

This risk assessment relates only to the *generic* features of a common activity; it does not cover those *specific* to a location or group. It therefore must not be used without completing the local review, making additions as necessary to take account of local circumstances. However, such a local review need not be timeconsuming. Use the box at the bottom to create the local review, or add extra pages as necessary. **SEE ACCOMPANYING SAFETY NOTES**

ACTIVITY ASSESSED		ASSESSOR	ASSESSMENT DATE
16. FENCING		STEPHEN BOLSOVER	11 th May 2016
HAZARD Potential for harm	RISK LEVEL	PRECAUTIONS to remove hazard or reduce risk level. One precaution may tackle several hazards.	
Underground services: electricity and gas	H	Wardens should be aware of the location of any underground services on their sites. If any digging or other ground penetration is planned near the services then Harrow Council and the relevant utility companies must be consulted. The meaning of "near" in this context depends on how accurately the position of the utility is known: if its position is known precisely, then any ground more than 20m away can be considered distant. However, if there is a greater degree of uncertainty, then the region considered to be near the utility increases accordingly.	
Manual handling	L	Have materials/tools delivered to site, or as close to site as possible. Use wheelbarrows to transport materials/tools. Use tool bags to carry small tools. Plan in advance any unavoidable lifting/carrying of heavy items.	
Treated timber, wood preservative and other hazardous substances	L	Use pre-treated timber whenever possible. Follow instructions supplied with materials: this may require, during drilling or sawing, the operator to wear gloves and may require the operator and those nearby to wear respiratory marks. Do not burn treated waste but plan safe disposal. If timber must be treated, follow full COSHH procedures. Wear gloves when handling timber.	
Infection and skin disease	M	Wear gloves when handling rough or treated timber. All participants should have had anti-tetanus injections. (A full course lasts ten years. Ask who has not had injections and stress importance of getting these, particularly if the skin is broken or cut.) Treat all cuts etc., immediately with antiseptic and cover adequately.	
Debris hazards	L	Collect nails, wood chippings, etc., (do not leave any materials or debris lying around which could be a danger to humans and livestock). Do not leave holes dug out and not refilled, but cover with a large block of piece of wood.	
Injuries from use of tools: mallet, post drivers, mallet and chisel	L	Use hard hats when using post driver. Post being driven in should normally be held by a stob holder, but if this is truly not practicable, the person holding the post must wear a hard hat and particular care should be taken to avoid blows missing or glancing off the post and striking the holder's hands/arms. Wear goggles when using a mallet and chisel. Be careful of fingers when using a hammer. Examine all tools before use and if faulty - rough or loose handles etc - reject and mark for repair/disposal. All others who could be affected, including passers by, to be warned of risks, placing hazard signs as necessary.	
Monkey strainers	L	Only the person operating the strainers should be close to the wire, all others should stand well clear, e.g. over 3m away. Wire should be stapled before final strain is put on it to prevent it springing free. Persons operating strainers must have received adequate training in their use.	
Handling materials: unwinding and using barbed wire, stock netting and high tensile netting	L	Should be carried on a stake or crowbar, one person holding either end and wearing leather gloves. When using stock netting (particularly high tensile), take great care as it can unravel at high speed with enough force to knock people over. Always firmly anchor the free ends of unrolled wire, netting or barbed wire. Wear goggles and gloves to work with high tensile wire, rolls of wire and stock netting mesh. Do not hammer staples fully in if fastening high tensile material, due to possible brittleness/breakage.	
RISKS AND PRECAUTIONS SPECIFIC TO THE SITE OR DAY			
ASSESSOR			
ASSESSMENT DATE			
APPLICABLE DATES (This is likely either to be one specific day, or "until further notice".)			

Risk level: L = Low, M = Medium, H = High

ACTIVITY ASSESSED	ASSESSOR	ASSESSMENT DATE
16. FENCING	STEPHEN BOLSOVER	11 th May 2016
RESTRICTIONS Restrict other people from entering site, displaying hazard/no access signs and having someone acting as lookout. Do not attempt to carry too much at once, use a barrow/other aid/get help to carry large or heavy items. Wardens should be aware of the location of any underground services on their sites. If any digging or other ground penetration is planned near the services then Harrow Council and the relevant utility companies must be consulted. The meaning of “near” in this context depends on how accurately the position of the utility is known: if its position is known precisely, then any ground more than 20m away can be considered distant. However, if there is a greater degree of uncertainty, then the region considered to be near the utility increases accordingly. Do not allow others to stand near someone using a monkey strainer or wire being strained and don’t exert final strain until wire is stapled. Do not use tools found in initial inspection to be faulty. Do not hammer staples fully in if fastening high tensile material, due to possible brittleness/breakage.		
PREVENTATIVE MEASURES Wardens should be aware of the location of any underground services on their sites. Don't leave holes dug out and not refilled or covered. Part staple the fence before straining to catch broken wires. Use high tensile wire only if it is more advantageous than steel.		
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT All to wear sturdy footwear with good grip, preferably steel toe-capped - latter essential if higher risks like moving heavy items that could strike feet. Gloves to be worn when handling rough or treated timber. Goggles to be worn when using a mallet and chisel. If holding a post to be driven by a post driver a hard hat is required though a stob holder must be used unless truly impracticable.		
TRAINING All leaders and as many as possible of the other participants should have taken a Fencing course.		
MONITORING Regularly sharpen edged tools that are blunted. Ask who has had Tetanus jabs in last ten years and strongly urge these are acquired/kept up to date.		
INFORMATION		

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