

Newbury and Thatcham Green Gym Risk Assessment Herbert Plantation

A&E

Access for emergency vehicles at main gate in Well Street RG20 9BG and RG20 4HA at bottom gate on Broken Way.

Minor injuries – West Berkshire Community Hospital, RG18 3AS, 5 to 5.8 miles

A&E – Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital, RG24 9NA, 13.8 to 14.9 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
Contact with micro organisms	Contracting disease	Always wash hands or use gel before eating, drinking or smoking Wear gloves when handling soil	Moderate as unlikely but very harmful

		Protect any cuts. Avoid contact with stream or pond water	
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
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 road	Danger of being hit by passing traffic	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
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

Rhododendron clearance			
Slips, trips and falls on uneven ground, especially cut 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
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
Bonfire		Controls	Risk level
Slips, trips and falls adjacent to bonfire	Cuts, grazes, strains, sprains, breaks	Point out trip hazards at start of task Locate fire on level ground, clearing any trip hazards from surrounding area	Moderate as likely and harmful
Flames	Burns	Place scrub on bonfire in controlled manner and move swiftly away Wear long sleeves and trousers to prevent burns Fire sited downwind of main work area A First Aid box with water and burns dressings to be available near the fire.	Moderate as likely and harmful
Fire spreading	Uncontrolled burning of scrub	Bonfire not to be left unattended Fire not lit in strong winds or drought conditions Fires should be turned in and made safe at the end of the day. The site owner/agent may well choose to do this later If available and necessary, use firebeater to extinguish spread	Moderate as unlikely but very harmful