

MARHAMCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENT

HELE VALLEY TRAIL, MARHAMCHURCH

EVENT DETAILS: (inc date)

Activity	Associated Risk	TO WHOM	CONTROL MEASURES – Technique/ PPE
Moving around woodland	Slips, trips and falls. Risk rating Med/Low	All volunteers	Wear suitable footwear Pay attention to underfoot terrain. Lift feet over brambles not through.
Moving brash or stem wood off paths.	Manual Handling Regulations. Blackthorn poisoning. Puncture wounds from thorns. Risk Rating: Med/Low	All volunteers involved in vegetation clearance.	Use appropriate tools** when moving larger pieces of wood. Work in pairs Use log tongs if necessary. Use gloves to assist with grip and protect from thorns.
Clearing brambles with secateurs or loppers.	Scratches on hands, arms and legs. Falling from entanglement Risk rating: Low	All volunteers	Use leather gloves to protect from thorns. Work systematically to prevent entanglement.

Risk Assessment adopted: 16 June 2026

Minute ref: 26/146(iii)

Strimmer for clearing undergrowth and undesirable weed control.	Flying debris. Hidden objects on the ground. Volunteers around operator. Risk Rating Med/Low	All volunteers	Use appropriate PPE -Leather boots, leather gloves, protective goggles. Experience required Check ground thoroughly for lying logs, metal objects, debris. Ensure those around you are kept at a safe distance of 4 metres minimum.
Clearing Giant Hogweed from pathway edges.	Skin burns in sunlight. High allergen potential.	Volunteers /Public	Apply PPE when handling:- Gloves, Eye-protection. Keep skin covered.
Ticks	Lymes disease	Volunteers/Public	Ensure legs are covered, if not wearing mid-length boots, tuck trousers into socks. Check arms and legs thoroughly after clearing any ground area.
Badgers – known setts will be highlighted,	Disturbance of wildlife Aggressive response Risk rating Med/Low	All Volunteers clearing brash from woodland stands.	All badger setts will be noted – please avoid, badgers are aggressive if disturbed. Caution must be applied.

River	Drowning Riverbank falls River pollution Risk rating: HIGH/LOW	All Volunteers working near the riverbank.	Any clearance within the vicinity of the river must be undertaken with a set plan of action. No debris, brash or cordwood can be stacked closer than 4m from the river edge.
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Volunteers will not be asked to undertake any high-risk activity. **Any incident which *may* have caused death or huge loss must be reported via RIDDOR and will be reported accordingly.**

The risk rating may be understood as follows:

High – risk of death, permanent injury or high financial losses (habitat destruction, river pollution, inability to work thereafter).

Medium – Risk of injury, hospital visit or temporary disruption.

Low – Risk of discomfort without the need for treatment or hospital attendance. (twisted ankle, dust in eyes, back strain without injury)