

Newbury and Thatcham Green Gym Risk Assessment NHS Commemorative Gardens, Newbury

Site is managed by Newbury Town Council. Contact is James Heasman. 07776 008611

A&E

Minor injuries – West Berkshire Community Hospital, RG18 3AS, 2.7 miles

A&E – Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital, RG24 9NA, 16 miles

A&E – Royal Berkshire Hospital, Craven Road, Reading, RG1 5AN, 21 miles

General Considerations:

Groups at risk at all Newbury and Thatcham Green Gym venues are volunteers and general public.

| Hazards | Typical outcomes | Controls | Risk level |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Weather: heat, cold, wet | Heat exhaustion, sunburn, hypothermia | Adequate clothing. In hot conditions: sun hats, high factor sun cream on exposed skin, stop working if ill attired or in discomfort; In cold, wet conditions: warm hats, gloves, waterproof jacket, waterproof trousers, hot & cold drinks | Slight as unlikely but harmful |
| Contact with hand tools | Cuts, grazes, blisters | Tools kept in good repair and fit for purpose Tools transported within tool bags with blades guards. Those not needed to be left in bags or in clear view so not to be a trip hazard Volunteers briefed on safe use of tools Safe working distances between volunteers Swinging tools not to be used with gloves or wet conditions First aid kit & first aiders attend every venue | Moderate as likely and harmful |
| Manual handling | Strains, lower back pain | If available, wheelbarrows to be used to transport heavier tools | Moderate as likely and harmful |
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| Contact with micro organisms | Contracting disease | Always wash hands or use gel before eating, drinking or smoking Wear gloves when handling soil Protect any cuts. Avoid contact with stream or pond water | Moderate as unlikely but very harmful |
| Irritant or poisonous plants | Blisters, burns | Warn of presence. Wear gloves and long sleeves, wash exposed skin thoroughly | Slight as unlikely and harmful |
| Insects | Bites or stings, Lyme disease | Wear long sleeves at all times, use insect repellent if present, identify wasp or bee nests & stop working in vicinity. Provide information on Lyme disease and importance of checking for ticks. Seek medical advice if concerned | Moderate as unlikely but very harmful |

Activities and site specific considerations

Public WC: None

| Hazards | Typical outcomes | Controls | Risk level |
|---------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| Traffic on surrounding roads | Danger of being hit by moving vehicles | Unload tools from bags away from traffic Be aware of moving vehicles | Slight as unlikely and harmful |
| Abuse or aggression from public | Stress, distress | Place warning signs at approaches to work area Keep paths clear of tools and debris Avoid working in isolation Avoid aggravating situation, walk away if necessary | Trivial as unlikely and slight harm |
| Discarded sharps | Minor cuts, sickness | Do not touch or move sharps, highlight location and inform NTC | Slight as unlikely and harmful |

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| Uncontrolled dogs | Dogs interfering with work | Warn of possibility of dogs causing a distraction in work area | Trivial as unlikely and slight harm |
| Dog faeces | Distress, mess on boots, disease | Warn of likely presence of dog faeces. If practical, remove from work area using bags | Moderate as likely and harmful |
| Weeding and edging | | | |
| Slips, trips and falls on uneven ground & stumps | Cuts, grazes, strains, sprains, breaks, puncture wounds, blood borne infections | Point out trip hazards at start of task Keep site tidy e.g. avoid obstruction with tool bags | Moderate as likely and harmful |
| Vegetation such as trees | Scratches, including to eyes | Use goggles and wear long sleeves and long trousers all year | Moderate as likely and harmful |
| Medicinal herbs and plants being tended | Cuts, scratches, burns | Care when handling any plant, wear gloves and long sleeves, wash exposed skin thoroughly | Slight as unlikely and harmful |