



## Risk-Benefit Analysis Form

Subject of risk assessment:	Woodland Areas		
Brief description of activity, location, feature, activity and equipment used.	<p>Any activity (play, learning, training and meeting) that Farnham Forest School staff undertake with children or adults that uses a public or private copse, woodland (formal and informal) or forest including natural and commercial plantation.</p> <p>Woodland locations are varied – broadleaved and evergreen, dense woodland and open with varied terrain below.</p> <p>Equipment used is related to the specific activity, for which there is a specific Risk Benefit Assessment.</p>		
Job title and name of person making assessment	Amanda Lloyd Purvis	Signature of person making assessment	
Date of Assessment	02.10.2024	Review Date	01.09.2025

## Risk Management Statement

Farnham Forest School recognises that not all risks can be reduced to nil, therefore this risk assessment prioritises the *significant* risks. Significant risks are those which pose risk of serious injury, chronic injury, disability or death, or risks that are overly common in interrupting our staff and clients normal work.

For all activities, Farnham Forest School staff will dynamically assess risks and put in place control measures and record as required, but always within agreed and recorded RBAs.

Concerns, changes in risk management practice or minor injuries that are seen by Farnham Forest School staff to be significant should be reported to the Farnham Forest School practitioner who signed off this RBA.

This RBA should be read in conjunction with Farnham Forest School's Health and Safety Policy, other relevant Risk Benefit Assessments and Policies (as appropriate).

Activity or  
feature:

The activity being undertaken is outlined in the relevant specific Farnham Forest School Risk Benefit Assessment that will work in conjunction with this Woodland Risk Benefit Assessment.

Typical activities include:

Free play, allowing children to play around the woodland, under supervision of adults, although not always within sight.

	<p>Learning opportunities through nature craft, nature art, den building.</p> <p>Travelling (walking, running, cycling, scootering) through an area.</p> <p>Planting trees, hedges or plants, simple maintenance of trees, hedges and plants, paths and surfaces.</p>
How will participants benefit?	<p>Fresh air, relaxation, physical, mental and social health and wellbeing improvements.</p> <p>Communication and social interaction between adults and children.</p> <p>Connection with nature / the natural world.</p> <p>Using local or different environments to support learning.</p> <p>Enjoyment and fun.</p> <p>Shelter from weather.</p> <p>Increased privacy.</p>
Who will be at risk?	<p>Farnham Forest School Staff</p> <p>Participants (adult and children)</p> <p>Members of the public</p>
Any local factors that may affect risks or controls:	<p>Consideration should be given to seeking landowner permission, especially with a large group or for activities such as fire lighting or den building.</p>

Possible hazards and risks:	<p>Slips, trips and falls resulting in injury, especially if the terrain is challenging for the group (adult and child). Impacts and collisions between group members playing games (free and structured) that lead to significant injury.</p> <p>Running into, bumping or falling on objects that will injure, including rocks, tree branches and trunks as well as man made sharp edges.</p> <p>Dogs attacking.</p> <p>Dangerous litter being handled, stepped on or fallen on, leading to injury or harm.</p> <p>Becoming lost, running away, isolated or being abducted, leading to harm or fear.</p> <p>Members of the public behaving inappropriately – aggression or fear-inducing.</p> <p>Inclement weather (such as high wind, snow and ice) leading to increased possibility for injury or harm, or unusual injury (such as flying objects or falling trees).</p> <p>Ingestion of toxins or poisons from flora and fauna.</p> <p>Zoonosis – Toxoplasmosis, E-Coli 157, Lyme disease and Weil’s disease.</p>
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	Depending on location, proximity to moving vehicles on roads, car parks or in the park.
Precautions and control measures to reduce the risk severity or likelihood:	<p>Awareness of the terrain and equipment in situ, and groups competencies to move safely around the area.</p> <p>Caution where overhanging trees and branches are above heads. All to be identified in visual inspection of the site on arrival.</p> <p>A method of gathering the group and checking numbers, relevant to age of group and area being used. Farnham Forest School staff to be aware of members of the public interacting with the group, and to challenge or intervene if needed. Participants and leaders are clear about the limits of how far they can travel from a 'base'.</p> <p>Games and activities are to be relevant to the group, and any physical games (free or structured) to be monitored appropriate to the group. Area restricted in light of extra risks (waters edge and vehicles particularly).</p> <p>Caution and group briefing over hazard posed by branches (running into, cuts, impalements etc, particularly of head or eyes). Dead or growing branches on trees, and branches on the ground.</p> <p>Group advised to stand still if approached by dog, Farnham Forest School staff vigilance.</p> <p>Highlight dangers of litter, and the children advised with the mantra: 'Don't know? Don't touch.'</p>

	<p>Farnham Forest School staff to be aware of current and forecast weather, and judgement made as to the effect on the location. Particular care should be taken in high wind, or around some species of tree (Beech and Scots pine) or plantations.</p> <p>Depending on group competencies and abilities, we can forage for blackberries, raspberries, strawberries or blueberries, and to do so above dog fouling level and away from busy areas and paths. We do not advise foraging for wild foods beyond those simple berries, unless the staff member is suitably trained and/or competent. Farnham Forest School Flora and Fauna Risk Benefit analysis to apply.</p> <p>Zoonosis – Toxoplasmosis, E-Coli 157, Lyme disease and Weils disease. Farnham Forest School Flora and Fauna Risk Benefit analysis to apply.</p> <p>Hand washing facilities provided (wipes, gel etc).</p> <p>First aid kit carried and staff trained to use, awareness of emergency access routes and locations of additional assistance.</p>
Precedents or comparisons:	<p>Forest School is an established and popular learning tool and location.</p> <p>The Forestry Commission encourages school trips and learning to woodlands, and provides a wide variety of resources and tools for play and learning.</p>

	<p>Woodland is a popular recreation venue with many individuals and families using woodland for walks, cycling and recreation.</p> <p>Many schools have woodland areas within grounds, and they are used daily in all weathers, by all ages.</p>
Judgement:	<p>Overall, woodland offers a significant increase in the number of minor hazards and the risks posed.</p> <p>Carefully selecting the woodland location offers a safe, engaging and pleasant learning and play venue that can often be sheltered from weather and public eyes.</p>