

BROADSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

Risk Assessment

Title:	Bramble Bashing
Description:	Manual clearance of bramble and bracken by volunteers
Location:	Broadstone Parish
Reason:	Maintenance of Parks, Open Spaces & Green Spaces.
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A. Important Information

This risk assessment reflects the circumstances found at the time of the assessment only and may be amended during the event assessment.

The priority ratings stated are given as a guide only and each of the recommendations should be implemented 'as soon as is reasonably practicable', to ensure the risk remains at a tolerable level.

B. Risk Matric and Guidance Notes

The methodology used in this risk assessment is a combination of quantitative risk assessment (numerically assessing probabilities and consequences), qualitative risk assessment (judgmental assessment based on event analysis

		Likelihood				
		Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Very Likely
Severity (y-axis)	Minor	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5
	Moderate	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5
	Major	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5
	Severe	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5
	Critical	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5

Severity. (the terms Impact, consequence can also be used) – Choose the level of severity found on the vertical (y-axis) on the left-hand side of the matrix. This donates the severity of the outcome, that the risk would have if it materialised. The following table provides the definition of severity based on the example of personal injury categories.

Severity (y-axis)	Definition
Minor	Single injury of a non-specific or non-life threatening, non-permanent nature and requiring first aid only.
Moderate	- Single specified injury (which is non-life threatening, non-permanent nature and / or has a short-term impact on normal way of / quality of life). - Single injury / illness of a non-specific injury (for example moderate heat illness or hypothermia requiring more than just first aid).
Major	- Single specific injury (which is life threatening and / or causes a permanent disability). - Specified injuries to multiply individuals' injuries of a non-life threatening, non-permanent nature and / or have a short-term impact on normal way of / quality of life.
Severe	- Single fatality - Specific injuries to multiple individuals (which are life threatening and / or cause permanent disability).
Critical	Multiple fatalities

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Likelihood (the terms frequency or probability can also be used) – Choose a descriptor, found on the horizontal (x-axis on the top of the matrix). This denotes the likelihood that the safety risk will occur and thus become an event.

Likelihood	Probability	Description
Very unlikely (Very Low)	< 5%	Is not likely to occur
Unlikely (Low)	5% - 29%	Is likely to occur on a small number of occasions
Possible (Medium)	30% - 49%	Is likely to occur on several occasions
Likely (High)	50% - 74%	Is likely to occur many times
Very likely (Very high)	>75%	Is likely to be a common occurrence.

Risk rating – Is a measure of exposure to possible loss (or harm) and it combines the severity of loss (how bad) and the likelihood of suffering that loss (or harm) and how often.

The corresponding actions below relate to the risk rating derived from the colour coding of the x and y axis.

Very High	Rigorous scrutiny of control measures required to make sure it is tolerable, by improved control measures
High	
Medium	Review control measures and improve if reasonably practicable to do so, consider alternative ways of working.
Low	Maintain control measures.
Very Low	

C. Risk Assessment Form

Ref	Hazard/s	Who might be harmed and how	Existing control measures	Risk rating	Risk tolerable Yes/No?
1	Cuts, scratches, and puncture wounds	Volunteers & passerby.	- Volunteers to wear gloves, long sleeves, and sturdy trousers - Use of appropriate tools only, in good condition - Safety briefing on correct tool use - First aid kit available on site. - Volunteers to be aware of surroundings and consider action when people pass by. - Clear signage to be displayed indicating work in progress.	Very Low	Yes
2	Slips, trips, and falls	Volunteers	- Volunteers to wear sturdy footwear with good grip required. - Area visually checked before work begins, by event leader. - Volunteers instructed to work at a safe pace - Avoid working in extreme weather where ground is hazardous	Low	Yes

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Ref	Hazard/s	Who might be harmed and how	Existing • control measures	Risk rating	Risk tolerable Yes/No?
3	Manual handling injuries	Volunteers	• Training in safe lifting techniques • Encourage team lifting for heavy loads • Regular breaks to reduce fatigue	Medium	Yes
4	Tool-related injuries	Volunteers, Passerby	• Only suitable hand tools permitted no powered tools. • Safe working distances maintained between volunteers (minimum 1 metres). • Tools carried safely (blades down, covered where possible). • Tools must remain in the defined work area.	Medium	Yes
5	Contact with hazardous plants and wildlife	Volunteers	• Volunteers advised to wear protective clothing. • Awareness briefing on ticks and Lyme disease. • Check for wasp nests or other hazards before starting work. • Encourage volunteers to report allergies in advance.	Medium	Yes
6	Weather exposure	Volunteers	• Volunteers advised to bring suitable clothing and water. • Regular breaks in shade or shelter • Work postponed in extreme weather conditions	Medium	Yes
7	Public interaction	Passerby	• Clear signage indicating work in progress • Work area defined and monitored • Volunteers instructed to remain aware of surroundings	Medium	Yes
8	Fatigue and overexertion	Volunteers	• Regular rest breaks encouraged. • Rotate tasks where possible. • Encourage volunteers to stop if tired.	Low	Yes
Assessor:				Assessment date:	

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D. Supervision

- A competent person will be assigned the role of activity led for the day.
- The activity led will ensure all volunteers are given a safety briefing and will supervise throughout.

E. Emergency Procedures

The activity led will:

- Identify the first aider on site.
- Ensure by the first aid kit a grid reference or What3Words location code is recorded. (Noting the Ambulance Service now accept a What3Words reference).
- Ensure there is a mobile phone available for emergency contact
- Identify the nearest access point for emergency services.
- Contact or assign a volunteer to contact the Emergency services by dialling 999

F. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

PPE will not be provided by the Town Council, unless specified before the event.

It is however recommended that the volunteers bring with the sturdy gloves, footwear & eye protection. It is also recommended volunteers wear long sleeved tops and full-length trousers.

G. Review

- This risk assessment is reviewed by Full Council annually. However, should the site conditions change the risk assessment can be modified by the activity led before the event. This will then be logged with the Town Council Proper Officer as soon as possible.
- This risk assessment will be carried out by the activity led before the event and logged with the Town Council's Proper Officer as soon as possible thereafter.
- Ensure the Town Council's Proper Officer is made aware of any incident as soon as possible.