

## CATTON PARK WORKING IN THE WOODLAND UNDER TREES RISK ASSESSMENT

<b>Hazards</b> <i>List significant hazards that may result in serious harm or affect people in the party.</i>	<b>Risk</b> <i>Indicate the level of risk involved</i>	<b>Who might be harmed?</b> <i>List groups of people who are especially at risk from the hazards identified.</i>	<b>Is the risk adequately controlled?</b> <i>List existing controls or note where information may be found. (e.g. information, instruction training, systems or procedures)</i>	<b>What further actions are needed to control the risk?</b> <i>List the risks that are not adequately controlled and propose actions that are needed to reduce or eliminate the risks.</i>	<b>Out-come</b>
<b>Working in Woodland area:</b>  Canopy hazards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broken bones, crushing, head injuries, bruising, scratches from falling wood</li> </ul>	HIGH/ MEDIUM	All in group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leader to visually carry out a daily site at the beginning of the day. Care to be taken not to base any static activities under standing or hanging dead wood in the canopy.</li> <li>Woodland areas are not safe to use in high winds, so an alternative site should be identified to use in these conditions such as the fenced in picnic area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess wind strength and direction on day. If too windy do not enter woodland.</li> <li>If weather conditions change during the session, teacher to lead group out of tree cover via the shortest route and an alternative area should be used.</li> <li>In autumn do not base activities under Sweet Chestnut trees, due to falling seeds.</li> </ul>	LOW
<b>Working in Woodland area:</b>  Shrub layer hazards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bruising or crushing injuries from falling wood</li> <li>Scratches and cuts from thorns</li> <li>Eye injury from poking hazards</li> </ul>	MEDIUM	All in group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area of woodland carefully checked and maintained for public use.</li> <li>Leader to visually carry out a daily site check at the beginning of the day.</li> <li>Some hazards may be removed if in areas of high frequency of use e.g. cutting back of thorny plants from pathways, removal of hanging dead wood (using safe procedures) if over an area in frequent use and if is within reach.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Warn group of any particular site hazards.</li> <li>Inform group of any unsafe areas (e.g. thorny bushes, dense areas of branches at eye height) and mark these visually if appropriate for group.</li> </ul>	LOW
<b>Working in Woodland area:</b>  Ground layer hazards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minor injuries e.g. twisted ankles, scratches, bruises, nettle stings</li> </ul>	LOW	All in group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area of woodland carefully checked and maintained for public use.</li> <li>Leader to visually carry out a daily site check at beginning of the day.</li> <li>If possible, move any trip hazards that are across main pathways.</li> <li>Remove any litter found if possible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure group are all wearing appropriate footwear (boots, wellies).</li> <li>Warn group of any particular hazards on site.</li> <li>Teach young children to walk by lifting feet higher than normal when walking on leaf litter.</li> <li>Only walk (do not run) when in woodland.</li> <li>Make group aware of any patches of nettles or brambles and how to avoid them.</li> </ul>	LOW

<b>Poisoning, e.g.:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yew/Yew berries</li> <li>• Bluebells</li> <li>• Various Fungi</li> <li>• Holly berries</li> </ul>	MEDIUM	Mainly Pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check for any poisonous plants on site and if any are present make all adults aware of location and identifiable traits.</li> <li>• Wash hands before eating – carry clean water, hand gel and/or wet wipes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure pupils do not put any objects or dirty fingers in mouths.</li> <li>• Encourage good food hygiene practice if eating outside.</li> </ul>	LOW
<b>Fall and Slips if Climbing/balancing</b>	MEDIUM	Pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leader/Warden will identify trees/logs that are safe to climb/balance on and ensure all are aware of any unsafe trees.</li> <li>• Ensure ground below climbing area is clear of any hazards (i.e. impalement hazards) and is relatively soft.</li> <li>• Only allow appropriate number of children to climb/ balance on tree at any one time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure pupils do not climb on slippery, dead, sharp or otherwise unsafe trees.</li> <li>• Mark unsafe trees visually if appropriate. Consider weather conditions for climbing.</li> <li>• Adult supervision, as appropriate, if pupils are climbing/ balancing.</li> <li>• Ensure young pupils do not climb out of adult reach.</li> </ul>	LOW
<b>Man-made hazards:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Litter</li> <li>• Fencing</li> <li>• gates</li> </ul>	MEDIUM	All in group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catton Park Warden/staff carefully maintain site.</li> <li>• Litter is collected and fences/gates are maintained.</li> <li>• Leader to visually carry out a daily site check at the beginning of the day. Some hazards such as litter may be safely removed from site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warn of any specific hazards present.</li> <li>• Appropriate supervision.</li> <li>• Assign an adult to hold open gates whilst pupils pass through, and ensure all fingers are clear before closing.</li> </ul>	LOW

**Notes:** Please use this Woodland Site Risk Assessment in conjunction with the **CATTON PARK GENERAL RISK ASSESSMENT** and **PARKLAND RISK ASSESSMENT**  
You should use this document to create your own Risk assessments, appropriate to the activities you are planning and the specific children in the group.

Reviewed: February 2021