



Forestry Commission

East Anglia

Landowner's site risk assessment

The main site hazards for forestland 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 time, 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 the district office at Santon Downham); 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 beat forester (contact the district officer).



Hazard	Description of Hazard	Controls & Advice	Information
Forest environment	<p>Uneven terrain: Most local ground is fairly firm and free of severe changes in slope. The following features can create access problems & hazards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earth banks, sand holes, stumps, ditches, wet areas and other naturally occurring ground features. • Wild animals create scrapes and holes in the ground, often overnight. • Forest operations can create uneven ground conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event organiser must visit site and familiarise with the site access routes, terrain characteristics. • Take into account the time span between application and running the event. Site characteristics will change with season, weather & operations. • Identify & discuss ideas & needs for route preparation; cutting, leveling, marking, etc. • Event organiser to brief staff & participants of risks & controls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FC operational hazards & conservation mapping info. • FC Planning & Environment Officer.
	<p>Vegetation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility quality changes with seasonal vegetation growth. Ground visibility reduces in summer & obstructions or trip hazards are obscured. • Plants such as brambles & nettles and can cause scratches & stings or skin rashes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All people associated with the event should ensure Tetanus protection is up to date. • Event organiser to brief staff & participants of potential risks. • Event emergency response action plan. 	
	<p>Weather:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes ground conditions. • Extreme cold or heat. • High Winds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate clothing to match season. • Provision of water/hot drinks as appropriate. • Identify conditions that would cause event to be cancelled. • 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. • Frost & rain change ground conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met office website 5 day forecast. • FC staff safety advice card: Avoiding Hypothermia. • FC staff safety advice card: Working outside in the sun.

Forest environment	Wild animals & insects; ticks, rats, snakes, bees, wasps, etc.	<p>Advise event participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not touch or pick up wild animals, reptiles or insects. • Check clothing & body for ticks after event. • Wear appropriate clothing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FC staff safety advice card: Leptospirosis (Weils disease). • FC staff safety advice card:
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	Dead, dying & dangerous trees. The forest contains large quantities of all tree condition categories.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use appropriate insect repellent. Event organiser to report dangerous trees to FC staff. Agree alternative route if necessary. 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. 	<p>Lyme disease.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FC Dangerous Tree Policy
Forest operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Machinery movement in forest & on tracks/roads. Tree felling. Shooting. Civil engineering. Vegetation management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operations generally Monday-Friday only. Weekend working by special arrangement only. Event planner to consult with Operations team. Obey warning signs. Do not approach working machinery because of risk zone & limited visibility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operations team Countryside agency; open access website.
Forest roads and tracks and their verges	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Road & track running surface: potholes, fallen trees & branches, old logs, vegetation, mud, ice, loose surface material (gravel & sand). Access/exit points on to county road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event organiser to assess quality of access & brief participants. Private vehicles recommended to stay on stone forest roads. Grass tracks have increased risk of being uneven and having unstable & hazardous running surface. Warning notices to be placed at county road access/exit points. Advise participants to drive with due care and attention at all times. Forest speed limit 15 mph. Weather changes forest road & track surfaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning team.
Man made features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overhead services Underground services Mobile phone masts Water tanks Fences Barriers Buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult service providers to find out the location of hazards (the Forestry Commission hold some information but cannot guarantee that it is comprehensive). Do not enter or use any structure without consent. Old fence lines beneath vegetation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FC Planning team.
Members of the public	<p>FC Freehold land; CRoW grants pedestrians a legal right of access.</p> <p>Permissive access: cyclists, horse riders & permit holders e.g. vegetation surveyors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event organiser's risk assessment to identify public safety implications. If public exclusion is necessary then formal forest closure. Public warning signs and route marshals. Large events to avoid high access areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FC Planning team. Countryside Agency web site.
	<p>FC leasehold land; restricted public access.</p>	<p>Event organiser's risk assessment to identify public safety implications. Access management as appropriate.</p>	



	<p>Access for third parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic & business access routes. • Forest tenants; farming & sporting 	<p>Obtain the agreement of householders or other third party access holders prior to restricting their right of access.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FC Planning team. • FC Estates team.
	<p>Unlawful vehicular access by joy riders, motorbikes, etc</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report all sightings of suspected illegal activity to the police (999) or the district office (01842 810271) 	
Fire	<p>Forest vegetation fires & arson (dumped cars, etc).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you see a fire report its location to the Fire Brigade on 999 immediately. • DO NOT light any fires without prior permission. • Do not smoke in the forest during periods of high or extreme fire danger, and always make sure cigarettes are properly extinguished. • If operations you are carrying out may cause sparks, ensure you have a water supply available and check the site before leaving. • Vehicle exhaust pipes have been known to set dead vegetation on fire. Monitor traffic areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Operations for Fire Danger rating.