

Risk Assessment for Volunteers

General:

- Ensure that Personal Protective Equipment where provided is suitable for use, that it does not restrict the volunteers or create any additional hazards.
- A first aid kit should be available to all work sessions.

Hazard	Nature of risk	Control measures
Manual Handling	Moving large objects, reaching, bending or twisting. Stooping, top heavy bending (bending from the waist using the back), can lead to strained, pulled muscles, general backache. Cuts and grazes from sharp objects, leading to infection, as well as from handling contaminated items	Lift and move items using your legs to bend, not your back. Do not handle large items. Assess items before you move them for hazards such as unknown substances, sharp edges. Wear appropriate footwear that has suitable tread and ankle support, so that you are less likely to slip whilst carrying out the activity. Always wear protective gloves.
Environmental hazards, Ground surfaces (un-even, poor, slippery) Steep banks, shrubs, brambles, tree branches etc.	Slips, trips, leading to cuts, bruises. Sprains Bites/Cuts leading to infection	Be aware of surfaces walked on, wear appropriate footwear. Volunteers are personally responsible for keeping their Tetanus up to date and recognising the symptoms of Weil’s disease and Lyme disease Do not handle any tools with which you are not familiar. Do not handle items you suspect could be contaminated with a hazardous substance.
Weather, sun and hot temperatures	Sun and heat, leading to dehydration, sun burn	Take regular breaks out of the sun, at least every 2 hours and more frequently in extreme temperatures. Water should be carried and drunk regularly. A sun hat and sun cream should be used. Keep covered up as much as possible
Wet and cold weather	Cold and wet, leading to general ill health	Suitable waterproof and warm clothing
Soil	Infection from bacteria	All volunteers should wear gloves. Hand washing to be advised at end of session.
Hand Tools	Injury to self or others	Volunteers to be responsible for the safety of their own tools.

		Safety briefing at start of the session to outline safe working practice.
Powered tools e.g. strimmers, chainsaw	Injury to self or others	Powered tools to only be used by those qualified to do so or at the individuals own risk. Personal Protective Equipment to be worn at all times. Powered tools should not be used in isolation (a second person should always be on site to maximise safety of self and others around). Working area to be cordoned off.
Road Safety e.g. Litter pick, cutting of vegetation	Not seen by drivers Awareness of traffic Uneven ground	To be aware of traffic Work accompanied if wearing ear defenders Wear High Vis Jackets
Moving vehicles	Injury to self and others	Any on site vehicles to be aware of members of the public and volunteers. Driver of vehicle to adhere to highway code at all times A maximum speed limit of 10 mph to be maintained

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