

# Footpaths

## How to use this Risk Assessment

This risk assessment document is for LCV Task Leaders. It identifies the common risks associated with footpath tasks and common measures which can be taken to control them. Task Leaders must use it in conjunction with LCV's Site Safety risk assessment and other activity-based generic risk assessments to assist them in their own risk assessment which will 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. Hard hats. Additional PPE in line with tool manufacturer's instructions or detailed below.



**Lothians  
Conservation  
Volunteers**

<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
Manual Handling	Volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Move boulders and heavy logs using pinch bars and at least two people.</li> <li>Tell volunteers that they <b>must not</b> put their hands under a big stone or log while it is being positioned with pinch bars</li> <li>Wear thick protective gloves when handling stone.</li> <li>Provide strong rubble sacks, hessian or other facilities to allow sharing of transportation of larger stones.</li> </ul>	Low
Injury to passers-by	Public	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If a path is closed because of the work, identify and mark a safe alternative route for the public.</li> <li>If site is vacated before construction is complete ensure the hazard tape and 'no entry' signs remain in place. Leave the site as tidy as possible.</li> <li>Cordon off and/or cover any holes that are left unattended.</li> </ul>	Low
Hand tools.	Volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tell volunteers that they <b>must</b> wear hard hats when using a mell or sledge hammer, or when 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 not</b> wear gloves when using a mell, mattock, pickaxe or hammer.</li> <li>Tell volunteers that they <b>must</b> wear eye protection when hammering stone (e.g. when stone pitching)</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
Danger of stones and logs rolling free	Public & Volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell volunteers that they <b>must not</b> move stones or logs on a hillside if there are people directly below them.</li> <li>• Tell volunteers that they <b>must</b> vacate an area immediately when asked to do so by any other volunteer moving a boulder.</li> <li>• Tell volunteers that they <b>must</b> shout 'below' if a stone or log rolls free down a slope.</li> <li>• Plan the movement of stone to avoid taking it uphill of other workers or passers-by.</li> </ul>	Low
Power Carriers	Volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss and agree safe working practices with the barrow operator.</li> <li>• Tell volunteers that they <b>must</b> be instructed by a competent person before using a power barrow for the first time.</li> </ul>	Low
Cement, mortar and concrete	Volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell volunteers that they <b>must</b> wear waterproof gloves when handling cement, mortar and concrete.</li> <li>• Tell volunteers that they <b>must</b> wear eye protection when mixing mortar or concrete.</li> <li>• Advise volunteers to work upwind of cement dust and to avoid breathing the dust.</li> <li>• Ensure that eye wash and washing facilities are available.</li> <li>• Comply with the COSHH guidelines for any additional chemicals used (e.g. lime or mortar plasticiser)</li> </ul>	Low