



Riverside Meadows

Date: 09/07/2024

This risk assessment will be updated annually following a review or whenever further risks or control measures are identified.

Prior to the task taking place the task leader will assess the task and give a risk assessment briefing to all staff and volunteers to include use of tools, site conditions and emergency procedure.

What3Words access points for emergency services:	Vehicle Entrance: The Street ///cheat.attending.century Pedestrian Entrances: Bridge ///shifters.former.snoring Southern entrance ///sized.sheep.monk Access: Pedestrian, 2WD,4WD, Air.
Nearest A&E department:	John Radcliffe Hospital, Headley Way, Headington, Oxford OX3 9DU Tel: 01865 337267
Nearest minor injuries unit:	Abingdon Community Hospital, Marcham Rd, Abingdon OX14 1AG Tel: 01865 904346

HAZARD Potential Harm	PEOPLE AT RISK	EXISTING CONTROL METHODS Staff and volunteers instructed or trained to:	FURTHER ACTIONS REQUIRED	CORRECTIVE ACTIONS		
				WHO	WHEN	COMPLETED
Adverse weather conditions: Injury resulting from extreme weather conditions.	Staff Volunteers	Check weather forecast prior to starting work. Prepare for expected weather conditions e.g. sunscreen, extra water, extra layers or waterproofs. Monitor conditions throughout and stop if it becomes unsafe to continue.	If session in woods, or trees are overhanging area, beaufort scale of 7 (32mph) or over would usually require cancellation/change of site/activity as appropriate.	Session supervisor	As required	Ongoing

Uneven surfaces: Slips trips and falls	Staff, volunteers, public.	Check footpaths weekly for hazards, any posing significant risk will be rectified immediately if possible or a warning notice erected and repaired within one month. Wear appropriate footwear, with firm gripping soles.	Work area to be checked as best as possible prior to start of session for any obvious or significant slip, trip, and fall hazards. Hazards to be cleared or highlighted.	Session supervisor	As required	Ongoing
Poorly maintained fences and access furniture: (Including benches, gates, etc.) Trips, falls, bruises, sprains, cuts.	Staff, volunteers, public.	Check site furniture weekly for damage/hazards. Additional inspections carried out when problems are reported. Identified hazards will be rectified immediately if possible or suitable warning notices erected if not. Furniture will be repaired or removed within one month.				
Cattle Grazing on site: Trampling, dogs worrying stock.	Staff, volunteers, public.	Warning signs at all entrances to inform visitors of the presence of cattle on site and a request to keep dogs on lead unless approached by cattle. Daily checks of grazing stock and infrastructure (water provision, fences).	Ongoing assessment of behaviour and any cattle exhibiting hazardous behaviour to be isolated and removed from public access areas.	Grazer, stock watcher volunteers.	Daily	Ongoing
Water bodies: Risk of drowning, hypothermia.	Staff, volunteers, public.	Swimming and water play is permitted at the designated bathing area. Carry a throwline when carrying out work parties or events located alongside waterbodies.				
Contact with water: Weil's disease (Leptospirosis)	Staff, volunteers, public.	Cover cuts and abrasions. Wash hands after contact with water. Visit GP if developing flu-like symptoms.				
Falling trees/tree limbs:	Staff, volunteers, public.	Trees adjacent to paths visually checked weekly and hazards cleared or cordoned off. Any hazards noted to be reported to the Parks Officer (Trees) at SODC. No works/events should be carried out under or within falling distance of trees in high winds (over 32mph).	Work area to be checked as best as possible prior to start of session for any obvious or significant hazards. Hazards to be cleared or excluded from work area.	Session supervisor	As required	Ongoing

Commented [TR1]: Given the bathing water status recently acquired I wonder if we should provide a floatation device or throwline on site.

My only concern is that it would be likely to be vandalised but this should not be a barrier to providing a safe space.

Historically we have taken the approach that if people choose to swim in open water *where swimming is not actively encouraged* it is reasonable to assume that they take appropriate personal responsibility for their own safety.

Now that we can safely say that swimming is encouraged I think we need to provide some safety infrastructure. Possibly with support of Wallingford Town Council? SODC to comment.

Thorny bushes along paths and in work areas: Cuts and grazes. Infections. Puncture wounds.	Staff, volunteers, public.	Ensure paths are kept clear of overhanging vegetation. Provide safety glasses if working in thorny areas with volunteers.				
Pill box – Bat Hibernaculum: Risk of falling injury, falling masonry.	Staff, volunteers, public.	The pill box is sealed off and any attempts to break-in will be rectified urgently. Pill box is fenced off to restrict access.	Annual inspections of pill box structural integrity.	Senior Ranger	Annual	Ongoing
Dangerous rubbish left on site: Cuts, infections	Staff, volunteers, public.	All staff or volunteers litter picking on site should read, understand and adhere to the Litter picking risk assessment. Work party leader will brief all volunteers of risks involved with litter. Clear litter when found or cordon off if unsafe to clear. Staff advised on correct procedure for dealing with sharps and provided appropriate equipment. Prompt response to public reports of sharps on site and police informed.				
Members of the public: Verbal or physical abuse.	Staff, volunteers, public.	Do not engage with abusive or aggressive members of the public. Follow lone working procedure if alone. Leave the area or join colleagues and call the police.				
Dog faeces: Stomach upset from bacteria, Toxocarasis	Staff, volunteers, public.	Pick up with poo bag and place in bin if safe to do so. Wear gloves when working if likely to come into contact with faeces. Wash hands before eating or smoking.				
Aggressive dogs: Possible bites	Staff, volunteers, public.	Do not approach dogs on site without permission from the owner. Do not confront aggressive dogs or owners.				

Traffic: Injury caused by impact with cars, motorcycles, cyclists, horse riders, pedestrians.	Staff, volunteers, public.	Use signage when working on public highways. Use high-vis vests and/or a banksman when working by a public highway or if visibility of staff/volunteers is poor.				
Ticks: Lyme's disease.	Staff, volunteers, public.	Work party/event leader to brief all volunteer volunteers of potential risk from Ticks and advise to wear long trousers/ sleeves. Check body after visit especially waist, legs, armpits. Visit GP if developing flu-like symptoms.				
Contact with irritable and poisonous plants: Berries, fungi, wild parsnip and hemlock – possible ingestion or photosensitive skin reaction	Staff, volunteers, public.	All volunteers/staff made aware of risks involved with berries, fungi or other plant material. Minimise contact with irritable plants as much as possible. Wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking.				
Stings from bees, wasps or hornets: Possible allergic reaction to stings	Staff, volunteers, public.	Notify all staff and volunteers if you become aware of any nests on site and avoid the area.				
Volunteers working on site: Volunteers working on the site pose a potential risk of injury to themselves and other site users e.g. incorrect use of tools	Staff, volunteers, public.	Task specific risk assessments to be completed and shared with staff and volunteers working on site. Team leader responsible for briefing all volunteer work parties of risks and control methods involved with the specific site and task.				
Contractors working on site:	Staff, volunteers, public.	Site risk assessment is shared with contractors. Contractors will be responsible for undertaking a risk assessment and sharing it with the Countryside Manager.				

Contractors working on the site pose a potential risk to themselves and other site users		Contractors will be responsible for their own health and safety and that of site users when works are in progress.				
Fire: Burns, smoke inhalation.	Staff, volunteers, public.	Fires are not permitted on site without permission from the Countryside Manager.				
Authorised vehicles on site: Bruises, broken limbs, severe injury	Staff, volunteers, public.	Speed limit of 5mph at all times. Pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders have priority.				

The task covered by this risk assessment should only be carried out by a member of staff or volunteer who is trained and authorised to do so. If you have any medical condition which might increase the likelihood of an accident or injury resulting from carrying out this task then you must discuss this with and be authorised by your line manager, before you attempt the task.

	Assessment date	Assessor	Position
Initial assessment undertaken on			
Review 1 completed:			
Review 2 completed:			
Review 3 completed:			