



**RISK ASSESSMENT - Oxney woods**

**Work Description: Tree & Hedgerow Planting**

**Assessment Date: 14/01/2025**

Activity		
<b>Gardening work</b>	<p><b><u>Typical uncontrolled outcomes</u></b></p> <p>Cuts and sprains; puncture wounds; strained back; crush injuries; toxocariasis; phytophotodermatitis.</p> <p><b><u>Hazards</u></b></p> <p>Contact with hand tools Contact with hazardous plants Dog faeces Manual handling Soil borne organisms causing infections Thorny material</p>	<p><b><u>Typical groups at risk</u></b></p> <p>Practical workers; supervisors</p> <p><b><u>Controls</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. All gardening tools must be well maintained.</li><li>2. All irritant plants on site must be identified to all workers before work starts. Gloves must be worn and sleeves rolled down when handling irritant plants.</li><li>3. All workers must wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking.</li><li>4. Alternate digging and other work to avoid strains, DO NOT lift heavy materials eg trees/ logs.</li><li>5. Check and clear ground before kneeling for work.</li><li>6. Dog faeces must be removed before starting work using bags and containers. Skin contact must be avoided.</li><li>7. Keep work area clear and tidy, removing clippings frequently.</li><li>8. Leather gloves must be worn when working with thorny plants.</li><li>9. Leather protective gloves must be worn when handling or clearing rubbish.</li><li>10. Sharps must be collected following SWR02 Dealing with discarded needles.</li><li>11. Thorny plants must be identified and all workers advised on careful working.</li></ol>
<b>General Conservation Activities</b>	<p><b><u>Typical uncontrolled outcomes</u></b></p> <p>Minor cuts and bruises; burns;  lower back injury; verbal abuse; electric shock; contracting disease; blisters; sunburn; hypothermia</p> <p><b><u>Hazards</u></b></p> <p>Abuse of vulnerable client group</p>	<p><b><u>Typical groups at risk</u></b></p> <p>Volunteers; workers; members of the public.</p> <p><b><u>Controls</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Abuse of the vulnerable - All</li></ol>



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	<p>Abuse/attack from member of the public including dog bites          Contact with hand tools          Contact with micro-organisms such as tetanus, Leptospirosis          Contact with plant sap          Manual handling</p>	<p>projects involving children or vulnerable adults must adhere to SGP01. Avoid any working in pairs away from the group that includes at least one vulnerable person. Report any concerns to line manager immediately. Children are the parents responsibility.</p>
	<p>Slips, trips and falls from slopes, uneven ground or items on the ground          Weather conditions.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Advise workers to keep skin covered, and use high factor sun cream on exposed skin. Stop work when weather conditions deteriorate eg in high winds.</li> <li>3. Clear site of debris and hazardous litter particularly around cutting area</li> <li>4. Keep site and materials tidy.</li> <li>5. Leave no one isolated on site.</li> <li>6. Micro-organisms - inform workers of more common diseases that they may be exposed to, their signs and symptoms and what to do if they show signs of those symptoms. Issue advisory cards to new workers.</li> <li>7. Park vehicles to enable quick access and departure in case of emergency.</li> <li>8. Plan any lifting, train in simple lifting procedures and provide carrying aids e.g. wheelbarrow.</li> <li>9. Slips, trips and falls - plan route to work area avoiding STF (slips, trips, falls) hazards where possible. Plan work area and access around work area removing or reducing STF hazards from access routes.</li> <li>10. Sturdy footwear must be worn.</li> <li>11. Train all in safe lifting, carrying and moving techniques.</li> <li>12. Use and maintain tools with care avoiding others around you.</li> <li>13. Wash hands before eating drinking and smoking. Protect any cuts, advise all workers to ensure tetanus inoculation. Avoid contact with stream or pond water.</li> <li>14. Wear long sleeves when working close to hazardous plants. Identify any on site, was exposed skin thoroughly after work.</li> </ol>



<p><b>Tree and other planting tasks</b></p>	<p><b><u>Typical uncontrolled outcomes</u></b> Scratches to hand, arms, and face; stomach upsets; toxocarasis; muscle strains; lower back strains; chemical burns.</p> <p><b><u>Hazards</u></b></p> <p>Contact with branches and twigs, especially when planting the tree Contact with hand tools Digging and moving earth Fatigue - leading to complacency and mistakes Manual handling of bags of plants Slips, trips and falls from slopes, uneven ground or items on the ground Soil borne organisms causing infections</p>	<p><b><u>Typical groups at risk</u></b> Practical workers; working during Pregnancy (from toxocara)</p> <p><b><u>Controls</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All workers must wear leather protective gloves to handle thorny material.</li> <li>2. All workers will be warned of risk of scratches, safe working distance will be kept between workers.</li> <li>3. Broken skin must be covered with waterproof plaster before work starts.</li> <li>4. Contact with sharp tools – Tool talk before commencing task.</li> </ol>
	<p>Thorns</p>	<p>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.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Cuts received will be washed and treated immediately.</li> <li>6. Keep site and materials tidy.</li> <li>7. Provide wheelbarrows and other handling aids to move plants and tools over longer distances.</li> <li>8. Remove all blackthorns from skin immediately. Workers should seek medical treatment for blackthorns thorns that cannot be removed.</li> <li>9. Sturdy footwear must be worn.</li> <li>10. There will be no heavy lifting.</li> <li>11. Use tools and feet to move soils, and to firm soils around plants.</li> <li>12. Wash hands before eating, drinking and smoking.</li> <li>13. Wear protective gloves if working in or moving soil by hand.</li> <li>14. Workers will take frequent rest breaks from repetitive impact tasks</li> <li>15. Always work in pairs</li> <li>16. Falling deadwood risk - do not work under dead trees</li> </ol>
<p><b>Special groups at risk:</b> - Public -</p>		
<p><b>PPE needed:</b> - Leather / thick gloves - Sensible boots</p>		
<p><b>First aid cover:</b></p>	<p>First aid kit carried by PC</p>	



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<b>Emergency access:</b>	Via track off Ringwould Rd, Kingsdown or via Nelson Park Rd, St Margarets <a href="https://w3w.co/goose.lost.vote">https://w3w.co/goose.lost.vote</a>
<b>Nearest 24 hr A&amp;E dept:</b>	QEQM margate
<b>Mobile phone reception:</b>	Good
<b>Nearest telephone:</b>	<b>Mobiles carried by PC</b>
<b>Nearest toilets:</b>	None – al fresco
<b>4wd or air ambulance needed:</b>	4WD will be present
<b>Heavy, sustained or repetitive manual handling involved? <i>no</i></b>	
<b>Completed by:</b> Ahti Nigol	
<b>Approved by:</b> Ahti Nigol	