazards are classified according to their level of risk before and after controls are implemented:

Low Risk –	Medium Risk –	High Risk –
Something which may result in minor damage or slight harm (i.e. scratch or bruise)	Something which may result in a significant loss/damage or major injury (broken bone or other injury, which results in person being taken to hospital for treatment)	Something which may result in extensive damage, multiple major injuries or death

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Risk Assessment Title:	Tree Felling and Woodland Management (Felling with and without chainsaw, tree planting, vegetation clearance)	
Risk Assessment Number:	CWA RA-007 (Rev0) Final	
Review Date:	9 th March 2018	
Risk Assessment Written By:	Don Kamsley	Signature: <i>Don Kamsley</i>
Risk Assessment Reviewer(s):	Frances Walker David Thorpe Cecilia Ferguson	Signature(s): <i>Frances Walker</i> <i>David Thorpe</i> <i>Cecilia Ferguson</i>

Personnel & Key Individuals Covered By This Risk Assessment:	CWA volunteer members
Location(s) Covered By This Risk Assessment:	Cormonachan Woodlands

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The Hazard	What Might Happen	Potential Level Of Risk	Controls	Level Of Risk After Controls	Responsibility
Traffic: Walking alongside and working on trees in proximity to roads and car parks	Musculoskeletal injuries, Possibly leading to death and disability.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High visibility clothing to be available and worn at all times when undertaking tree felling and woodland management. • All CWA volunteers should be aware at all times of the presence of vehicles in car parks. • If working at car park sites, or at sites close to roads, signs should be erected to warn drivers and the public of the presence of woodland management activities and areas cordoned off if necessary. • Banksmen should be utilized if felling trees near minor roads and traffic stopped if required. • Relevant highways agency should be contacted if felling trees close to roads. • CWA volunteers to park cars in safe manner and location, where it is safe to exit and load and unload tools and equipment. • CWA volunteers should be careful when crossing the road and car parks. 	Low	All CWA volunteers
Terrain: Accessing sites and working on slippery, loose	Falling/tripping/slipping, leading to fractures, spinal damage,	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site assessed prior to activity and hazards removed. • CWA volunteers provided with advice regarding surfaces. • CWA volunteers to wear suitable footwear for work 	Low	All CWA volunteers

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and uneven surfaces	sprains, head injury.		<p>area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If felling trees CWA volunteers to wear steel toe capped footwear • Emergency access points identified and dynamic risk assessments carried out by volunteers. • Ensure the site is clear of any hazards and that sure footing is obtained before commencing work. • Tree felling should not be undertaken in wet conditions, as ground will be slippery underfoot. 		
<p>Experience and training:</p> <p>Lack of relevant training and experience to undertake woodland management</p>	Heightened consequences and risk of accident. Also higher levels of stress and anxiety, leading to serious illness, injury and death	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where applicable, CWA volunteers should receive relevant training and experience to be able to undertake woodland management activities confidently and with the knowledge required. • CWA volunteers should have appropriate training to operate any tools, equipment and machinery (refer to separate Risk Assessments for individual power tools and moving machinery e.g. chainsaws, strimmers etc.). CWA volunteers undertaking woodland management activities must be provided with adequate time and resources to prepare for task. • Volunteers should have received a full induction when joining the CWA. • Trained CWA first aiders c/w first aid kit to be on location during the performance of all woodland activities. 	Low	All CWA volunteer members
Manual Handling: lifting, carrying tools and equipment and	Musculoskeletal injuries, leading to chronic pain and physiological disorders.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWA volunteers should not exceed their capabilities and should ask for assistance if required. CWA volunteers should comply with manual handling guidance. • Lifting and carrying equipment made available to CWA volunteers and training provided where necessary. 	Low	All CWA volunteers

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heavy objects.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where possible heavier loads spilt into lighter loads. Timber should be cut into small sections, these should be manageable so can be easily lifted. • The activity should be planned in advance and where necessary a manual handling risk assessment should be carried out. • CWA volunteers to advise the committee team of any pre-existing medical condition, which may affect their ability to carry out manual handling activities safely. Volunteers should advise the Volunteer team leader. • Suitable safety footwear should be suitable for woodland management tasks so as not to contribute to slip, trip hazard. • Tasks should be rotated and regular breaks taken so CWA volunteers are not carrying out manual handling activities for prolonged periods. • Safety talk should be given to volunteers prior to undertaking woodland management activities. • If carrying out work using a chainsaw, please see Chainsaw Risk Assessment, which covers safe manual handling of chainsaw). 		
Weather: Exposure to Cold	Hypothermia, from mild symptoms shaking to advanced paradoxical undressing and terminal burrowing leading to death	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWA volunteers should check a reliable (BBC, SEPA, XC Weather) weather forecast prior to going out and tailor plans accordingly. • CWA volunteers should be aware of the symptoms of overexposure in themselves and their colleagues. Any personnel shivering severely should come in out of the cold. • Activities cancelled during periods of adverse weather. 	Low	All CWA volunteers

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Weather: Exposure to heat	Sun Burn and Hyperthermia, from mild sweating to advanced heat stroke where elderly and infirm may be in life threatening situations.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CWA team leaders should check a reliable (BBC, SEPA, XC Weather) weather forecast prior to going out and tailor plans accordingly. CWA volunteers advised to bring sun protection and to dress appropriately for the weather. CWA volunteers advised regarding recognition of signs and treatment of Hyperthermia. CWA volunteers are encouraged to drink water and avoid extended periods in direct sunlight and take regular breaks in the shade, particularly if undertaking strenuous work such as chainsaw operations. 	Low	All CWA volunteers
Vegetation: Loose and overhanging branches, grass cuttings and vegetation.	Head/eye injuries, leading to possibility of brain injury and loss of sight	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CWA volunteers should assess site prior to undertaking woodland management activities and use dynamic risk assessing throughout the activity, taking care and avoiding overhanging branches. If grass-cutting operations are undertaken, ensure that Strimmer operators wear appropriate eye and face protection, to guard against potential fecal remains being in the grass. 	Low	All CWA volunteers
Trees and branches: hung up - loose/broken limbs	Head/eye injuries, leading to possibility of brain injury and loss of sight	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operators of chainsaws must wear compliant safety headwear EN 397, which is well fitted and in good condition. Hard hats should be made available for CWA volunteers working under trees. CWA volunteers should assess site for hung up trees and branches before activities are undertaken, altering operations if required. A safety zone should be set up around the felling site with banks people and signage utilized to maintain zone. Eye protection should be considered for the group 	Medium	All CWA volunteers

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			<p>dependent on the nature and risks of work being undertaken.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CWA volunteers should be at a minimum distance of 2 x tree lengths away prior to tree felling operations by CWA volunteers. If cables are present an individual site task based risk assessment must be undertaken (see below). Safety talk should be given to volunteers prior to task. 		
Electricity: Contact with overhead electricity sources	Electrocution leading to disability and death	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prior to commencing operations, the worksite must be checked by the CWA Committee team to ensure worksite is clear of any overhead electrical cables If overhead cables are present an individual site task based risk assessment must be undertaken. No work shall be undertaken without prior notification and consent being attained from the appropriate authority. Contact utility supplier if underground services are detected. 	Low	CWA Committee
Isolation: Lone and remote working	Risks are enhanced by remote working, without mobile signal and a greater distance to emergency services.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No woodland management operations are to be conducted by CWA volunteers under any circumstances. 	Low	
Dogs and members of the public: in work area and in danger of being hit, or dogs	Open wounds and bite injuries caused by dogs. Possibility of members of the public receiving injuries such as crushing injuries	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signage should be put out within work area, to warn the public of woodland management operations and hazard tape used to cordon off work areas if necessary. Chainsaw operation should always have Banksmen to advise members of public to keep clear of work area 	Low	All CWA Volunteers

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causing accident	cuts and bruises.		<p>and keep their dogs under control.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chainsaw operators and Banksmen should make sure they are visible and utilize hi visibility clothing. Banksmen and operators to use agreed communication method to signal of approaching public. Work should stop to allow public to pass where necessary. CWA volunteers should be aware of risks of dogs and avoid where possible. CWA volunteers should report dangerous dog behaviour to police. CWA volunteers should advise owners to keep dogs on lead or under control when approaching work site and should not approach unknown dogs. 		
Biohazards: Insects/ticks and plants	Range of reactions, from mild itch to death through anaphylactic shock and Lyme disease.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CWA volunteers should highlight allergies to CWA management. CWA volunteers should wear insect repellent and midge nets when necessary. Activity cancelled if biting insects become intolerable. Avoid walking through brambles, nettles etc. CWA volunteers should wear trousers and long sleeves. Gloves should be worn. Cleared vegetation and timber, unless being stacked into safe habitat piles, should be removed from work site, and not left on paths or car parks. Safety talk should be given to volunteers prior to undertaking woodland management activities. All CWA volunteers to check their own person for ticks as soon as practical post operations.. 	Low	All CWA Volunteers

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Bio Hazards: contact with water and soil while undertaking woodland management activities	Infection and disease from soils, water and dirty surfaces including tetanus, Cyanobacteria and Leptosporosis.	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWA volunteers provided with anti bacterial gels, and surgical gloves if required. • CWA management advised to watch out for Cyanobacteria and advise SEPA if they see it. • CWA volunteers to cover any cuts on hands and arms. • Wash hands (and arms if necessary) after any activity where there may be faeces present. • CWA volunteers are advised to see a doctor if any symptoms develop. • Take rest breaks and meal breaks away from the main work area. • CWA volunteers are advised to avoid placing hands in water where possible. • CWA volunteers to wash wellingtons/waders if they have been in water 	Low	All CWA Volunteers
Working near water:	Potential of drowning and hypothermia. Leading to possible brain damage and death.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWA volunteers should assess site prior to the activity and use dynamic risk assessing during the activity. • Throw lines available for use. • Ideally CWA volunteers should work in pairs. • CWA volunteers should keep away from water's edge. • Avoid undertaking woodland management activities near rivers when in spate. • CWA volunteers who fall into water should be warmed up as soon as possible and given hot food/drink to assist warming. • Call emergency services in circumstances where drowning might happen. 	Low	All CWA volunteers
Biohazard: Animal faeces	Potential of diseases e.g. Toxocara canis	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWA volunteers should avoid where possible walking in long grass and undergrowth. • Do not touch animal faeces. 	Low	All CWA volunteers

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If need to remove use gloves and a shovel and dispose of all contaminated waste safely Cover all new and existing cuts and grazes with waterproof dressings and or gloves before commencing work activity. If cuts, grazes occur wash immediately with soap and running water and apply a dressing. Wash hands (and arms if necessary) after any activity where there may be faeces present and prior to eating, drinking, using the telephone, taking medication, applying make up, inserting contact lenses or smoking If wash facilities are not immediately available use bacterial hand wash, spray. 		
Hand tools: Carriage and usage for grass cutting activities incl rakes, forks, loppers	Laceration, crush, Musculoskeletal injuries, leading to possible major injuries and death	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please refer to Hand Tools Risk Assessment CWA RA-006 (Rev0) Final 	Low	All CWA volunteers
Countryside infrastructure: gates, bridges etc.	Cuts, abrasions possible broken bones, crushing injury	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CWA volunteers should use dynamic risk assessing during the activity. CWA volunteers should use visual inspection while using countryside infrastructure such as gates and bridges. Ensuring their own and group safety. Any defects should be reported to CWA committee. 	Low	All CWA volunteers
Electrical: Contact with	Electrocution leading to potential fatality.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CWA committee to plan route prior to activity and volunteers to use dynamic risk assessing during activity. 	Medium	CWA Committee

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electrical fence.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CWA volunteers to be made aware of any live electrical fences near to work area by CWA committee prior to commencing woodland activities. 		
Illness	Range from headache and cold to flu and food poisoning to heart attacks, brain problems and blood clots.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CWA volunteers should always carry charged, functioning mobile phone. If out with volunteers, a trained CWA first aider must be in attendance and carrying a first aid kit. Any CWA volunteers should advise CWA management prior to undertaking activities if they suffer from any pre-existing medical condition that would affect their ability to safely take part. If at any time a CWA volunteers starts to feel unwell then they should advise the designated person or if not practicable the nearest person to raise the alarm. Emergency Services contacted as soon as possible. 	Medium	All CWA volunteers
Poisonous Fungi/Plants: May be present within grass being cut	Sickness, vomiting and death	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CWA volunteers to avoid picking fungi or other wild plants/berries. CWA volunteers to know the signs of poisoning and seek medical help immediately if any symptoms arise. Cover all new and existing cuts and grazes with waterproof dressings and or gloves before commencing work activity. If cuts, grazes occur wash immediately with soap and running water and apply a dressing. Wash hands (and arms if necessary) after any activity where there may be faeces present and prior to eating, drinking, using the telephone, taking medication, applying make up, inserting contact lenses or smoking. If wash facilities are not immediately available use bacterial hand wash, spray. 	Low	All CWA volunteers

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety talk to be given prior to activity and should include instruction not to pick or eat fungi, plants or berries. CWA volunteers to wear appropriate compliant face protection for equipment and tools (please refer to individual Risk Assessments for tools). 		
Petrol and diesel driven power tools and vehicles: Used for grass cutting activities	Explosion and skin irritations from fuel, skeletal and muscular injuries from sharp edges and moving parts	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to risk assessments for all tools being operated. These include but not exhaustive: Strimmer and Brush Cutter, Chainsaw. (See Tools and Equipment Section). 	Medium	Trained & nominated CWA volunteers only
Sharp Objects: such as broken glass, stones, bottles or nails which may be hidden in grass or vegetation and may be disturbed when cutting	Lacerations, puncture wounds, eye injuries	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site Reconnaissance, identifying and removing potential harmful objects from activity site if safe to do so with a appropriate PPE and litter picker. Only pick up glass using litter pickers and if wearing suitable gloves and dispose of safely. If lots of glass, glass should be placed in a bucket and carried separately, not put in bin bags. Bin bags may need to be doubled up if sharp objects so don't bang against the legs. Bin bags should be of a high quality and thick. Appropriate protective footwear to be worn by all CWA volunteers. These should preferably be sturdy boots. Long trousers and long sleeves must be worn. Volunteers advised in advance of appropriate footwear and clothing to be worn. CWA volunteers to avoid where possible walking through dense vegetation/undergrowth. 	Low	All CWA volunteers

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Sharps: used/unused needles and syringes potentially hidden in grass or vegetation being cut.	Lacerations/Puncture wound/ Risk of disease leading to Hepatitis B, HIV and other blood borne infections.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site Reconnaissance, identifying and removing potential harmful objects from activity site if safe to do so with a appropriate PPE and litter picker. Avoid where possible walking through dense vegetation/undergrowth. If accidentally touching a needle/syringe, medical help must be obtained as soon as possible. CWA volunteers to carry mobile phone. 	Low	All CWA volunteers
Tree tubes and tree stakes	Lacerations, puncture wounds, crushing injuries	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gloves should be worn when carrying and handling tree tubes and stakes. When holding tree stake being hammered into ground, wear gloves, and hold onto stake part way down stake, not at top where stake is hammered. 	Low	