

Trafford Wildlife General Risk Assessment

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| LOCATION: Birch Moss, Black Moss, Bow Green Farm, Brick Kiln Wood, Brookheyes, Dunham Park, Firs Wood, Henshall Lane, Hogswood, Priory Gardens, Rostherne NNR, Seamons Moss, Sinderland Green, Stamford Farm, Tatton Estate, 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: 02.03.26 |
| 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. For Tatton Estate: Lamb Lane entrance (gate mostly open) Mobberly Road entrance (gate opens when driven close to). |

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 |
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| 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 |
| Inhalation of asbestos dust, microplastics, nano plastics and PFAs (forever chemicals). PFAs & plastics are an emerging pollutant from sewage sludge. | Med | - If solid asbestos e.g sheeting found then mark site with hazard tape, avoid the marked area and report presence of asbestos to landowner. - If adjacent fields have been recently tilled or sown, or the presence of sewage sludge suspected, then avoid the fields and when in woodlands keep 5m minimum away from the field edge and work upwind of the field | Low |

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| | | whenever possible. If sewage sludge containing PFAs or microplastics on adjacent land is suspected the task leader may abandon the task entirely. | |
| Irritation from invasive and other species. Skin irritation or illness due to contact with poisonous or toxic vegetation: e.g. nettles, hogweed etc. | Med | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -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 hogweed: skin irritation/blisters. | High | <p>Before undertaking work, volunteers to be warned of dangers of Giant Hogweed (GHW) 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wear hazmat coveralls, PVC gauntlets & visor. -When washing tools continue to wear PPE. Disinfectants such as Virkon S neutralise the active components of GHW. | Med |
| Injury from use of tools: saws, loppers, forks, slashers, spades, rakes, etc. | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -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 except person(s) assisting working on the stem to provide support and control of the cut stem. The assistant(s) should have the stem between them and the area the bill hook is being used so that they are not caught by the swing. -Do not stand within 2m of tree popper operator in case the popper flies forward due to operator slipping and releasing tool. -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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ensure winching uses 3 person team – winch operator, spotter observing target and cable observer 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 (Brookheyes/Hogswood has beehives nearby) | Med | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -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. | Low |

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| | | -More prevalent in summer. | |
| 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 caused by conflict with people and those misusing the site. | Low | -If you suspect someone is misusing the site, assume that they pose a threat to you. -Do not approach them, phone the owner, or if appropriate, the police. | Low |
| 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 3m 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 |