

## Forestry Commission

### East of England

#### Landowner's site risk assessment

**The main site hazards for forest land are listed below, along with appropriate controls to reduce the risk. The list of controls is not exhaustive and must be made relevant to each activity.**

The Forestry Commission require you to adhere to the bylaws at all times, except where you have specific permission to carry out an activity which contravenes the bylaws. If you require a copy of the bylaws please contact the district office on 01842 810271.

In particular please note that:

- ◆ Vehicles (by prior agreement only) may only enter the forest through a barrier on a track (key available from Recreation Ranger); barriers must be closed and locked after use.
- ◆ Vehicles must be kept to tracks and rides within the forest.
- ◆ The speed limit of 15mph must be obeyed.
- ◆ You must not leave any litter.
- ◆ You must not leave any materials or equipment in the forest without the prior agreement of the Forestry Commission.

Forest environment	Wild animals & insects; ticks, rats, snakes, bees, wasps, etc.	<p>Advise event participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not touch or pick up wild animals, reptiles or insects.</li> <li>Check clothing &amp; body for ticks after event.</li> <li>Wear appropriate clothing.</li> <li>Use appropriate insect repellent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FC staff safety advice card: Leptospirosis (Weils disease).</li> <li>FC staff safety advice card: Lyme disease.</li> </ul>
	Dead, dying & dangerous trees. The forest contains large quantities of all tree condition categories.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Event organiser to report dangerous trees to FC staff. Agree alternative route if necessary.</li> <li>Leave forest if wind rises above Beaufort scale 7 (Near gale; 51 - 62 km/h; 28-33 knots; Whole trees in motion; inconvenience felt when walking against wind). Risk of tree fall varies with soil wetness and leaf cover.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FC Dangerous Tree Policy</li> </ul>
Forest operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Machinery movement in forest &amp; on tracks/roads.</li> <li>Tree felling.</li> <li>Shooting.</li> <li>Civil engineering.</li> <li>Vegetation management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operations generally Monday-Friday only. Weekend working by special arrangement only.</li> <li>Event planner to consult with Operations team.</li> <li>Obey warning signs.</li> <li>Do not approach working machinery because of risk zone &amp; limited visibility.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operations team</li> <li>Countryside agency; open access website.</li> </ul>
Forest roads and tracks and their verges	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Road &amp; track running surface: potholes, fallen trees &amp; branches, old logs, vegetation, mud, ice, loose surface material (gravel &amp; sand).</li> <li>Access/exit points on to county road.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Event organiser to assess quality of access &amp; brief participants.</li> <li>Private vehicles recommended to stay on stone forest roads. Grass tracks have increased risk of being uneven and having unstable &amp; hazardous running surface.</li> <li>Warning notices to be placed at county road access/exit points.</li> <li>Advise participants to drive with due care and attention at all times.</li> <li>Forest speed limit 15 mph.</li> <li>Weather changes forest road &amp; track surfaces.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning team.</li> </ul>
Man made features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overhead services</li> <li>Underground services</li> <li>Mobile phone masts</li> <li>Water tanks</li> <li>Fences</li> <li>Barriers</li> <li>Buildings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consult service providers to find out the location of hazards (the Forestry Commission hold some information but cannot guarantee that it is comprehensive).</li> <li>Do not enter or use any structure without consent.</li> <li>Old fence lines beneath vegetation.</li> <li>Ensure swing barriers are locked open or shut.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FC Planning team.</li> </ul>

Members of the public	FC Freehold land; CRoW grants pedestrians a legal right of access.  Permissive access: cyclists, horse riders & permit holders e.g. vegetation surveyors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Event organiser's risk assessment to identify public safety implications. If public exclusion is necessary then formal forest closure.</li> <li>Public warning signs and route marshals.</li> <li>Large events to avoid high access areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FC Planning team.</li> <li>Countryside Agency web site.</li> </ul>
	FC leasehold land; restricted public access.	Event organiser's risk assessment to identify public safety implications. Access management as appropriate.	
	Access for third parties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domestic &amp; business access routes.</li> <li>Forest tenants; farming &amp; sporting</li> </ul>	Obtain the agreement of householders or other third party access holders prior to restricting their right of access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FC Planning team.</li> <li>FC Estates team.</li> </ul>
	Unlawful vehicular access by joy riders, motorbikes, etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report all sightings of suspected illegal activity to the police (999) or the district office (01842 810271)</li> </ul>	
Fire	Forest vegetation fires & arson (dumped cars, etc).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you see a fire report its location to the Fire Brigade on 999 immediately.</li> <li>DO NOT light any fires without prior permission.</li> <li>Do not smoke in the forest during periods of high or extreme fire danger, and always make sure cigarettes are properly extinguished.</li> <li>If operations you are carrying out may cause sparks, ensure you have a water supply available and check the site before leaving.</li> <li>Vehicle exhaust pipes have been known to set dead vegetation on fire. Monitor traffic areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forest Operations for Fire Danger rating.</li> </ul>

## Risk Assessment and Emergency planning

Event organisers should undertake an event specific risk assessment taking into consideration the landowners risk assessment above, any site specific constraints identified and the actual event activity. Emergency planning is essential for any event. Consider:

- Emergency access and egress points.
- First aid provision.
- Communications.
- Who does what?
- Record it.