

Hampshire Dormouse Group – County project Risk assessment

ACTIVITY	Setting up and surveying of footprint tunnels		
Persons at risk	All volunteers assisting with the set up and checking of footprint tunnels for the county wide survey		
Likelihood of hazard taking place (if precautions are not in place)	Severity of Outcome	Risk (P x S)	
Probability (P)	Severity (S)		
1. Very unlikely 2. Unlikely 3. Possible 4. Likely	1. Minor injury 2. Major injury 3. Death	1 = very low 2 = low 3 = medium 4 - 8 = high 9 += very high	

Nature of hazard	Current precautions	Estimation of risk	Further precautions
Confrontational situations.	If approached by confrontational people, volunteers should seek to diffuse the situation by getting away safely and not get involved in argument or confrontation. Volunteers should either work with a second person or have a buddy system in place for safety. Landowner permission must ALWAYS be gained prior to survey.	Severity = 1 - 3 Probability = 1 RISK = 1 - 3	Permission from landowner sought prior to survey. Route to and from site planned and an appropriate map always carried. Retreat quietly from any potentially aggressive situation.
Trips/Slips/Falls	Volunteer to identify local hazards and maintain site awareness particularly on steeply sloping/uneven ground. Awareness of prevailing weather conditions. Appropriate clothing and footwear.	Severity of hazard = 2 Probability = 3 RISK = 6	Always carry a mobile phone to call for help. Either ensure a second person present or use a buddy system. Make sure you are aware of the grid reference of the site – downloading apps like what3words are very useful for emergency services to locate a person.
Severe weather conditions (e.g. high	Volunteer to wear appropriate clothing and footwear for time of year. Monitor weather forecasts and be aware of risk areas i.e. woodland	Severity = 1 – 3	Use personal judgement and weather forecasting. Dress appropriately and take

winds) including causation of hypothermia and heatstroke	areas in high winds. Make personal judgement call on when to carry out survey – i.e. do not choose to go into woodland in high winds.	Probability = 1 RISK = 1 - 3	water/sunscreen/waterproofs as required.
Struck by falling tree/branch.	Private landowners are unlikely to carry out regular tree safety surveys therefore it is essential that volunteers take care to look around them at the trees under which they are surveying. Look for hanging branches, deadwood limbs, unstable leaning trees and avoid. Volunteers should look for and note presence of Ash dieback in Ash trees and avoid accordingly (major deadwood and crown loss, dead/dying trees, decaying limbs etc).	Severity = 3 Probability = 1 RISK = 3	Whilst volunteers are not required to be trained in tree safety assessment, they should do a visual check of trees they are working under or near to ensure no obvious hanging deadwood or other hazards.
Zoonosis (diseases that can be transmitted from vertebrate animals to humans)	If survey involves land with breeding ewes, then female volunteers who are pregnant or trying to become pregnant must avoid any contact with the animals (zoonotic abortion). Long sleeves and insect repellent should be worn to avoid tick bites (lymes) Avoid ditches and streams – ensure all cuts covered (weils)	Severity = 2 – 3 Probability = 2 RISK = 4 - 6	Volunteer can opt out of survey if it involves land with breeding ewes and volunteer is at risk. All volunteers should familiarise themselves with symptoms of lymes disease and weils and should give themselves a thorough tick check after the survey. If develop flu like symptoms within a month of getting a tick bite or ditch access, then go to doctor and tell them of potential lymes or weils issue.
Allergies – hayfever, insect sting allergies	Volunteers who are allergic to bees/wasps or other insect stings MUST carry their epi pen/antihistamines with them (its for volunteer to know their own severity of reaction and know which treatment they require with them). Allergic volunteers should not perform surveys alone. Footprint tunnels are not enclosed and therefore it should be easy to assess from a safe distance whether bees/wasps are using it. Volunteer to assess before approach. Hayfever sufferers should carry their own medication with them. .	Severity = 3 Probability = 3 RISK = 9	

<p>Covid 19 – contracting or spreading Corona virus during survey</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If you, or anyone in your household, is showing any signs of Covid -19, or has been asked to self isolate by Track and Trace, remain at home and do not undertake any field work. 2. Please inform us as soon as possible if you develop symptoms of, and/or test positive for Covid-19 in the 14 days after your survey. 3. We ask you to respect minimum social distancing AT ALL TIMES (currently <u>2m where possible</u> between households at the time of writing, but could be updated at any time). 4. If site looks busy consider postponing check or only use paths through the woodland rather than the public access paths – many sites will be privately owned and so minimal risk of coming into contact with people. 5. If knocking on doors to talk to landowners, ensure stick to social distancing guidelines; knock on door and step away before person answers. 6. If driving to sites with other volunteers, members of different households must travel separately. 7. All volunteers should carry masks and hand sanitiser. Hands should be washed, or sanitised, before the check starts. VOLUNTEERS WILL HAVE TO PROVIDE THEIR OWN MASK AND SANITISER. 8. If more than one volunteer putting up and checking tunnels, then social distancing guidelines to be observed (check up to date government guidance) unless those two people share a household. 9. While undertaking fieldwork activities, avoid touching personal items such as watches and mobile phones. 10. Sharing equipment between surveyors on the site should be avoided where possible. If this is not possible shared items should be wiped down with alcohol wipe or similar after each use. Surveyors wearing gloves will also assist in reducing the impact of this. 11. When moving tunnels between sites (when one area is finished 	<p>Severity = 3</p> <p>Probability = 1</p> <p>RISK = 3</p>	<p>Volunteers must keep up to date with government guidelines and act accordingly (i.e. social distancing rule). It is also for them to ensure they do not perform any field work whilst suffering symptoms or if they have been in contact with anyone who has symptoms within the last 14 days.</p>
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	<p>and another needs setting up for survey) the tunnels and equipment must be sterilised with a suitable product (Safe4, Virkon).</p> <p>12. All bags, masks, gloves etc. should be disposed BY INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS of at the end of a check.</p> <p>13. At the end of the check, wash hands, change clothes as soon as is practicable and wash those worn on the check as soon as possible.</p>		
Tetanus	Volunteers should have up to date tetanus injections. Avoid rusty metals or risks like barbed wire fences. Clean and cover any cuts.	Severity = 3 Probability = 1 RISK = 3	
Carrying awkward/heavy loads	Ensure proper manual lifting technique is used – bent knees, straight back. If load is heavy or awkward then make smaller and more manageable – use rucksacks or wheel barrows or other ways of carrying loads safely. NOTE: Due to C19 risk, unless members of the same household, volunteers can not share manual lifting of the same load with another person if it breaks social distancing rule. Therefore, loads may need to be lessened accordingly.	Severity = 2 Probability = 2 RISK = 4	
Animals – dogs/farm animals	As landowner permission will be gained, any farm animals like cattle will be known about prior to survey and can be avoided where required. If dangerous dog situation arises (public dog running free, hunting dog) then exit the situation as quickly as able. Any volunteers’ dogs should be kept leashed or under very close control at all times and only with landowner permission.	Severity = 3 Probability = 1 RISK = 3	Ensure volunteers are aware of any farm animals on site – check with landowner if it is ok to access any areas that have animals in if needed for survey (i.e. hedgerows running through fields of cattle). If its private land, there is no guarantee the cattle will be used to people walking through.
Lone working	Ideally putting up tunnels and surveying them would be done with 2 people (ensure C19 guidelines are followed). If working alone then volunteer must have a buddy system in place to check in with someone regularly and at finish. Their buddy must have the grid ref and location	Severity = 1 - 3 Probability = 2	

	of the site they are on. Mobile phones must be kept on and be well charged.	RISK = 2 - 6	
Driving to, from and around site	Potential for accident with another vehicle or through loss of vehicle control due to surveyor fatigue, bad weather conditions or lack of concentration. Risk of serious injury or death to the surveyor.	Severity = 3 Probability = 1 RISK = 3	

Date of this assessment: 10/04/2021 ***EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS: Emergency services: 999/112 Police (for non-emergencies): 101 *****
USEFUL LOCATION FINDING APP USED BY EMERGENCY SERVICES: what3words Recommend downloading the app onto phone for use out in field.**