

## 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 visually carries out a daily site check at beginning of day. Taking care 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 fence 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 session, teacher to lead group out of tree cover via the shortest route and alternate area 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 visually carries out a daily site check at beginning of day.</li> <li>• Some hazards may be removed if in areas of high frequency of use eg. cutting back of thorny plants from pathways, removal of hanging dead wood (using safe procedures) if over area in frequent use, if in reach.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warn group of any particular hazards of the site</li> <li>• Inform group of any unsafe areas (eg. 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 eg 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 visually carries out a daily site check at beginning of 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 of site.</li> <li>• Teach young children to walk by lifting feet higher than normal when walking on leaf litter.</li> <li>• Only walk 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 daily site check and if any 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 practise 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 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, litter is collected, fences and gates maintained.</li> <li>• Leader visually carries out a daily site check at beginning of 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 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.