

North Lancashire Community Forestry Project – Risk Assessment 001

LOCATION:	Newton Beck Woods Lancaster	ASSESSED BY:	
TASK:	Woodland work task	DATE:	

At the start of each session the leader will give introduction to site, ensure participants are aware of the general and specific hazards of the site and work and ensure inexperienced participants are given training and support until competent.

Hazards	Risks and to whom	Controls measures
Uneven/slippery/ steep ground conditions	Injury from falls Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warn participants as part of site safety talk Suitable footwear Avoid areas where conditions are especially bad e.g. very muddy/wet/icy
Remote site	Delayed response could put lives at risk Volunteers, site visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have working mobile phone -Check signal at start of day Identify location of nearest landline First aider/first aid kit on site Location of nearest A&E hospital Site location known eg. Postcode, grid reference, road name, local landmarks. Collate information on site emergency sheet at start of day and leave with first aid kit Identify emergency services rendezvous point
Biotic hazards - Dog faeces, hypodermic needles, poisonous plants Ticks	Infection Lymes disease Tetanus etc Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify any obvious problem areas at start - Avoid or remove hazard before work starts Protective clothing - gloves Awareness and training. Advise regular volunteers to ensure immunisations up to date
Weather conditions Hot/Cold/Wind/Snow/ Ice	Sunstroke, heat exhaustion, sunburn, dehydration, hyperthermia, hypothermia Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sun cream, sun hats, warm, windproof, waterproof clothing, Hot/cool drinks available. Check weather forecast at start and take appropriate action. Monitor weather conditions during day and leave site if risk exceeds safe limit.
Water features - river	Drowning All persons on site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify hazard - use signs/ hazard tape. Plan work to avoid hazard.
Existing personal health issues of volunteers	Work party members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declare pre-existing conditions likely to occur to task leader. Personal medication location known to leader.
Falling trees and branches due to natural factors or tree felling	Severe injury All persons on site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check work site for any obviously hazardous trees. Identify and avoid. Instruct volunteer in safe practice. Use PPE (hard hats) if appropriate.

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Use of hand tools	Cuts, lacerations, puncture wounds, contusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and instruction • Check tools for defects and do not use if faulty • Use of gloves and other PPE • Safe storage of tools on site, whilst in use and in transit
Manual handling	Musculoskeletal injury Crush injury Splinters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and instruction in safe handling techniques • Use aid tools or share loads. Avoid loads beyond capabilities. • Use gloves
Public access on site	Injury from work being undertaken Visitors to the site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs at public access points • Hazard tape to identify high risk areas • Banksman if operations affect path
Bonfires	Burns from close contact with flames or hot material Sparks Damage to wildlife Smoke drift	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain safe working distance from any chainsaw fuel stores, buildings, stacks of timber and public paths or roads. • Judge wind direction and strength and site fire to avoid smoke problems to neighbours or roads. • Do not use accelerants to light fires • Site fires out of direct work travel routes
Low/thorny branches	Injury to eyes from sharp twigs and thorns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protective goggles available for people to use if desired.