



Woodland Risk Assessment

Location: Tonacliffe Primary School

Assessor: Charlotte Clutterbuck

Assessment Date: 31.8.22

Review Date: 1.5.23

DESCRIPTION OF SITE:

Owner: Lancashire County Council. PO Box 78, County Hall, Fishergate, Preston, Lancashire, PR1 8XJ

The deciduous wood is a copse and is adjacent to grazing moorland with a stream running alongside it (stream dries out in the spring and summer months).

It is close to the school building and domestic housing to the rear.

There is a public footpath which runs parallelly with a variety of public access, particularly dog walkers.

Shooting: No access.

Debris: There is a small amount of debris in the site which appears to have been left by children who play on the site out of school hours, such as; food wrappers, small pieces of carpet and a garden chair. There is some litter found along the public footpath, including food wrappers, dog poo bags etc. However, this is not extensive.

Animals: Cattle are currently accessing the site and causing damage to the flora and fauna. The forest floor is often covered in cow faeces. However, once the fence is erected, this should prevent the cows from entering the site.

Dogs: Currently, the site is open to the public; there are many signs of dog faeces within the site. However, once the fence is erected and the public footpath maintained, this should prevent the dogs from entering the site.

Flora and Fauna: There is a variety of deciduous trees and ground fauna that has created a habitat for different birds, insects and mammals. The leaf litter is plentiful.

Access: The site is accessed from Tonacliffe Way, via the public footpath which runs adjacent to the school. We travel to and from the site on foot and enter and exit school via the front or side school gate. The security of the site will be maintained by closing and locking the gates after entering and upon leaving.

Vehicles: Only authorised vehicles needed for works, such as: diggers for public footpath works will be permitted. Otherwise, no vehicles are permitted into the site and the size and access of the site is not conducive to vehicle access.

Water: There is one shallow stream which runs adjacent to the site and is completely dry throughout the latter of spring and summer months. This is need of some conservation. A large puddle, caused by drainage from the school field is present on site during the autumn and winter and needs some conservation.

Interesting Features: Largely oak trees, on once what was open moorland.

Telephone Access: Mobile phone signal strength has been checked on all networks and has full signal throughout the site. The nearest landline is at Tonacliffe Primary School.

	Hazard	Persons at Risk	Existing Preventative Measures	Probability (P) 1-5	Severity (S) 1-5	Rating (P) X (S)	What Measures Need to be Taken	By Who/ confirmation of understanding or completion
1	On site Vehicles	Groups and general public	When works are being completed groups will not enter the site. Posters will be displayed to inform the public using the footpath.	1	4	4	Ensure that public are aware of works and vehicles which may access the public footpath.	The Forest School Leader will create posters for public information re any works being completed.
2	Litter and Debris Cut Trip Entrapment Suffocation	Groups and general public	Bin close to car park, minimal litter in the woods.	3 2 2 1	3 2 2 5	9 4 4 5	To ensure the group don't go into any areas with the potential of coming in contact with any dangerous debris.	The Forest school leader must ensure everybody has a full understanding of the dangers.
3	Paths and Tracks Broken, trip Uneven, trip Slippery, trip	Groups and general public	The main paths maintained to a satisfactory standard. Groups aware of how to travel safely in wet, muddy conditions.	2 2 2	2 2 3	4 4 6	Ensure people take care and do not run.	Forest School leader to monitor onsite changes to tracks and paths.

4	Exposed roots and other hazards off main paths Trip Slip	Groups and general public	Main hazards: dead wood debris, rootstock and brambles.	3 4	2 3	6 12	If going off main paths, ensure the Forest School leader is at the front to assess routes appropriateness for group.	The Forest school Leader must warn of potential dangers from uneven ground.
5	Broken, steps and steep paths Trip Slip Fall	Groups and general public	Broken fencing removed. No evidence of broken steps etc.	1 1 1	2 2 3	2 2 3	Ensure the group are aware of any path gradient changes in advance.	The Forest School Leader must ensure that the gradient of the path is appropriate to the group.
6	Holes, animal burrows, ditches Falling Getting trapped	Groups and general public	No apparent current level of danger requiring marking or filling.	1 1	4 4	4 4	If the group come across any cavity dangers, they move away and inform the Forest School leader.	If an area is discovered the leader will remove group from risk and inform the Forest School Leader.
7	Broken walls, Fences and Boundaries Cut Crushing Tripping Entrapment	Groups and general public	The boundary fencing needs repair. Blue ropes currently used to mark boundary. Fence due for renewal Sept 2022.	1 1 1 1	2 4 2 2	2 4 2 2	Ensure groups are aware of the broken fences and move a safe distance around them.	Leader must be aware of all broken fences and ensure group do not pass close to them.
8	Low branches on site Banging head Poking in eyes	Groups and general public	Warn the group to avoid branches on trees and explain why they are hard to see especially those at eye height.	1 3	4 4	4 12	The group will clear the immediate area around the site during initial site development.	Forest School leader to ensure group are aware of dangers. Forest school leader to ensure safety of group during clearance.
9	Low branches on paths Banging head Poking in eyes	Groups and general public	Trees and branches have been cleared from over paths.	1 1	4 4	4 4	Ensure groups stick to the paths. When venturing off the main paths, warn the group to avoid branches on trees and explain why they are hard to see especially those at eye height.	The leader must ensure that the groups stay on the paths and understand how to avoid branches on trees and explain why they are hard to see especially those at eye height.
10	Dead trees and branches Impact Crush	Groups and general public	There are a small number of hanging dead branches and mature trees with	2 1	4 5	8 5	The group (working party) will clear the immediate area around the site during initial site development.	Forest School Leader to ensure that the group (working party) move safely past dead branches. Forest

	Tripping		dead branches. No signs of dead trees.	3	2	6		School leader to ensure safety of group during clearance.
11	Dogs Attack Faeces	Groups and general public	Signs in place to encourage dog walkers to pick up their dog's faeces. New fences will make site less accessible or used by dog walkers.	1 1	4 2	4 2	Forest School Leaders to ensure that the group are aware of the hazard and what to do if they come across dog faeces/ a dog approaches them on site.	Leaders will deal with dogs that come near the group.
12	Members of the public Interference Abduction Attack	Groups and general public	Forest School procedures ensuring correct ratios of adults.	2 2 2	4 5 5	8 10 10	Ensure all procedures are followed to prevent interference from the public.	Forest School Leader must ensure Forest School procedures are being followed at all times.
13	Large puddle/ Stream Drowning	Groups and general public	Forest School procedures ensuring correct ratios of adults. No planned activity to take place in water without prior planning and further risk assessment, policy and procedure being put in place.	1	5	5	Forest School Leaders must make group aware of danger and inform them that the stream/ puddle should be avoided. Forest School Leaders to be constantly aware of group whereabouts.	Forest School Leaders must ensure that the safety procedures are being followed at all times.

ASSESSORS COMMENTS

Tonacliffe Primary School Forest School is close to residential areas and the public footpath which runs alongside the site is well-used by members of the general public, mainly for dog walking.

When using this site, the **ASSESSOR RECCOMENDATIONS** will be followed:

Assessors main concerns:

- Current public access to the wood means that there is open access to the site outside of the project times. This could cause problems in terms of vandalism to the site.
- Current public access to the wood means that there is a risk of members of the public and dogs wandering into the site when it is in use by groups.
- The stream and large puddle, although it appears to be shallow, poses a minor hazard and is close to the site area. However, this may be a potential conservation project for the group during the programme.
- Nature surveys are ongoing in the wood. The group will not use any specified areas.

Assessors main Positive Features:

- The fencing which is due to be completed by end of September 2022, will increase security of the site and make it less accessible for cattle/ public/ dogs.
- The site is adjacent to school, therefore easily accessible on foot.
- The paths through the woods are easily accessible for to a range of abilities and ages.
- There are a number of areas that can be used for activities and exploration.
- Environmental and conservational activities can be incorporated into the programme, this contributing to the woodland management plan and providing the group with a deeper level of understanding of the importance of this.

ASSESSORS RECOMMENDATIONS

- Tonacliffe Primary School will place signs close to the site area informing the public that the site should not be used. Forest School communication tool to be made available to anyone who wishes to know more about the project. Information on school website and available at school office.
- Activities carried out near the stream/ large puddle will be limited to conservation project work. The group must be made aware of the danger and informed that the stream/puddle area should be avoided. Prior to any potential conservation project work, appropriate permission will be sought. Further risk assessments, policy and procedure will be completed.
- The Forest School Leaders will ensure that appropriate safety measures are in place and that any clearance is done sensitively with the management of the woodland main priority.
- Forest Schools policies and procedures will be followed at all times.