

Trafford Wildlife General Risk Assessment

LOCATION: Birch Moss, Black Moss, Brick Kiln Wood, Brookheyes, Dunham Park, Firs Wood, Henshall Lane, Hogswood, John o' Jerusalem, Priory Gardens, Seamons Moss, Sinderland Green, White Oak, Woodheyes, Yew Tree Farm and locations with similar risks. Locations with dissimilar risks to be subject to separate risk assessment	RISK ASSESSED BY: Geoff Densham 07769943071, David Reeves 07709245280
DATE RISK ASSESSMENT PREPARED: 04.01.2020	DATE RISK ASSESSMENT LAST UPDATED: 25.04.24
NEAREST HOSPITALS: Wythenshawe Hospital, Southmoor Rd, Manchester M23 9LT or Trafford General Hospital, Moorside Road, Davyhulme, Manchester M41 5SL	EMERGENCY SERVICE ACCESS: For Black Moss & Seamons Moss a padlock key to the Seamons Road TPT gate is held by G.Densham. Other locations have nearby road access.

Introduction: The Risk Assessment is read by all volunteers and they must confirm understood. Adults supervising children (under 18) to confirm on their behalf. The Task Leader should identify themselves to all volunteers. Volunteers participate in an event entirely at their own risk, as Trafford Wildlife is not a legal entity. Ensure the risk assessment and area to be covered is reviewed by the Task Leader before every event in case there are any changes to the area. Volunteers to register attendance in advance with own and emergency mobile phone numbers.

HAZARDS	RISK LEVEL High/ Med/ Low	ACTION - RISK REDUCTION MEASURES	POST-ACTION RISK LEVEL
Trips/slips/falls due to trailing vegetation, steep slopes, ditches muddy and uneven ground, steps, bridges and other access structures	High	-Suitable supportive footwear should be worn when accessing area. -Avoid working on slopes when possible. -Be aware of uneven ground. -No working at height	Med
Risk of drowning in pools or feet sinking and getting stuck in boggy areas	Med	-Area should not be accessed during times of high water levels. -No lone working. -Ponds must not be entered. -Adults supervising children must be able to swim. -Near steep banks on rivers/pools use a banksman with 10m (min) throw line to aid egress.	Low
Contraction of water-borne diseases, particularly from still water including E coli, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis C, Cryptosporidiosis & Botulism. Contraction of soil-borne diseases such as tetanus or other diseases associated with dog faeces etc. Contraction of insect born diseases including Lyme's.	Med	-Participants if they feel ill enough to warrant visiting doctor, should mention have had contact with dirty water/soil/dog faeces/wild animals/vegetation recently. -Volunteers to have adequate tetanus cover. -Appropriate gloves to be worn for tasks. -Hand washing facilities/anti-bacterial rub should be used before eating, smoking and when leaving area. Remove ticks with an approved tick removal tool. Monitor entry point for signs of infection and if found consult a medical practitioner. Report (with tick) via https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tick-surveillance-scheme	Low
Contraction or spread of CV19 or other infection. (This RA will be subject to change as government rules vary.)	Med	-Not to come if exhibiting any CV19 type symptoms. -Not to come if someone if your household has CV19 type symptoms.	Low
Irritation from invasive and other species. Skin irritation or illness due to contact with poisonous or toxic vegetation: e.g. nettles, hogweed etc.	Med	-Suitable gloves to be worn at all times. -Arms & legs should be covered at all times. -Hand washing facilities/anti bacterial gel should be used before; eating, smoking and when leaving area.	Low
Injury from or digging of giant	High	Before undertaking work, volunteers to be warned of dangers of Giant	Med

hogweed: skin irritation/blisters.		Hogweed and how to identify it. Ensure hands, arms and legs are covered in areas where GHW can be found and avoid working near broken plants. -Wear hazmat coveralls, PVC gauntlets & visor. -When washing tools continue to wear PPE. Disinfectants such as Virkon S neutralise the active components of giant hogweed.	
Injury from use of tools: saws, loppers, forks, slashers, spades, rakes, etc.	High	-Tools must be maintained in good condition and kept sharp. -When using saws to fell wood ensure all are clear of felling area. -When using powered saws wear appropriate protective clothing. -When using slashers or other wide swinging tools ensure 5m minimum clearance from others, wear no gloves on main hand, or if bramble present at hand level non slip rubber gloves i.e. no leather gloves. With short swinging tools (e.g. billhooks) ensure 1.5m minimum clearance from others. -Watch out for inquisitive dogs. -When using spades/forks & other lifting tools be aware of good manual handling techniques to particularly protect against lower back injury. - For hedge laying wear gauntlets or Kevlar cut/stab resistant gloves, Kevlar sleeve on non-dominant hand and knee pads. -For hazel hedging stakes use a wooden mallet or lump hammer. -Rakes (when not in use) to be left tine down horizontally on ground. -Loppers to be used only on branches up to thumb size. -Wear ear plugs/defenders when using battery powered tools. -No mains or fossil fuelled tools. -First aid kit present at either work area or vehicle. Hedge laying to also include major bleed kit. -Work team leader to carry mobile phone. -Frequent breaks should be taken when undertaking repetitive tasks. -No lone working	Med
Injury from stump winching operations	Low	-Ensure winching uses 3 person team – winch operator, spotter observing target and cable to ensure others clear of winch cable, tail person to ensure cable slack remains straight and to warn others that may approach. -Ensure pulling is on level ground such that any failure will not result in a hazardous movement of the target or winch. If on sloping ground where a failure could result in a hazardous movement then see https://www.nptc.org.uk/assets/documents/3dc25b95268f47a69213b78106406a4f.pdf for need of ‘thorough examination’ under PUWER.	Low
Insect ticks, bites and stings	Med	-Volunteers advised to use insect repellent and to watch out for horse flies. - Any relevant insect nests or hives discovered to be left undisturbed, and the area vacated if necessary. -Suitable gloves to be worn at all times. -Arms & legs should be covered at all times. -More prevalent in summer.	Low
Carcinogenic effects of bracken spores	Low	If working in bracken in autumn (mostly October) wear an FFP2 mask to avoid inhalation. The health risks to casual visitors of bracken thickets are, however, negligible.	Low
Possible infection or anaphylactic shock due to insect ticks, bites and stings or contact with thorny plants (e.g. bramble, hawthorn, blackthorn)	Low	-If anyone has been prescribed an Epi-pen due to prior reaction to stings, they should carry it when on the reserves and inform other group members about it. -Individuals to monitor scratches, lacerations, bites or stings closely and to go straight to hospital should symptoms worsen. No treatment can be given by First Aider.	Low
Changeable and extreme weather conditions including sun, rain, wind, and low temperatures etc.	Med	-Assessment of potential conditions should be made prior to working in area. -Appropriate clothing should be worn to protect from elements. -Do not operate in wooded locations if wind gust speed forecast >35mph.	Low
Silly or nasty people. Minor or serious injuries or unpleasantness	Low	-If you suspect someone is misusing the site, assume that they pose a threat to you.	Low

caused by conflict with people and those misusing the site.		-Do not approach them, phone the owner, or if appropriate, the police.	
Threat from domesticated animals (e.g. horses, cattle), some may bite or kick.	Low	-If approached by domesticated animals retire with tools to a place of safety.	Low
Injury from falling trees and branches	Med	-Woodland tasks to be postponed/abandoned if wind gust speeds forecast>35mph. -Maintain awareness of hung trees/branches and deadwood. Note: Tree safety checks usually only occur by the owner adjacent to publicly accessible paths - away from paths or on sites with no access no one will have looked for dangerous trees. -If timber is higher than 4m or contains dead wood then wear safety helmets. -When dropping trees ensure people x2 tree height away and use a look out.	Low
Injury to faces & body from protruding branches or scrub	Med	-Remove any protruding branches from work area wherever possible. -Work methodically into dense undergrowth. -Wear protective glasses or if appropriate goggles. -Ensure cut branches are not pruned to a point. -Avoid placing surrounding branches under tension while working. -When hedge laying wear thick gauntlets/kevlar gloves, arm protection and goggles/visor. -If hedge is difficult to access, tall or contains dead wood wear safety helmet.	Low
Injury from other road users when operating on or near a public road	Med	-Wear hi-vis vests or jackets -Do not step into road vehicle lane. -Hedge-laying to be from the non road side only.	Low
Handling of barbed & other wire	Med	-Wear eye protection -Use rigger gloves rather than non-slip rubber gloves.	Low