

Newbury and Thatcham Green Gym Risk Assessment Bowdown Woods

Site is managed by BBOWT. See also BBOWT risk assessment

A&E

Access for emergency vehicles at reserve entrance off Burys Bank Road.

Minor injuries – West Berkshire Community Hospital, RG18 3AS, 4.9 miles

A&E – Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital, RG24 9NA, 13.7 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 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
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 in car park	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 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
Bracken clearance			
Slips, trips and falls on steep slopes which can be soft and slippery when wet, uneven ground including protruding tree roots	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
Scythe use	Injury from scythe as user or bystander	Do not carry scythe over shoulder – carry in right hand, horizontally with blade down and forward Ensure blade is firmly attached to snath Ensure no one within 2 snath lengths when using scythe Lay snath down with handles upwards and clearly visible	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	Moderate as unlikely but harmful

		Only work where waters edge is visible, not obscured or undermined	
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