Example Risk Assessment – Removing tree guards.

Narrative and main points eg what you are doing, where and with whom.
Do you, or your organisation have insurance cover? ACT insurance covers Wildlife Wardens carrying out work specifically for wildlife.It covers Wildlife Wardens leading groups who aren't Wildlife Wardens, as long as they have taken additional WW training in leading work/walk groups

Names: ……

Task: Removing plastic tree protectors in young woodland on a sloping site half a mile from a road. Two wardens working on a dry winter's day. Secateurs will be used to loosen tree-guard ties. Some may have grown in and will need the plastic guard cut.

Location: ……. Grid ref/What3words: …..

Date and time: ….

Insurance: ACT policy

nb The Likelihood x Seriousness score should be 6 or under. If it is over 6 and no more than 12, then look for measures that will reduce the risk.
If it is over 12 then the task is too dangerous and needs to be completely re-thought.

Hazard (what might happen that hurts somebody?)	**Measures taken to prevent the problem**	**Likeli-hood 1-5**	**Serious-ness 1-5**	**L X S 6 or under acceptable.**
Slipping on slope or tripping over vegetation	Wear boots with good grip. Alert each other to areas that are especially slippery or have trip hazards.	2	3	6
Blackthorn or other thorn injuries – risk of infection.	Wear robust gloves and longs sleeves. Have secateurs/long-handled pruners to clear area around tree. Have first aid kit. Be aware of symptoms of infection (redness, swelling, feeling ill) and the importance of talking to a Doctor QUICKLY if feeling ill or bad swelling.	1	4	4

Getting cold.	Wear layers and take waterproofs. Pack hot drink and healthy snacks. Agree to stop task when either feels uncomfortable.	2	1	2
Splinter from removing wooden stakes	Wear gloves when pulling out stake. Carry first aid kit.	2	2	4
Cutting hand/arm when removing a grown-in guard.	Likelihood depends on the design of the guard. Some guards have to be cut down serrations, using a sharp blade; this should be done slowly with great care.	1	3	3
Requiring emergency help when at a distance from a road.	Make a note of the grid ref. beforehand and store in phone to give to emergency services.	1	5	5
Lyme disease	Wear long trousers and tuck into socks. Check for ticks and remove if present after task. Be aware of Lyme Disease symptoms and go to GP immediately if have any related symptoms. https://lymediseaseuk.com/prevention/	1	4	4

Table 1c

Risk Score

LIKELIHOOD	CONSEQUENCE				
	1 Insignificant	2 Minor	3 Moderate	4 Major	5 Catastrophic
1 - Rare	1	2	3	4	5
2 - Unlikely	2	4	6	8	10
3 - Possible	3	6	9	12	15
4 - Likely	4	8	12	16	20
5 - Almost Certain	5	10	15	20	25