

RISK ASSESSMENT	Emergency Services / Mountain Rescue	999	TASK	Path Work
FRIENDS OF NEVIS	Police - Fort William	01397 702 361	DOCUMENT	RA02
NEVIS LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP	Belford Hospital - Fort William	01397 702481	TEAM REVIEWED Date for revision	26/04/21 April 2022

PRIOR TO THE EVENT THE LEADER MUST: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check weather forecast • Review this risk assessment and update as necessary • Ensure correct PPE is available for all staff and volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure First Aider present at all events • Ensure First Aid Kit is complete and present at all events. 	PRIOR TO THE EVENT THE VOLUNTEER MUST: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Come appropriately dressed for weather conditions and activity • Read this risk assessment and seek clarification where necessary • Ensure leader is aware of any relevant medical conditions.
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COMMON HAZARDS	WHO IS AT RISK?	RISK RATING	CONTROL MEASURES	RESIDUAL RISK
Pathwork	Slips trips and falls	Staff Volunteers Public	Medium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site familiarisation, noting potential hazards and ground conditions • Tool talk to cover keeping tools and materials stored safely and tidily • Appropriate footwear with ankle support 	Low
	Borrow Pits – Collapse of sides, potential to fall into	Staff Volunteers Public	Medium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not to leave pits unattended unless taped off. • Borrow pits to be no deeper than 1m • No lone working in a borrow pit • Once the borrow pit is finished with, it should be filled in with excess stone and spoil, and carefully landscaped with turfs 	Low
	Public Access through work sites	Public Staff Volunteers	Medium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff & Volunteers to wear hi viz vests • Where possible install a bypass route. • Warning signs to be located at both ends of the worksite • Make site safe at the end of the working day, holes should be filled in or taped off. • Stop work and assist people to move through site safely 	Low
Kit	PPE	Staff Volunteers	Medium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steel toe capped boots must be worn. • Tool talk to cover when Gloves, eye protection and hard hats should be worn. 	Low
	Incorrect use of tools causing injury to yourself or others.	Staff Volunteers	Medium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tool talk to cover the correct use of tools • Correct methods for carrying tools to site • Hand tools not to be carried round in pockets 	Low
	Damaged tools causing injury to yourself or others.	Staff Volunteers	Medium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader to ensure all tools are in good working order prior to event • Volunteers to inform leader of tool damage occurring during the activity and obtain a replacement. 	Low
Weather	Hot/Sunny/cloudy – sunburn, sunstroke, dehydration Wind chill effect – Not feeling effect of sunburn	Staff Volunteers	Medium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise all to wear sun hats, cover up bare skin, use sunblock. • Provide drinking water and encourage everyone to drink water frequently. Check colour of pee. • Provide more frequent rest breaks and where possible introduce shading to rest areas • Educate all about recognising the early symptoms of heat stroke • If necessary end activity early to avoid people becoming overly fatigued. • In very hot weather, avoid mid day working • Consider rescheduling / changing the activity. 	Low
	Cold/Rain/Winter Conditions – Hypothermia, muscle strain Wind chill effect – reducing ambient temperature further.	Staff Volunteers	Medium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all people are dressed appropriately for the weather conditions, warm clothing, full waterproofs and boots, warm hats and gloves • Provide hot drinks such as soup, tea, coffee • Carry storm shelter • Encourage volunteers to warm up after breaks to avoid muscle strain • Educate all about recognising the early symptoms hypothermia. • If necessary, end activity early • Consider rescheduling / changing the activity 	Low

Work Environment	Difficult ground conditions e.g. steep slopes, boggy, uneven terrain, dense undergrowth, fallen trees – slips, trips and falls, fatigue, danger from carrying tools and materials to site.	Staff Volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure all people are wearing appropriate footwear for the ground conditions and activity, preferably with good ankle support Tool talk to cover safe methods of transporting tools to site Share the burden of heavy loads Walk at a pace appropriate to ground conditions Be aware of others walking close to you especially when carrying tools 	Low
	Minibus loading/unloading – danger from other road users, tools left on road being a hazard to other road users.	Staff Volunteers Public	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where possible park minibus to allow passengers to disembark away from the flow of traffic Allow space for unloading / loading tools Do not block public roads Where necessary appoint two people wearing hi-vis vests to manage traffic 	Low
Manual Handling	Lifting heavy / awkward objects - Back strain and muscle strain, trapped fingers, heavy falling objects	Staff Volunteers	Medium	<p>When lifting heavy objects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan the lift, bend at the knees, select the route and ensure it is free from tripping hazards Never be afraid to ask for assistance Never attempt a two-person job on your own and communicate with your lifting partner Know your limits Wear work gloves if advised to Wear steel toe capped boots 	Low
Insect bites / Disease	Midge – reaction to midge bites	Staff Volunteers	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take along an appropriate insect repellent Take along a head net when appropriate Wear long sleeves and trousers 	Low
	Lymes Disease - Is transmitted by the bite of an infected tick.	Staff Volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep your legs and arms covered, tuck socks into trousers. Try not to brush against vegetation Wear light clothing: ticks are easier to spot and brush yourself down before getting in the minibus or going in doors. Check your skin for ticks after the event tick bites are painless and can go unnoticed Remove ticks as soon as possible using a tick remover. DO NOT squash the tick or apply any creams, oils or heat to the tick (if you put a tick under pressure, you may pump its saliva and stomach contents into you!) Remember you have been bitten and see your doctor if you develop symptoms 	Low
	Weils disease (Leptospirosis) - Workers in contact with canal and river water are at risk. This is a serious and sometimes fatal infection that is transmitted to humans by contact with urine from infected rats. Flu like symptoms, headaches, vomiting	Staff Volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't touch animals with unprotected hands. Wash cuts and grazes immediately with soap and running water and cover all cuts and broken skin with waterproof plasters before and during work. Wear protective clothing. Wash your hands after handling any animal, or any contaminated clothing or other materials and always before eating, drinking or smoking. See your doctor if you develop symptoms 	Low
	Tetanus	Staff Volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff & volunteers are advised to ensure their tetanus vaccination is up to date. 	Low