

Birmingham Natural History Society, Mycology Section

Warwickshire Fungus Survey

General Risk Assessment for Participants of Fungus Forays

<i>Hazard</i>	<i>Risk</i>	<i>Level of Risk</i>	<i>Control Measures</i>
Weather			
Wet, cold, wind-chill	Hypothermia	Low	Suitable warm, windproof and waterproof clothing Food and warm drinks
Sun	Sunburn	Low	Cover for head, body, arms, legs and feet. High factor sun cream. Sun glasses
Heat	Hyperthermia	Low	Light, loose clothing. Drinking water
Land features			
Slips, trips and falls	Wounds, sprains and broken bones	Low	Avoidance of tree roots, fallen branches, loose rock, soft mud and ditches. Briefing before start. First aid kit. Avoid steep inclines and cliff edges.

Getting lost	Distress, exposure	Low to moderate	Participants should stay together as much as possible. Mobile phone numbers of participants should be shared at the start. Also car registration numbers, to check whether a participant has left early. If separating, participants should carry a whistle, map, compass and/or GPS. Arrange a return time.
Bog (not always obvious)	Trapped in deep mud, drowning	Low to moderate	Take extra care if walking alone. Avoid walking alone near bogs if possible. Warning if known
Deep water	Falls into water, drowning	Low	Caution when approaching water. Warning
Pollution from farm chemicals or dung	Toxic effects, infection	Low	Avoid contact where possible. Use protective gloves to handle dung or excreta. Warning if known. After contact, wash in clean water or use hand wipes

Animals

Stings and bites	Pain, infection, anaphylactic shock	Low to moderate	Use insect repellent. Apply antiseptic, antihistamine or sting relief. Knowledge of person's allergies.
Dangerous animals	Physical injury, snakebite	Low	Avoid fields containing animals. Use caution in areas known to contain snakes.

Plants

Woody plants, thorns	Wounds, abrasions	Low to moderate	Apply antiseptic and wound dressings. Renew tetanus immunisation if necessary.
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Bracken	Carcinogenic spores	Unknown	Avoid walking through bracken.
Trees: falling branches, head bumps	Physical injuries.	Low	Avoid trees in strong winds and trees in a dangerous state. Briefing pointing out specific site hazards.

Personal injury

Knives and saws	Wounds	Moderate	Care of sharp tools, especially with children
Ingestion of fungi	Poisoning	Low to moderate	Briefing pointing out dos and don'ts. Don't hand specimens around. Don't comment on edibility.
Chemicals for Identification	Skin irritation, poisoning, cuts from broken glass	Low	Carry identification chemicals in secure, sturdy, ideally unbreakable containers. Handle with protective gloves
Stacked timber	Injury caused by collapse of stack	Low	Awareness of the danger
Barbed wire	Wounds, infection, tetanus	Moderate	Avoid crossing barbed wire. If necessary, help one another to cross. Use protective sheeting if available. Apply antiseptic. Maintain tetanus immunity