

Beaumont Project – Site Notes

LOCATION AND LAYOUT OF SITE

Prestbury Beaumont Care Community, Collar house Drive, Prestbury, SK10 4AP, is part of the Barchester group which provides assisted independent living, respite care and convalescence for older people. It is situated off Chelford Road in the rural Cheshire village of Prestbury.

The home is set in 8 acres of land, much of which is landscaped with raised beds for growing flowers, patio areas with seating and pathways for wheelchair users. Although encouraged to take part in many of the daily activities in the garden, the residents generally do not get involved, and the gardening is left mainly to the head gardener Edwin Clarke.

Conversations with Edwin have secured an opportunity for Food4Macc to rejuvenate the old apple orchard, which needs clearing of bramble and bracken. The orchard itself once boasted approximately twenty apple trees, varieties consisting of Proctor Seedling, Sunset, Warren and Bismark which are now reduced to eleven trees.

Also made available to Food4Macc is a grassed area of 20 metres x 5 metres which will be prepared for the cultivation of vegetables. It has been suggested that the area will benefit from raised beds, due to fact that the soil is clay, and is susceptible water logging. There will be four beds, good practice for seasonal crop rotation, with a central pathway large enough for wheelchair access.

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RISK ASSESSMENT – PHASE 1 – 3

- **Terrain** – sloping and wet under foot – stout waterproof footwear is essential
- May be **heavy lifting** involved (eg compost making) – read safety notes on how to lift and carry loads. If too heavy or awkward, ask for help. If a wheelbarrow is used be aware of the slippery terrain as well of strain on the back.
- **Brambles** have nasty thorns so the use of good thick gloves and thick clothing is essential. When cutting brambles be aware that they can spring and lash out. Take care when working next to others, cut smaller lengths that are more manageable.
- **Bracken** spores are carcinogenic so face masks are advisable. Bracken is also tough and can cut through fingers so use strong thick gloves.
- Sharp **secateurs** maybe needed. These are sharp and injury may be caused. Thick gloves should be worn.
- **Insects** – most are beginning to hibernate now so take care when moving debris. Some to be aware of are :-
 1. **Ticks** are blood feeding parasites that can attach themselves to humans and animals. They are found in woodlands, grassy areas and heath land. Ticks can carry diseases, for example Lyme disease. Ticks attach themselves to clothing and eventually crawl towards warm skin. Defence against them is to make sure that your skin is covered.
 - wear long trousers which can be tucked into socks and a long sleeved shirt or jacket
 - wearing light clothing makes it easier to spot ticks, if seen they can just be brushed off
 - Inspect for ticks every few hours and at the end of the days activity, when at home, undress and check the whole body for any ticks, especially in humid areas, for example armpit or groin.
 - Try an insect repellent. If a tick is found **do not** remove by pulling or squashing its body. Instead, using a pair of tweezers placed close to the ticks head, turn anti clock wise until the tick comes away. Clean area with antiseptic.
 2. **Bumblebees** like to snuggle in crevices, old wood and compost. If you wake them they will not swarm like wasps, usually when disturbed they will be a little angry, just move away from the site and seek advice from the project manager.
- **Fire** – No Smoking is allowed within the orchard area. Use the hard standing area in the staff car park if you need to smoke.

IN CASE OF FIRE OR EMERGENCY ALL MUST MEET ON THE STAFF CARPARK, OUTSIDE THE GREENHOUSE.

RISK ASSESSMENT – PHASE 4 – PRUNING

- **Terrain** – sloping and wet under foot – possibly slippery y in frosty weather. Stout footwear and clothing are essential.

- **Pruning** –
 1. Pruning will necessitate the use of **cutting tools** - these range from secateurs, loppers, and hand saws through to (in the extreme case) chain saws. The latter are not to be used under any circumstances by any volunteers unless appropriate training has been received and only under the specific direction of the onsite project manager. In practice, this means usage of a chain saw by volunteers is unlikely in the short term. Of the remaining tools, these are sharp and injury may be caused. Thick gloves should be worn.
 2. **Branches**, when being pruned, will **drop** to the ground. Care should be taken to ensure that the pruning person is not underneath the path of the falling branches and cannot be hit by them when falling. This precaution should also be applied to anybody in the immediate vicinity e.g. someone assisting with the pruning. Anyone involved in pruning should wear a hard hat for head protection.
 3. **Branches** will have sub-branches and possibly foliage which may **spring back** into someone's face during pruning. Eyes must be protected with goggles and by exercising great care.
 4. **Trees** may need the **pruning** cut to be made in places which are difficult to reach e.g. **above head height**. Long-handled loppers should be used where feasible and goggles/hard hats should also be worn.
 5. For high-up work which cannot be achieved with long-handled equipment, **ladders** may be needed to gain the necessary height. All work performed from ladders must be carried out whilst wearing goggles and hard hats. All such work must have a person whose role is to hold the ladder steady whilst the pruning person is up the ladder. Only ladders which are suitable for the purpose should be used.
 6. **Trees** may be **damaged by climbing** on them. Even if this appears to be safe for the individuals concerned, climbing on the fruit trees may damage them and is therefore counter-productive. The use of ladders should be considered first if it is safe and more effective to do so.
 7. The **pruning processes** are likely to **involve risks that are also present in other phases** of the project e.g. heavy lifting (of pruned branches); insects; etc. Volunteers should familiarise themselves with the risk assessment of these earlier phases

SITE INDUCTION AND SAFETY BRIEFING

- **Volunteers must sign Volunteers Acceptance of Working Guideline.**
- **Volunteers to sign Attendance Log**
- **Remember this is a peaceful place for the elderly and sick so respect the residents at all times.**

SAFETY –

Has everyone read the “Working Safely” guidelines?

Mostly common sense however:-

- Make sure wearing correct protective clothing for head, eyes, ears, hands, feet and back.
- Watch how and where you walk, no running or fooling about
- When moving branches beware of people around you.
- Check if anyone has allergies (wasp/bee stings etc), medical conditions.
- Ensure regular rest periods
- Smoking: not on work sites. Smoke on hard standing areas, always clear up all dimps etc and do not create a fire hazard.
- No tools to left, unless in secure storage