

Newbury and Thatcham Green Gym Risk Assessment Wokefield Common

Site is managed by BBOWT. See also BBOWT risk assessment

A&E

A&E – Royal Berkshire Hospital, Craven Road, Reading, RG1 5AN, 8 miles

A&E – Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital, RG24 9NA, 10 miles

Multiple entry points to site in addition to car parks.

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 in 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

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 & trousers 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
Chemicals	Burns, poisoning	Only qualified members to apply chemicals Safe use practices to be observed	Slight as unlikely and harmful

Activities and site specific considerations

Public WC: None

Hazards	Typical outcomes	Controls	Risk level
Traffic on fast roads and in car park	Danger of being hit by moving vehicles	Take care when crossing roads 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 BBOWT	Slight as unlikely and harmful

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
Scrub and path clearance			
Slips, trips and falls on uneven ground and roots, including on paths	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 brambles	Scratches, including to eyes	Use goggles and wear long sleeves and long trousers all year	Moderate as likely and harmful
Falling branches or trees Unexpected movement of timber	Cuts, scratches, head injuries	Demonstrate felling techniques and importance of clear escape route, danger of "kickback" Use hard hats when working in tree-felling area	Moderate as likely and harmful
Water hazards		Controls	Risk level
Slips, trips and falls near water or bog	Cuts, grazes, strains, sprains, drowning, getting stuck in quagmire	Point out trip hazards at start of task Do not work above water, such as overhanging trees Avoid lone working next to water Have a firm stance and do not overreach from bank Identify escape routes if member falls into water Only work where waters edge is visible, not obscured or undermined	Moderate as unlikely but harmful
Contact with harmful substances, rat faeces & bio hazards	Leptospirosis, hepatitis, ill health	Wear gloves Avoid working near contaminated water Always wash hands or use gels before eating, drinking or smoking	Moderate as unlikely but very harmful

