

Forres Community Woodland Trust : RISK ASSESSMENT

SITE LOCATION: Sanquhar Woods

OPERATION: Volunteer conservation work

ASSESSOR: Dan Puplett

DATE : 15th March 2021

| HAZARD | RISK TO VOLUNTEERS | RISK LEVEL H/M/L | EXISTING CONTROLS. FURTHER ACTIONS (BOLD) | REMAINING RISK LEVEL |
|---|--|---------------------|---|----------------------|
| Woodland terrain: steep slopes, uneven ground. | Slips, trips, falls and subsequent injury | M | Participants advised to take due care. Appropriate footwear to be worn. First aid provision. | M |
| High winds. | Falling trees, limbs | M | Check weather reports. Dynamic risk assessment to check worksite for hazardous branches or hung up trees. Avoid woodland work in high winds. | L |
| Cold, wet weather. | Hypothermia | L | Appropriate clothing to be worn. | L |
| Hot weather. | Sunburn, dehydration. | L | Check weather reports when possible. Advice on sun protection measures, clothing and the need to drink water. | L |
| Use of tools/equipment (including saws and loppers) for tree removal. | Cuts, amputation injuries | M | All volunteers to be given clear instructions and demonstration of safe tool. | L |
| Pulling up young trees | Strains, sprains. | M | Instruction in correct manual handling / pulling techniques. | L |
| Sharp branches and needles | Eye injury | M | Goggles provided for tree removal work. | L |
| Bracken removal | Cuts to hands caused by sharp stem fibres. | M | Gloves to be worn when handling bracken. Advise against pulling. | L |
| Tree planting | Back strain | L | Advice given on good planting technique. | L |
| Insects, ticks. | Bites, stings, Lyme disease. Anaphylactic shock. | M | Repellent used and appropriate clothing worn. First aid provision. All advised on procedures for reducing chances of being bitten by ticks, and instructions given tick removal and symptoms of Lyme disease. | M |
| Plants | Stings, rashes, scratches. | L | Appropriate clothing. Volunteers advised to avoid contact with giant hogweed. | L |
| Pollen/spores: allergy/asthma. | Allergy/asthma. | M | Known allergy sufferers to have medication. | L |
| Soil/water borne diseases. | Tetanus. Weil's disease, stomach upsets. | M | All advised to have vaccinations and boosters. Good personal hygiene, especially if in contact with water from burns. | L |
| Medical conditions. | Forgotten medicines, reoccurrence of conditions etc | M | Mobile phone and vehicle available for emergencies. | L |
| Lone working/walking. | Any of the above, and possibility of heart attack etc. | M | Avoid lone working | L |

Risk level = likelihood x severity. High, medium or low.