

Risk Assessment: Loppers

Venue	Rewilding Adventure Site, Dunsdale	Completed by:	Morgan Lax	Date:	14th April 2025	Review Date:	14th April 2027
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Description of site / activity / tools:

Loppers within the Forest School approach and by Rewilding are considered tools which are used in order to meaningfully achieve or produce something. They are used to cut wood which has a diameter less than a two pence piece- typically during coppicing. The use of tools is specifically considered within the FSA's principles and are not simply used for the sake of using them, rather they are used to develop awareness, responsibility and to allow success.

	Hazard	Harm	People at Risk	Existing Control Measure	Likelihood (1-3)	Severity (1-3)	Rating LxS (1-9)	New Control Measure Who? When?	Comments
1.	Jaws open whilst stored	Cutting finger when getting loppers out	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tool talk Loppers to be returned to tool table in closed position Practitioners hold a valid first aid certificate First aid kit carried at all times 	1	2	2		
2.	Own finger/ hand inside jaws	Cutting, severing or crushing fingers/ hand	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tool talk Lopper jaws only to be opened as wood is about to be placed inside Practitioners hold a valid first aid certificate First aid kit carried at all times 	1	2	2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to the length of the loppers it would be difficult for a person to operate the handles with one hand inside. Gloves aren't a requirement for using the lopper- given the mechanism of injury
3.	Own foot inside jaws	Cutting, severing or crushing foot/toe	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tool talk Lopper jaws only to be opened as wood is about to be placed inside Practitioners hold a valid first aid certificate First aid kit carried at all times 	1	2	2		
4.	Another's finger/ hand inside jaws	Cutting, severing or crushing fingers/ hand	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tool talk Communication between partners encouraged to ensure both know when the cut is going to be made (if working with partner) Loppers only to be used one arm and tools from anyone else (if working alone) Practitioners hold a valid first aid certificate First aid kit carried at all times 	1	2	2		

5.	Another's foot inside jaws	Cutting, severing or crushing foot/toe	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tool talk • Communication between partners encouraged to ensure both know when the cut is going to be made • Practitioners hold a valid first aid certificate • First aid kit carried at all times 	2	2	2		
6.	Falling onto lopper jaws whilst carrying	Injuring self	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tool talk • Model appropriate way to carry loppers • Encourage participants to check route is clear of trip hazards • Practitioners hold a valid first aid certificate • First aid kit carried at all times 	1	2	2		
7.	Walking into another whilst carrying	Injuring another	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tool talk • Model appropriate way to carry loppers • Practitioners hold a valid first aid certificate • First aid kit carried at all times 	1	2	2		
8.				•					
9.				•					
10.				•					
11.				•					
Comments/Concerns: This risk assessment will be reviewed in the event of any incident or near miss in order to be fully informed for the future. It is not an exhaustive list, and is written with experience of FS activities in mind and the incidents (or lack of) that have been encounter in the preceding 11 years.					Recommendations: For bi-annual review- due March 2027				