

## Bridges and boardwalks (timber construction)

### How to use this Risk Assessment

This risk assessment document is for LCV Task Leaders. It identifies the risks associated with timber construction tasks like bridges and boardwalks. Task Leaders must use it in conjunction with LCV's Site Safety risk assessment and other activity-based generic risk assessments to determine the contents of the pre-task safety talk and the organisation of activities that take place during the task.

**This risk assessment must be used in conjunction with the *Site safety* assessment and perhaps other task-specific risk assessments as appropriate for the activities being carried out. Consult the *Guidance notes* for full instructions.**

### Generic risk assessment

**Training/Supervision required**  
**PPE required**

Review risk assessment and brief personnel on risks and controls before work starts  
Protective footwear and gloves. Additional PPE in line with tool manufacturer's instructions or detailed below.



**Lothians  
Conservation  
Volunteers**

Common hazards Associated with the work activity	Who is at risk? Public, staff, trainees, volunteers	Risk rating Risk level before controls are in place	Control measures Measures that must be in place before work is allowed to start	Residual risk rating Risk remaining after controls are in place
Slips, trips and falls (additional control measures)	Volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tell volunteers that they <b>must</b> keep tools and materials stored safely and tidily</li> <li>Tell volunteers that they <b>must not</b> leave holes dug and not refilled: the holes must be covered or have a post placed in them.</li> </ul>	Low
Injury to passers-by	Public	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If site is vacated before construction is complete ensure the hazard tape and 'no entry' signs remain in place.</li> <li>Leave the site as tidy as possible.</li> </ul>	Low
Hand tools (swinging and sawing).	Volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tell volunteers that they <b>must</b> wear a hard hat when using a mell or holding a post for someone using a mell.</li> <li>Tell volunteers that the hard hat <b>must</b> fit snugly and that they <b>must not</b> wear anything under it</li> <li>Tell volunteers that they <b>must</b> use a stob twister when holding a post for someone using a mell</li> <li>Tell volunteers that they <b>must not</b> wear gloves when using a mell, mattock, pickaxe or hammer.</li> <li>Tell volunteers that they <b>must</b> take care that the head of a mell and the top of posts or stobs are kept free from mud.</li> <li>Advise volunteers to wear a glove on the hand holding wood when sawing.</li> </ul>	Low
Biohazards	Volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advise volunteers to avoid contact with water on urban stream banks, ponds and farms.</li> <li>Advise volunteers to be aware of the symptoms of Weil's Disease.</li> </ul>	Low

Lothians Conservation Volunteers Generic Risk Assessments

<b>Common hazards</b> Associated with the work activity	<b>Who is at risk?</b> Public, staff, trainees, volunteers	<b>Risk rating</b> Risk level before controls are in place	<b>Control measures</b> Measures that must be in place before work is allowed to start	<b>Residual risk rating</b> Risk remaining after controls are in place
Timber	Volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell volunteers that they <b>must</b> wear gloves when handling recently-treated timber</li> <li>• Tell volunteers that they <b>must</b> make sure that all nails are rendered safe (particularly during demolition of structures) by removing them to safe storage or by bending them over flat against the wood.</li> <li>• Provide eye protection for volunteers.</li> <li>• Advise volunteers to wear eye protection when sawing, drilling or chiselling timber.</li> <li>• Do not treat timber <i>in situ</i> unless appropriate protective equipment is available and a specific risk assessment has been carried out and documented.</li> </ul>	Low

**Document control**

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