

## RISK ASSESSMENT FOR SCYTHING

Potential Hazard	Who is at risk?	Control Measures	Risk Rating	Responsibilities
Cuts while cleaning blade	Scythe user	Users wear Kevlar gloves for this activity. Users are shown correct way to clean blade.	Low	Scythe users, scythe tutor.
Cuts & scratches while Sharpening & peening blade	Scythe user	Users wear Kevlar gloves for this activity. Users are shown correct way to sharpen and peen blade.	Low	Scythe users, scythe tutor.
Cuts & scratches while putting blade on/taking blade off snath	Scythe user	Users wear Kevlar gloves for this activity. Users are shown correct way to put the blade on and take the blade off the snath.	Low	Scythe users, scythe tutor.
Cuts & scratches while mowing vegetation with scythe	Other people in vicinity	Users are put to work far away from other students. Members of the public/people who are not students are kept away from the work area. Safe minimum distance 3m between mowers.	Low	Scythe users, scythe tutor.
Slips trips & falls while carrying scythe	Scythe user/other people in the vicinity	Users are shown the correct way to carry the scythe. Users are also asked to put the blade guard on where-ever possible. A check of the area being scythed is carried out prior to the course and any slip or trip hazards marked.	Medium	Scythe users, scythe tutor.
Injury while storing scythe or from stored scythes. Both in the field and workshop situations.	Members of the public	Users are shown the correct way to store the scythe so that it won't fall on anyone. Users are also asked to put the blade guard on where-ever possible. Scythes are either stored where members of the public don't have access to them, or it is made obvious that they shouldn't touch them – i.e. with 'do not cross' tape.	Medium	Scythe users, scythe tutor.
Cuts, scratches & grazes from vegetation. Allergic reactions and stings from vegetation.	Scythe users.	Guidance throughout all training.	Low to high dependant on activity.	Scythe users, scythe tutor.
Insect bites, stings and allergic reactions.	Scythe users.	Instructor should be made aware by any mowers of possible reactions to insect bites or stings.	Low to high dependant on activity.	Scythe users, scythe tutor.
Slips, trips & falls while mowing on site. Bumps from trees and other obstacles.	Scythe users.	Instructor and mowers should look over site prior to mowing activities to make sure problems are spotted and can be avoided where possible.	Low	Scythe users, scythe tutor.
Infections from ticks, rat urine, dog or cat faeces.	Scythe users.	Instructor should be informed by site users of potential hazards such as Wiels disease, Lymes disease or site use by domesticated pets. Precautions taken to avoid problems.	Low	Scythe users, scythe tutor.

