

FORRES FRIENDS of WOODS and FIELDS: RISK ASSESSMENT

OPERATION: OPERATIONS & VOLUNTEER SAFETY
 ASSESSOR: MICK DRURY
 2022

LOCATION: OUTDOOR SITES
 DATE : 25th July

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 kit available. Cut stumps at woodland gathering spot.	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 where necessary. Show safe carrying. Use of gloves, PPE where appropriate. First aid kit available.	L
Use of chainsaw, power tools, machinery.	Injury, accident.	H	Only trained/competent operators with PPE. Signage when close to paths.	M
Tree felling.	Injury, accident.	H	Instruction given. Small trees only with hand tools (under 15cm dbh). Chainsaw use as above for larger trees. Contractor where necessary. Signage.	M
Weather.	Sunburn, dehydration, cold & wet leading to hypothermia.	L	Advice re clothing, suncream, fluid intake. Area not remote.	L
Ticks & insects.	Lyme disease. Bites & stings. Anaphylactic shock.	M	Advise re clothing and risk of tick bites, signs of lyme disease. Awareness of allergic	M

			reactions.	
The river.	Work parties ... falling in, hypothermia, drowning.	H	River level usually low given flood scheme above. Avoid when higher.	L
Fires.	Fire spreading through woodland or vegetation.	M	No burning in high wind nor when very dry. Check extinguished on leaving.	L
Medical issues.	Falling ill through allergic reactions, epilepsy, diabetes etc.	M	Awareness. Advise volunteers to declare known issues and where medication etc kept. First aid kit.	L
Soil/water borne diseases.	Infection via Weil's, tetanus etc. Stomach upsets.	M	Stress hygiene. 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
Horses, stock.	Aggressive reactions leading to injury.	M	No aggressive animals to be kept. Signage 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. Disconnected when volunteers on site.	L
Children present.	Enhanced risk of injury, accident. Safeguarding.	M	Parents, guardians to be present and made aware of responsibilities.	M
Tree hazards.	Falling trees, deadwood.	H	Inspections annually alongside paths, gathering places. Removal of hazardous trees, branchwood. Avoid woodland work in high winds.	L
Bracken	Carcinogenic spores; ticks	H	Avoid clearance in late summer when possible spring; see above re ticks.	L

Vehicle usage.	Collision.	H	Limited access by vehicles onto sites. Awareness of public use of tracks.	L
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