

FORRES FRIENDS of WOODS and FIELDS: RISK ASSESSMENT

OPERATION: OPERATIONS, VOLUNTEER & PUBLIC SAFETY
 ASSESSOR: MICK DRURY

LOCATION: OUTDOOR SITES
 DATE : 7th Jan 2026, reviewed annually.

Hazard	Risk to trustees, volunteers, public	Risk level H/M/L	Existing controls. Further actions in bold.	Remaining risk level
Slips, trips, falls.	Sprains, strains.	M	Limited rough ground. Boots advised for work parties. First aid available. Continue to cut back blackthorn stumps & branches on external garden path as necessary.	L
Manual handling.	Sprains, strains.	M	Demonstrate good practice. Use barrow, trailer etc where possible.	M
Use of hand tools ... garden implements, saws, loppers etc.	Injury, accident.	M	Demonstrate use & safe carrying where necessary. Use of gloves, PPE where appropriate. First aid kit available.	L
Use of power tools, tractor, mower, other machinery.	Injury, accident.	H	Only trained/competent operators with PPE. In general use when volunteers absent. Signage when close to paths.	M
Vehicle usage.	Collision.	H	Limited access by vehicles onto site. Awareness of public use of tracks.	L
Trailer use.	Collision.	H	Competent drivers only. Ensure lights and brakes are working.	L
Weather.	Sunburn, dehydration, cold & wet leading to hypothermia.	L	Advice re clothing, suncream, fluid intake. Area not remote.	L
Children present.	Enhanced risk of injury, accident. Safeguarding.	M	Parents/guardians to be present, responsible for their children at all times and made aware	M

			of responsibilities.	
Ticks & insects.	Lyme disease. Bites & stings. Anaphylactic shock.	M	Advise re clothing and risk of tick bites, signs of lyme disease. Awareness of allergic reactions.	M
Fires.	Fire spreading through woodland or vegetation.	M	No burning in high wind nor when very dry. Fire must be supervised by responsible person. Check extinguished on leaving.	L
Medical issues.	Falling ill through allergic reactions, epilepsy, diabetes etc.	M	Volunteers advised to declare known issues and where medication etc kept. First aid cover.	L
Soil/water borne diseases. Sanitation. Poor hygiene.	Infection via Weil's, tetanus etc. Stomach upsets.	M	Compost loo has wash basin. Recommend using gloves and washing hands/using sanitiser before eating. Advise all re tetanus.	L
Contact with irritable or poisonous plants, fungi.	Allergic reactions, asthma. Stings. Poisoning.	M	Stress hygiene. First aid kit available. As above re personal medication.	L
Tree felling.	Injury, accident.	H	Tree felling allowed by volunteers with bowsaw up to 20cm diam max, with PPE. Chainsaw use by trained operators only. Contractors with separate insurance and certificated chainsaw users.	M
Horses, stock.	Aggressive reactions leading to injury.	M	No aggressive animals to be kept. Signage in place Chap Field especially re dogs. All advised to behave with consideration.	L
Electric stock fencing.	Shock.	M	Voltage low. Live fencing kept back from paths. Signage where public walk. Volunteers advised on site.	L
The river.	Work parties ... falling in, hypothermia, drowning.	H	River level usually low given flood scheme upstream. Avoid when higher.	L

Tree hazards.	Falling trees, deadwood.	H	Inspections annually, and after storms, alongside main paths, gathering places. Removal of hazardous trees, branchwood. Avoid woodland work in high winds. Signage when felling.	L
Bracken	Carcinogenic spores; ticks	H	Sporing rare. Check and avoid clearance in late summer when possible sporing; see above re ticks.	L

HEALTH & SAFETY.

Main first aid kit is kept in the shed at the garden, which is unlocked during garden sessions. Leaders carry other first aid kits.

Please read the above Risk Assessment.

Let us know of any medical conditions, allergies or concerns that you may have.

Accidents should be reported to first aider for recording in accident book.

Mick Drury, Julie Adam, George Paul, Ben Fretwell and Jane Oakeshott are first aid trained.

Please let us know if you hold a valid first aid certificate and are willing to be called on if necessary.