

LWA Risk Assessment Priory Water Work Parties and Visiting Groups

Activity or Hazard	Risk and Who may be harmed	Severity	Frequency	Measures Taken	Further Actions
Steep Banks	Risk of injury following falls. Risk of falling into deep cold water Risk of machinery	Moderate	Constant	Adequate signs. Fence off dangerous areas. Brief attendees before entering the reserve.	Regular monitoring.
Uneven ground	All participants. Risk of injury from trips and falls Potential for broken limbs	Moderate	Constant	Wear suitable footwear. Follow safety briefings	Avoid taking vehicles onto soft ground that may cause ruts, repair any ruts that may lead to future accidents.
Trips slips and falls	All participants Risk of injury including broken limbs and sprains	Moderate	Constant	Follow safety briefings, wear suitable footwear, cut and maintain paths and tracks. Avoid working in icy conditions	Remove trip hazards where possible such as brambles and fallen branches

Deep water	All participants Severe risk of drowning or hypothermia from immersion in deep water.	High	Constant	Avoid working on dangerous banks. No wading. Wear life jackets when using boats. Ensure safety equipment is on hand. Do not enter the water unless there are people assisting you in the operation. Work in pairs and ensure your partner is aware of your intentions.	Monitor safety equipment and dispose of faulty items.
Fuel, oils and pesticides	Work Party attendees. Risk of contamination, burns or possible death from toxic materials.	High	Frequent	Use appropriate PPE. Keep fuel cans a suitable distance from the work area. Allow machines time to cool before re-fueling. Do not smoke near flammable substances. Only trained personnel to use pesticides.	Report spills or faulty equipment. Consider the training requirements of people involved in handling such items.
Powered Machinery	Work Party attendees. Risk severe injury or death to operators or bystanders from moving parts or flying debris.	High	Frequent	Ensure that operators are trained in the use of the machine they are to use. Ensure machines are in good working order and suitable for the job they are being used for.	Keep bystanders, visitors and the public away from the working area. Do not allow dogs to be loose in the working area. Consider signs and barriers if needed.

Chainsaws	Work party attendees. Severe risk of injury or death from contact with saw chain, flying debris or falling trees and branches	Very high	Infrequent	Only those holding the appropriate qualification may use a chainsaw on site. The correct PPE must be used at all times.	Where it is possible avoid the use of chainsaws and try to use manual hand tools to reduce the risk of injury. The use of professional contractors should be considered for any action above ground level.
Tactor based operations	All participants. Risk of injury to public or bystanders. Risk of injury to operators. Risk of injury or fatality to all concerned from collisions or flying debris.	High	Frequent	May only be undertaken by competent operators. Strictly no passengers. Only operate controls from the drivers seat. Ensure all guards are fitted and are undamaged. Be aware of pedestrians and the public.	Report any damaged or faulty equipment and cease operations if damage occurs. Regular servicing and safety checks should be carried out. Do not use on the road without the correct license being held.
Sharp or edged tools	Work party attendees. Risk of minor to severe injury resulting from contact with cutting surfaces.	Moderate	Frequent	Use appropriate PPE. Ensure that tools are in good order and well maintained. Do not use faulty or damaged equipment. Be aware of people around you.	Faulty or damaged equipment must be repaired or discarded. Replace with new tools where necessary.

Lone working	All participants. Risk of injury or illness with no help immediately available.	Moderate	Frequent.	Avoid working on your own. Always inform someone of when and where you will be and always give estimated start and finish times Carry a mobile phone at all times Inform your supervisor that you have safely completed your task.	This practice should be avoided wherever possible. No-one should be working outside of organised work party schedules.
Bonfires	All participants. Risk of burns and effects of smoke inhalation leading to serious injury or death.	Moderate	Infrequent	Be aware of weather conditions and wind direction. Keep the fire as small as possible. Do not site fires on or near public rights of way. Allow time for the fire to burn down before leaving it, do not leave a substantial fire burning unattended. Bonfires should be restricted to winter months when the risk to surrounding vegetation is low. Do not allow smoke to blow over public highways or inhabited areas.	Consider alternatives to burning such as habitat piles or chipping. Avoid burning wet or green materials to reduce smoke production. Do not pile up materials in advance of burning to avoid the risk to hedgehogs and other wildlife. Light a small fire and move material to it to allow wildlife to escape.

Overhead powerlines	Work Party attendees. Risk of severe injury or death from electrocution following contact with powerlines	Very high	infrequent	Powerlines do cross the reserve and care must be taken to avoid contact with them. The use of markers or barriers must be considered. Where possible avoid working in such areas.	Consider using professional contractors or the relevant electric company to do any work near powerlines if there is a risk of contact with the cables.
Underground powerlines	Work party attendees. Risk of electrocution and death from contact with high voltage cables.	High	Infrequent	If ground must be excavated where power cables are thought to run, the use of a cat scanner to locate the cable must precede any digging.	
Biting and stinging insects	All participants. Risk of bites and stings leading to reactions and infections. Risk of serious illness and death from anaphylactic shock.	Moderate	Frequent.	During the warmer months the use of insect repellent is recommended. Be aware of the possible presence of wasp nests and take time to search the area of work before commencing any operation.	Report the site of any wasp nests to the work party organiser so that they can be destroyed. If needed pest controllers should be used to destroy wasp nests. Ensure that anyone visiting or working on site makes the person in charge aware of any allergies on arrival.
Public Access	Members of the public Risk of injury or death to public moving through work areas.	High	Frequent	Public rights of way exist on the reserve and trespassers may be encountered. Be aware of the public and use signs or barriers where it is necessary to exclude them from work areas.	Leave work areas tidy and free from hazards when finishing work. We are liable even if trespassers are injured through our negligence.

Working on roadsides	All participants. Risk of causing collisions. Risk of being hit by oncoming vehicles resulting in serious injury or death.	High	Infrequent	Where it is necessary to work on roadsides, consider signs and barriers to protect the workforce. All operatives must wear Hi Viz clothing. The use of flashing beacons on vehicles should be considered.	It may be necessary to use stop go signs or request temporary road closures from the highways agency.
Accessing or leaving the reserve	All participants. Risk of collisions with oncoming traffic resulting in serious injury or death.	High	Frequent	All parts of the reserve are accessed from a busy road where accidents have occurred in the past. Take absolute care when accessing or leaving the site.	Keep the roadside gateways clear of high vegetation and overhanging branches.
Blue green algae	All participants. Risk of serious illness or death. Serious risk to dogs following contact with the Algae	Moderate	Infrequent	At certain times the reserve may see blooms of harmful Algae. Do not drink the water, swim in the lakes or allow dogs in the water at such times. The reserve manager will, at times, close the reserve to certain activities if he considers there to be a risk.	Where necessary close the reserve and erect signs stating the reason for this. Also consider signs at either end of the footpath warning the public of the risk.

Wiel's Disease	All participants. Risk of serious illness following contact with rats or contaminated areas.	Moderate	Frequent.	Be aware of the potential of contact with rats. Exercise good hygiene practices. Wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking.	Monitor infestations of rats and consider eradication programmes if needed.
Inclement weather	All participants. Risk of sunburn. Risk of heatstroke. Risk of hypothermia. Risk of lightning strike.	High	Infrequent	Take extreme care on waterlogged or flooded ground. Under no circumstances should anyone venture onto frozen water. Take great care on windy or extremely hot days. Be aware of possible thunder storms.	During periods of extreme cold, snow, high winds, heatwaves or electrical storms it may be necessary to terminate or cancel work parties.
Medical conditions	All participants. Risk of illness from pre-existing medical conditions.	Moderate	Infrequent	Members attending work parties or visitors should inform the organiser of any medical conditions and how emergencies should be treated.	Work party or tour leader should consider the implications of any medical conditions. Avoid allotting tasks that may put people at risk.

Injuries and accidents.	All participants and members of the public. General risk of emergencies following such events.	Moderate.	Infrequent	A suitable first aid kit should be available on site and carried during work parties. Mobile phones should be carried by all members and an emergency action plan should be in place so that a 999 call will be accompanied by details on location and ground conditions.	A detailed plan should be carried during work parties and visits that contains location details of access points and locations around the reserve using such details as, What three words OS locate grid reference Post code Road names Ground Conditions. Several members should be first aid trained.
Alcohol and drugs	All participants. Risk to individuals, workmates and bystanders of accidents and injuries.	Moderate	Infrequent	The use of alcohol or drugs will not be tolerated on any work party. Members who are suspected of being under the influence will not be allowed to participate and will be required to find a safe way to return home.	

The use of boats	All participants. Risk of immersion in water leading to hypothermia or drowning.	High	Occasional	<p>When boats need to be used, they must be inspected to ensure they are in a good state of repair and are suitable for the task.</p> <p>Life jackets must be worn at all times.</p> <p>Care should be taken to ensure that boats are not overloaded or used when conditions are not suitable.</p> <p>Boats should be equipped with a secondary means of propulsion in case of engine failiure.</p> <p>A suitable anchor and mooring rope must be available to prevent boats from drifting away.</p>	
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Compiled By	Tim Goodlife
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