

Colsterworth Nature Trail

Health and Safety at Work.

Activity Risk Assessment: Volunteers.

This form is a general Risk Assessment for all volunteers which may visit our site.

Group Leaders have a responsibility to assess the risk for their own

*groups; this form is provided to help with this assessment and identifies precautions which are taken **by Colsterworth Parish Council** which significantly reduce the identified risks.*

Name of site Colsterworth Nature Trail: -

Date of assessment

Parish Clerk / Nature Trail Volunteer Leader

Description of Hazard	Who is at risk and from what?	What action or precautions are needed?		Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Further action required, by who and when to be completed?
1. Mud, boggy ground	Volunteers and public are at risk of tripping over hazards or slipping on wet surfaces Including bridges and steep river banks. Thorns, spikes and uneven ground.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advise on risk and wear appropriate footwear/Avoid area where possible.• Encourage volunteers to walk, not run when on site Maintain the paths and steps in a good state of repair <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain paths and steps in good state of repair.• Volunteers report potential hazards to head Volunteer.• Walkways and group work areas kept clear.		Possible	Major	Medium	Monthly list completed by Volunteer leader.

2. Condition of signs. Benches, barriers, step and bridges,	Volunteers & Public are at risk of injury.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check on regular basis and repair or replace as necessary. 	Possible	Major	Medium	Volunteer monthly check.
3. Use of tools and equipment	Volunteers and public Are at risk of strain, injury, cuts. Distraction/ lacks of concentration . Injury from other peoples tools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear safety boots with non-slip soles. • Safety glasses and a face shield to reduce the risk. • Ear defenders or ear plugs should be worn if you are using a petrol or electric grass trimmer • Wear heavy-duty work gloves made of a durable material. • High viz jacket/vests provided and encouraged to be worn particularly when working away from the footpath. 	Possible	Major	Medium	Awareness training as part of volunteer induction.
4. Accidents or illness requiring first aid treatment.	Volunteers and public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First aid kit available. 	Possible	Medium	Medium	Awareness of basic first aid.
5. Poisonous/stinging plant/ dust/pollen/spores and bites and stings.	Volunteers and public at risk from scratches, infections and splinters. Poisoning from ingestion. Allergic reactions / rashes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protective footwear and clothing encouraged to be worn. • Provide safety goggles. • Clean and attend to broken skin. 	Possible	Medium	Low	Awareness part of volunteer induction.
6. Presence of snakes	Volunteers and public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer leader to be informed if snakes have been seen. • Appropriate level of instruction. 	Possible	Major	Low	Awareness training as part of volunteer induction.
7. Stream/river/open water	Volunteers and public at risk of falling in or being contaminated by dirty water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision by volunteer leader. • Throw lines to be available on site as appropriate. • Provide water -proof plasters and hand cleaner. • Stream/river area inspected prior to visit. • Ensure hands are washed after working with stream/river – especially before eating and drinking or smoking). • Weil's disease. 	Unlikely	Major	Low	Awareness training as part of volunteer induction.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stomach upset. 				
8. Dog/cat faeces	Volunteers and public at risk of diseases (toxoplasmosis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obvious deposits and bags removed and placed in dog waste bins situated on Nature Trail. Trust volunteers to be vigilant around picnic areas. 	Possible	Medium	Medium	Volunteer monthly check.
9. Nature trail bridge and steps & Steep slopes.	Volunteers and public at risk of loss of balance and falling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise on risk and wear appropriate footwear/avoid area where possible/keep clear down hill of operation. Check bridge and steps for overhanging vegetation. 	Possible	Major	Medium	Volunteer monthly check.
10. Ash Dieback (Fungus which kills trees and leaves them in a hazardous state)	Volunteers and public at risk of falling trees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out assessment of Ash trees to identify infected trees. Notify the Clerk of any infected trees. No access or work below infected trees. Use safe working distances. 	Possible	Severe	High	Volunteer monthly check. Annual Tree inspection by a qualified tree specialist.
11. Lifting and carrying	Volunteers at risk from strain & injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make volunteers aware of safe handling. Carry only manageable amounts. Make short frequent trips. Seek help from other volunteers. 	Possible	Major	Medium	Awareness training as part of volunteer induction.
12. Weather	Volunteers at risk from sunstroke/skin burn/cancer. Exposure/hypothermia/dehydration. Fatigue/exhaustion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check weather forecast, amend itinerary as necessary. Advise on risk. Wear appropriate clothing/sun screen. Advise on risk. Drink plenty of water. Leader watch for signs of fatigue/rest breaks. Restrict or stop work near trees in high winds. Restrict or stop work in slippery conditions. 	Possible	Major	Medium	Awareness training as part of volunteer induction.
13. Falling branches trees	Volunteers and public at risk from bruising, concussion,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforce safe working practices. Provide safety helmets. 	Possible	Major	Medium	Awareness training as part of volunteer induction.

	penetrating injuries.					
14. COVID-19	Working safely during Coronavirus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As far as possible, where people are split into teams, fixing these teams so that where contact is unavoidable, this happens between the same people. • Identifying areas where people have to directly pass things to each other, such as shared tools, materials or job instructions, and find ways to remove direct contact, for example by using drop-off points or transfer zones. • Minimising worker congregation at bottlenecks such as timeclocks, entrances and exits and maintaining social distancing during shift handovers. • Implementing one-way systems where possible on walkways around the workplace. • Separating sites into working zones to keep different groups of workers physically separated as much as practical. • Planning site access and 'area of safety' points to enable social distancing. • Areas closed to be closed and controlled when work is undertaken. • Volunteers to bring own refreshments and no sharing of these unless with someone from within the same household. 	Possible	Major	Medium	Awareness training to keep up to date with current Government guidelines.
Compliance	Workers and volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervisory role by lead Ranger or nominated Volunteer to monitor compliance with all of the above. 				Lead Ranger of nominated Volunteer.