**RISK ASSESSMENT – FTNCG – Forest Town, Mansfield, UK. Covering: Fencing, General Conservation Activities, Pond, stream and wetland work, Scrub & Bramble clearance, strimming / bushcutting** (Last updated: 11th December 2015) **APPROVED Work Description: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Valid to: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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| **Activity** |  |  |
| **Fencing activities** | **Typical uncontrolled outcomes** Ill Health from chemical ingestion; sprains and bruises; minor cuts; concussion; broken fingers. | **Typical groups at risk** Worker (inc. volunteers); other users of the site. |
| **Hazards**   1. Handling wire (new and reclaimed) 2. Contact with hand tools generally 3. Use of mell (mallet) and post driver 4. Slips, trips and falls | **Controls**   1. Protective gloves will be worn when handling treated timber and all wire. 2. Lose ends of wire rolls will be weighted or fixed firmly before wire is unrolled. 3. Holes must be covered when the site is left unattended. 4. Fence line must be kept free of obstructions to prevent slips and trips. 5. Helmets must be worn when post driver and mell is used. |
| **General Conservation Activities** | **Typical uncontrolled outcomes** Minor cuts and bruises; burns; lower back pain; verbal abuse; electric shock; contracting disease; blisters; sunburn. | **Typical groups at risk** Volunteers; workers; members of the public |
| **Hazards**   1. Contact with plant sap 2. Weather conditions. 3. Contact with hand tools 4. Contact with micro-organisms such as tetanus, Leptospirosis 5. Slips, trips and falls (e.g. due to incline) 6. Manual handling 7. Abuse/attack from member of the public 8. Abuse of vulnerable client group | **Controls**   1. Keep site and materials tidy. 2. Plan any lifting, train in simple lifting procedures and provide carrying aids e.g. wheelbarrow. 3. Use and maintain tools according to manufacturer’s recommendations. 4. Sturdy footwear must be worn. 5. Leave no one isolated on site. 6. Wash hands before eating drinking and smoking. Protect any cuts, advise all workers to ensure tetanus inoculation. Avoid contact with stream or pond water. 7. Wear long sleeves when working close to hazardous plants. Identify any on site. 8. Advise workers to keep skin covered, and use high factor sun cream on exposed skin. Stop work when weather conditions deteriorate. 9. Park vehicle to unload away from traffic. Park vehicles to enable quick access and departure in case of emergency. 10. Train volunteers in safe lifting, carrying and moving techniques as appropriate. 11. Wash hands and handtools after work. |
| **Pond, stream and wetland work** | **Typical uncontrolled outcomes** Death by drowning; cuts and bruises; leptospirosis; hepatitis; ill health; back and other muscle strains. | **Typical groups at risk** Practical workers. |
| **Hazards**   1. Deep or fast flowing water 2. Manual handling wet materials 3. Contact with rats urine, faeces and other bio-hazards 4. Slips, trips and falls | **Controls**   1. Wash hands with soap and water before eating, drinking or smoking. 2. Ensure workers have a firm stable stance before using tools or handling wet material. 3. Use handling aid to move wet materials 4. Use waders, line and PPE as appropriate 5. Never work in the water alone |
| **Bramble clearance** | **Hazards**   1. Prickles 2. Tripping | **Controls**   1. Workers to wear long-sleeved clothing - trousers and thick (e.g. leather) gloves 2. Cut waste to manageable size and stack out of harms' way 3. Wear sensible shoes |
| **Scrub Clearance** | **Hazards**   1. Repetitive bending | **Controls**   1. Take adequate breaks and bend with the knees |
| **Strimming / Brush cutting** | **Hazards**   1. Oil/petrol spilling or being set alight 2. Danger to members of the public (and their dogs) using the path while activity is taking place, e.g. flying debris 3. Injury to operative, e.g. flying debris | **Typical groups at risk**  Operatives, volunteers, general public and dogs  **Controls**   1. Do not leave oil/petrol, brush cutter or strimmer unattended 2. Signage at entrances to warn visitors 3. At least one person and front and one behind to protect members of the public (and their dogs) 4. Stop strimming/brush cutting if member of public gets too close (use whistle to alter operative) 5. Only those trained to use brush cutter can use brush cutter, change blades, etc. 6. Correct PPE to be worn 7. Remove stones and loose debris before srtrimming/brush cutting 8. Equipment to be properly maintained 9. No smoking near the oil/petrol |

**E-mail suggestions to** [**spa.ponds@gmail.com**](mailto:spa.ponds@gmail.com) **- Document informed by risk assessments by TCV and Buckinghamshire County Council**