

## Stroud Wildlife Survey Group General Risk Assessment for surveying (Version 1 August 2023)

Site name		Date	
Description of activity			
Name of leader or principal surveyor		Leader's or principal's mobile phone	
Meeting point for SOS	Postcode: What Three Words:	Grid reference:	
First Aider's name, if present			

### 1. General hazards applicable to survey and training activities

Applicable to this event? (Tick)	Hazards	Risks	Risk severity H/M/L	Risk likelihood H/M/L	Action required before the event (leader)	Action required during the event (all attendees)
	Weather conditions	Sunburn, sunstroke exposure, dehydration, getting cold and/or wet.			Advise on need for appropriate clothing, water, sunscreen if required.	Wear appropriate clothing. Have a good supply of water. Drink plenty of water. If appropriate, apply sunscreen and seek shade.
	Ground conditions e.g. steep slopes, mud, bog, uneven ground, tree stumps	Slips and trips, falls and resultant injuries			Warn of hazardous ground conditions specific to the site or the weather; advise on need for appropriate clothing and footwear. On site, advise attendees of hazardous areas to be avoided and need to take care when working on slopes.	Wear suitable clothing and footwear; avoid hazardous areas if possible, especially after prolonged rain or in snow/ice. Take care when working on slopes.
	Lone working and working on remote sites	Falls, injury, getting lost etc			All surveyors to be made aware that SWSG does not advise lone working. If working on remote sites, advise	Work in pairs or more. If working on remote sites, make sure that someone knows where you are and what time

					need for a 'buddy' who knows where you are and what time you expect to return.	you expect to return. Carry first aid kit, mobile phone, OS map, GPS, water, as appropriate, for emergencies.
	Long walk and/or arduous conditions	Tiredness leading to fatigue and accident			Warn of likelihood of this and advise if a particular level of fitness is required for the activity.	Take regular breaks. Ensure you have a supply of water and food.
	Gates, stiles, barbed wire fences	Slipping, injury, cuts			Check that activity route does not require climbing over barbed wire fences. Advise if stiles must be crossed so that attendees are aware of physical issues.	Ensure gates opened and closed correctly. Avoid climbing over barbed wire fences. Ensure firm footing when stepping on wet stiles
	Plants	Rashes, scratches, infections			Advise need for suitable clothing e.g. long sleeves/trousers and gloves, warn of specific hazards e.g. bramble or irritant plants.	Wear suitable clothing and gloves if necessary. Use barrier creams and plasters/coverings where necessary.
	Dust, pollen, spores	Allergy, asthma attack, hay fever			Advise that known sufferers should take appropriate precautions and carry suitable medication.	Known sufferers to take appropriate precautions, have medication with them. In the event of an asthma attack, seek medical attention immediately.
	Insect bites and stings	Bites, stings, Lyme disease			Advise use of insect repellent and warn of tick likelihood; advise wearing suitable clothing, i.e. long sleeves and long trousers, trousers tucked into socks and need to check for ticks on return home.	Wear suitable clothing, carry insect repellent, give stinging insects a wide berth if possible. Avoid long vegetation where possible. Check for ticks regularly and remove promptly and carefully with appropriate removal tool. Know what to do if bitten or symptoms develop.
	Adders	Bite/poison			If possible, discover if site includes areas where adders might be found. On site, advise attendees of areas to avoid.	Know any likely sites where adders might be found. If bitten, seek medical attention immediately, Do not attempt to remove venom or leave an injured person alone.
	Small mammals	Bites			Advise need for suitable gloves and advise on need for a current tetanus jab (attendees should seek advice from GP if uncertain).	Wear suitable gloves. Do not handle small mammals unless trained to do so.

	Working in or next to water	Slipping and falling leading to getting wet and cold, drowning. Weils Disease Stomach Upsets			Advise need for appropriate clothing and extra care to be taken. Do not carry out the activity if there is a risk of the water being deeper than expected due to heavy rain. Advise that no-one should work alone.	Avoid open water where possible. If working in water, wear appropriate clothing (e.g. waders) and do not enter deep water. Work in pairs or more. Do not work in water after prolonged heavy rain. Do not drink water from site. Clean hands thoroughly before eating.
	Other people	Threatening/abusive behaviour				Withdraw if confronted. If attacked or threatened, leave the area where possible and contact police.
	Livestock	Aggression from livestock, phobias, brucellosis.			Advise if livestock likely to be present and need for care, no dogs or dogs on leads etc.	Ensure any dogs are on a lead, do not walk between cows/heifers and calves.
	Working in dusk and darkness				Advise need for torches and mobile phone. Carry spare torch and/or batteries. Know your What3Words location/meeting point. Advise that no-one should work alone.	Use torches, stick to main paths where possible, use extra care and walk around the site in pairs or more.

## 2. Site-specific hazards

If working on a site which already has a risk assessment in place, e.g. a Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust site, refer to the site risk assessment and hazards map (if available) beforehand to identify site-specific and permanent hazards and the action to be taken. Fill this table in if additional hazards not covered in the table above are identified e.g. working on or near a golf course etc.

Hazard	Risks	Risk severity H/M/L	Risk likelihood H/M/L	Action to be taken before the event (leader)	Action to be taken during the event (all attendees)