

FRIENDS OF GEDLING HOUSE WOODS



Risk assessment

Activity:	Site visits
Applies to:	Committee members, other members and volunteers undertaking visits to assess, photograph or record any current situations School parties

Risk assessment revised: August 2021	Next review/revision: August 2024	Version number: 1.5
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Slips and falls					
Hazard	Persons at risk	Risk level	Control measures	Those responsible	Further action needed
Slips on muddy ground Trips over debris/fallen trees and branches / tree roots	All visiting the site	Medium	All visitors to wear substantial footwear (eg Wellington boots, strong walking shoes/boots or work boots). Wear clothing appropriate to conditions (eg waterproof coat if raining or sun protection if very hot). If temperature low, assess risk of ice before visit and If alone, must take mobile phone; if with others, at least one mobile phone needed. Where possible, avoid known areas of muddy ground; go round obstacles rather than over if above knee-height. Maintain vigilance for obstacles at all times; trees not to be climbed.	Each individual site visitor; leaders of school visits	Report any potential hazards noted during the visit so that action can be taken to remedy hazardous situations

Abuse/assault from others					
Hazard	Persons at risk	Risk level	Control measures	Those responsible	Further action needed
<p>Verbal or physical abuse, including threats, from others using the wood</p> <p>Attack by animals such as dogs</p>	All visiting the site	Low	<p>Avoid confrontational approaches if challenging a visitor to the woods.</p> <p>If abused verbally, remain calm; do not react in a way that might exacerbate the situation. If assaulted, defend yourself but do not retaliate.</p> <p>When safe to do so leave the area calmly, without putting yourself at risk by running.</p> <p>Report all abuse and assaults immediately to the police and in due course to the FGHW committee.</p> <p>Establish, where possible, good working relationships between the FGHW members and users of the woods.</p> <p>If bitten by an animal, seek medical help immediately to avoid any infection developing.</p>	Each individual site visitor; leaders of school visits	Inform FGHW committee so that any pattern of human or animal activity can be logged and investigated.

Contracting infection or illness					
Hazard	Persons at risk	Risk level	Control measures	Those responsible	Further action needed
<p>Infections through contact with soil/faeces/vegetation</p> <p>Illness through ingesting vegetation</p> <p>Insect bites, stings, etc</p>	All visiting the site	Low	<p>If in contact with any potential contaminant, ensure hands are washed thoroughly afterwards.</p> <p>Do not eat any plants unless known to be edible (eg blackberries) and do not eat fungi under any circumstances without professional identification.</p> <p>Do not participate if you have an allergy to insect stings or bites, or to plants.</p> <p>Avoid nettles, thorns and insect nests</p>	Each individual site visitor; leaders of school visits	Seek medical help if symptoms appear after participation in these activities. Report any incident of illness or poisoning to the FGHW committee.
<p>Covid pandemic additions</p>	All visiting the site	Low	<p>Maintain social distance or, if in closer contact, consider wearing face masks.</p>	Each individual site visitor; leaders of school visits	Notify member of FGHW committee if outbreak occurs