

CFCG Conservation Work Risk Assessment

It is the policy of the CFCG to do all that is reasonably possible to ensure the safety of those undertaking conservation activities on Clausementum Fen. This Health and Safety document outlines the main risks that might be encountered during work on the Fen that should be taken to reduce and avoid these risks.

Whilst every care has been taken to identify all potential significant risks, this is a guidance document only and you should be aware that you may encounter unexpected risks that are not outlined below.

It is the duty of all participants to practice extreme care and common sense and not to take risks. It is vital always to be aware of the presence of other people.

Clothing- depends on the weather but long trousers are essential. In winter old warm clothes, boots or wellingtons. Strong gloves if you have them, and a waterproof. Sun hats and cream in summer.

You should be reasonably fit. You attend at your own risk but we have never had any more serious problems than stings from nettles and scratches from brambles!.The Fen is uneven and marshy in places underfoot and we will mainly be clearing vegetation

| Hazard | Control measures |
|---|---|
| Injury from the use of hand tools. | Use tools sensibly and ask if you are not certain how to use them. Scythes should only be used by those who have had appropriate instruction. Powered tools are not to be used. |
| Injury or death due to collision with vehicles when crossing roads or walking on pavements/verges | Take care when crossing roads. |
| Accident or injury from trips, slips and falls due to holes, hidden obstacles, wet ground, etc | Walk slowly and be aware of the possibility of obstacles. |
| Minor injuries through contact with vegetation or man-made objects | Always take care and notify the leader of any minor injury |
| Bites, stings and cuts from insects, etc. | Use insect repellent if required. |
| Lyme Disease | Check and remove any ticks on clothes or body after meeting. If symptoms occur indicative of Lyme Disease seek medical advice . |
| Leptospirosis (Weil's disease), Cryptosporidium and other diseases caused by indirect contact with rats, cattle, etc. | Wash hands after working in water. |

| Hazard | Control measures |
|---|--|
| Muscle or ligament strains and sprains, including back injury. | Be thoughtful when lifting and moving material. Take it slowly and reduce the volumes transported if you feel you are under strain. Lift with a straight back and avoid twisting |
| Falling into water with the risk of becoming hypothermic or drowning. Becoming stuck in the mud. | Nobody should work alone in the water and waders should be worn. If it is becoming difficult to walk through the mud then consider abandoning that activity. Consider reducing the water level in the Fen before working in the water. |
| Illness or discomfort due to exposure to wind, rain or other adverse weather conditions | Be prepared for all types of weather.. Wear appropriate clothing during meetings. |
| Conditions related to extreme weather conditions (sunburn, heat exhaustion, hypothermia, injury or death from wind-blown trees and limbs, etc.) | Check weather forecast prior to meeting. Check email / phones for messages as meetings may be cancelled or postponed in cases of extreme weather. |
| Burns or smoke inhalation from bonfire. | There should be an adult supervising at all times. Stand well back, away from the direction of wind. Wait for the fire to die down before adding more material. |

Reviewed at AGM

April 2024