

Friends of the Porter Valley Health and Safety Policy and Procedures

Statement of Intent

This policy is intended to ensure that Friends of the Porter Valley complies with Health and Safety legislation, and the best H&S standards; that our Public Liability Insurance is valid in all situations; and that the reputation of the organisation, its members and its partners, is not put at risk.

Specific procedures and systems

- Our Public Liability Insurance must be valid at all points in the year in all circumstances. Committee member responsible is Treasurer David Young.
- All conservation work mornings, community events, walks, fairs, and other activities involving members of the public and partners must be risk assessed by the lead organiser. Copies of risk assessments must be retained and available for inspection, and be compliant with partner or landowner requirements. e.g. events in the park or work mornings joined by non FoPV members such as employers' staff or university students
- Where non-member volunteers are sent to join us by their employers, youth groups (for example), the risk assessment should be communicated in advance and be compliant with their requirements. It should be established at the outset whether FoPV's PLI or theirs will apply.
- At walks, conservation days, fairs and other community activities, one member should be responsible for giving a short explanation of the risks and how to mitigate them, and should take charge in the event of an accident. A First Aid kit should be available with the responsible member who should preferably be a trained First Aider.

List of Risks to be considered

- State of the surroundings/environment and the nature of the activity. Some inherently more risky than others e.g. on the brook at Duck race, clearing material from the dams. Observe especially any dangerous conditions: e.g. water level and speed; ground stability; obstacles, potentially harmful flora and detritus; weather conditions; people and machinery.
- The capability of those directly engaged in the activity: their understanding of instructions and willingness to comply; experience, skills and judgement. E.g. strimmer training and certification are in place but individuals may have difficulty achieving safety standards.
- Safe state of tools and equipment e.g. robustness of awnings, maintenance of saws.
- Safeguarding policy must be in place.
- Clothing and Viz jackets must be fit for the task and weather conditions.