

St John and Monica's Forest School Site risk assessment.

Date of assessment – 09/25 Review date – 09/26 Assessment carried out by Ruth Wilson Forest Schools Birmingham.

Site over view.

St John and Monica's forest school site is an incredible fragment of mature broadleaf woodland backing onto Moseley Private Park. It is a magical woodland with many points of interest. There is an area suitable for circle time and small fires. There is a lot of laurel growing at angles suitable for low level off ground activities. There are several large mature trees and lots of nooks and crannies for dens and fun. There is some interesting gullies that will need to be investigated during heavy rain as this might have implications for the use of the site in wet weather. **Since initial risk assessment there has been drainage and sewerage work. This end of the woods is not being used for session's but I urge the school to look at fund raising to open this area up to use to stop over use of the area we use.**

. The site is unsuitable to use in high winds and periods of drought due to the mature trees. **09/25 update. After another prolonged drought the large beeches oaks and sycamore need close monitoring. Access to the whole area will need to be curtailed even in moderate winds. Need to establish a new circle somewhere else in the area for use when the weather is unsuitable for the forest. The no man's land behind the site has also become an issue due to large overhanging dead branches. In light of this I have moved the boundary to avoid these. I will also only access the site via KS2 playground.**

Japanese Knot Weed in bottom end currently being treated, will monitor. 05/24 update Knot weed appears to have been eradicated

Recommend removal of large sycamore by library entrance as is dropping branches. 05/24 update entrance by tree now roped off as this tree has continued to drop large branches. School is planning to have it removed during the summer holidays 2024 09/25 update Tree now removed.

Overgrown Laurel is still a massive issue and too large a job for me to do with a bow saw and the limited time away from sessions available to me.

Request permission to cut back what I can within our working area.

Land Ownership - BCC

Vehicular access- No

Public access - No

Water - Yes- Pond and boggy area at the bottom of the far left hand side of the site. As yet depth and overall size of pond not yet established

. Area not to be used in sessions until the area has been discussed with school and appropriate safety measures put in place.

Flora - Beech, Sweet Chestnut, Hawthorn, Laurel, Sycamore, Birch, Yew. Holly, Bluebells, bramble, stinging nettles. Various fungi.

Fauna - Foxes, badgers, wood mice, squirrels, woodpeckers, tree creeper, nuthatch, blue, great and long tailed tits, wren's robins, goldfinch. Likely to be toads as they are present in the locality.

Toxic Species identified - Yew, Laurel (berries), Yew unidentified fungus x 2. **Lords and ladies.**

This list is by no means extensive but will be added to as I get to know the site.

This Assessment should be referred to prior to each session and relevant actions taking by Leader.

This assessment should be used in conjunction with relevant activity, welfare and weather risk assessments.

Appropriate clothing for the weather to be worn during sessions.

Hazard	Harm	People at Risk	Existing Preventative measures	Risk Probability: (P) 1-5	Severity: (S)1-5	Rating: (P) x(S) 1-25	Any further action needed?	Person responsible.
Falling Branches	Head injury Physical harm	All Participants	Pre session check, Hanging debris in areas used removed. Site not used in Winds above moderate.	1	5	5	Check with Site Manager about site management and tree monitoring	Leader and Senior Site Manager
Open Water	Drowning,	Children	Site boundary in place. Pre session safety review Children monitored by staff during sessions. Regular head counts in session.	1	5	5	Yes, discussion needs to take place about the steps and far end of the site 05 /09 Area not used	Leader and SMT.

Animal Faeces	Serious infection	All Participants	Pre session check. Anti-bacterial wipes in kit bag. No eating in sessions unless part of an activity. Hand washing on return to site	1	5	5	No	Leader to carry anti bac wipes.
Hazardous Waste	Cuts, infection	All Participants	Pre session check. Pre session safety review	1	5	5	Leader to safely dispose of any hazardous waste and report to school	Leader
Tree Stumps	Trips falls	All participants	Pre session safety talk	3	1	3		Leader
Fox/badger Holes	Brakes or sprains	All participants	Pre session check Pre session safety talk Site monitoring	1	4	4		Leader

Stinging Plants	Allergic reaction	All participants	Pre session safety talk Relevant medical information shared by school with leader. Epipen to be available from school if needed	1	5	5		School
Toxic Plants/fungus	Poisoning	Children	Pre session safety talk Strict no picking and eating rule unless part of an activity	1	5	5		Leader
Stumps, roots, fallen branches.	Slips trips falls	All Participants	Pre session safety talk Appropriate footwear worn	3	2	6		Leader

Stinging insects/Ticks	Allergic reaction Limes Disease	All Participants	No ticks seen but keeping an eye out. Medical information supplied by school. Epipen available if required Letter sent to parents during summer season.	1	5	5		School
Brambles	Scratches, falls	All Participants	Pre session safety talk Appropriate footwear worn Brambles cut back if necessary	3	1	3		Leader
Wet Leaves	Slips, trips, falls	All Participants	Pre session safety talk Appropriate footwear worn	3	1	3		Leader

Steep pathways/steps	Slips trips falls	All Participants	Pre session safety talk Appropriate footwear worn	3	1	3		Leader
Wasp nests	Stings	All	Pre Session checks Safety talk. appropriate clothes	1	3	3	Any nests in area used logged with school for treatment.	Leader and school
Mosquitoes and Midges	Stings/Allergic reactions	All	Appropriate clothing – covered sleeves and legs	1	3	3	Letter – if want to administer repellent before school	School/parents
Sudden branch drop	Injury from falling branch	all	Safe arrival by leader prior to sessions. Areas under mature trees not to be used in a prolonged dry period.	1	5	5	Woodland to be monitored after dry spells. In case of extreme drought and heat sessions will be moved to a different area	Leader/SMT/BCC

			Trees checked by BCC yearly.					
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