

WWT General Risk Assessment Form

Site, department, work area	Conservation Evidence, Conservation Directorate		
Task being assessed	Ornithological fieldwork surveying done on behalf of WWT for the Goose & Swan Monitoring Programme (GSMP).		
Risk Assessor/s	Adele Masztalerz; Colette Hall		
Date of Assessment	11 November 2019	Date of Review	2 February 2020

What is the hazard?	Persons at risk- who might be harmed?	How might people be harmed?	Existing Control Measures	Risk Rating With existing control measures L x S = RR			Is this acceptable? Yes/ No	Further Action needed to Control the Risk?	Risk Rating With additional control measures L x S = RR			To be Actioned by (Person and date)
				Likelihood of harm	Severity of harm	Risk rating			Likelihood of harm	Severity of harm	Risk rating	
Volunteer surveyor being injured due to a H&S risk	Volunteer surveyor	Slip/ trip/ fall. Contact with livestock. Inclement weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct insurance in place. • Volunteers reminded that they are under no obligation to participate or continue with a survey or scheme. Volunteers are responsible for their own health and safety and should not put themselves in a position that could place them, or others, in danger. • Volunteers should never undertake any work if volunteers have concerns about volunteers own or others' health and safety. If volunteers have any such concerns, volunteers should stop the work and raise these with volunteers Local Organiser and/or WWT. • Volunteers are under no obligation to visit a particular site, even if the organisers have requested it. • Ongoing dynamic risk assessment by the volunteer surveyor when undertaking tasks. • Fieldworkers should pass on health and safety information provided to them by WWT to other people helping them with WWT GSMP surveys. • You are encouraged to report any particular health and safety issues about the survey methods or the survey sites your Local Organiser and/or WWT. • Be aware of tide times & heights if working in coastal, tidal or estuary environments. 	1	4	4	yes					
Trespass. Poor relation with landowner	Volunteer surveyor	Committing an offence of trespass. Accessing land when land owner does not want people there	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always obtain permission from the relevant landowner or tenant to enter any private land not subject to open access legislation before commencing fieldwork. Do not continue fieldwork if access permission is later revoked. • A letter confirming your participation in WWT GSMP fieldwork can be provided on request (please contact either your Local Organiser or WWT). • You may not need permission to count birds on open access land - please consult the relevant websites 	1	3	3	yes					

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			<p>suggested in the further information section below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please abide by The Countryside Code and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. Take care to park sensibly, preferably off-road, and do not block entrances 									
Injury/ ill health when lone working	Volunteer surveyor	Result of an accident more serious as the person is on their own, with no immediate back up/ first aid	<p><u>Mobile telephones</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is advisable to carry a mobile phone, which may be useful in case of an emergency. Please note that mobile phone may not work in some remote areas and are only of any use if you are conscious and capable of operating them. <p><u>Working in remote areas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If going to a remote place, always leave a note of your whereabouts with a responsible person. This should include: date and time of departure, method of travel to and around the site, proposed itinerary, expected time of leaving the site and return to base, and vehicle identification details. The person to whom these details are given should be told whom to contact if you do not return and at what time to raise the alarm. If possible, do not work alone. 	1	3	3	yes	The Hollie Guard app is a free lone worker app if volunteer surveyors want to download it. https://hollieguard.com/				
Exposure to inclement weather	Volunteer surveyor	Hypothermia Discomfort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If working in mountains, moorlands or unpredictable and extreme environments, it is appropriate to wear footwear with good ankle support and to carry warm and waterproof clothing. Carry a map and compass and know how to use them. Carry a whistle, waterproof watch and where appropriate, a survival bag with extra high-energy food supplies. Avoid or abandon outdoor activities in bad weather. 	1	4	4	yes					
Volunteering at night	Volunteer surveyor	Less vision means less likely to see things like trip or water hazards, if an accident occurs, less likely to be seen	<p><u>Fieldwork at night or in the evening</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When working into the hours of darkness, carry a torch and spare batteries. Where appropriate, inform local police and other locals of your intended area of operations. Be extra vigilant at night and wear something bright or reflective when walking on roads. If possible, do not work alone. Wear appropriate clothing and shoes. 	2	3	6	yes					
Contact with wild animals livestock or	Volunteer surveyor	Injury caused by machinery, wild animals or	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take special care when entering areas with livestock, especially cattle, rams and horses. Do not enter fields containing bulls and be especially 	1	5	5	yes					

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agricultural/ forestry machinery		livestock	<p>cautious with farm dogs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rutting deer can also be aggressive in the autumn. • Avoid undertaking fieldwork in close proximity to working agricultural machinery or forestry operations. • Adhere to any signage or instruction by the land owner. 									
Uneven terrain. Water bodies	Volunteer surveyor	Slip/ trip fall including into water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take special care when carrying out fieldwork along watercourses, cliff edges, or in areas that contain boggy ground, reedbeds or loose rocks. • Avoid working in these areas at night and try to avoid lone working. • Wear brightly coloured clothing when carrying out fieldwork along busy roads. • Do not cross potentially hazardous sites, such as quarries, ravines and railway lines, and do not attempt to climb steep slopes, walls or fences. • Please heed warning signs and do not enter private (non-access) land that has been deliberately obstructed by fencing or barbed wire. • Intertidal areas, including open mudflats and saltmarshes, are potentially very hazardous. You should be particularly careful if you need to go below the high water mark; check high tide times & tide height before commencing fieldwork, and allow ample time to leave the intertidal area. Remember that tides can come in very quickly and that distances can be deceptive on wide, open tidal flats. Small tidal creeks or flows can rapidly deepen on an incoming tide, thus cutting off an apparently safe retreat. • Wear appropriate clothing and shoes. 	1	4	4	yes					
Aggression from another person	Volunteer surveyor	Verbal or physical aggression towards a volunteer surveyor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider your personal safety when conducting fieldwork within the vicinity of known or likely trouble spots. • Avoid confrontation with landowners, land workers or members of the public. • Consider the privacy of residents when performing early-morning survey work in residential areas. • Carry some form of identification to confirm the activities you are undertaking (please contact either your Local Organiser or WWT). • If you have any concerns about your personal safety, cease fieldwork immediately. 	1	3	3	yes	The Hollie Guard app is a free lone worker app if Volunteer surveyors want to download it. https://hollieguard.com/				
Zoonotic disease	Volunteer surveyor	Exposure to a zoonotic disease causes illness	<p><u>Diseases</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take hand sanitiser and wipes with you if you have no access to handwashing facilities. 	1	4	4	yes	See zoonosis card below				

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fieldworkers may be exposed to disease during survey work. If a disease is suspected (usually flu like symptoms), then it is important to inform your doctor that you may have been exposed to diseases associated with outdoor activities. Typical diseases that may be encountered are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Tetanus</i> may result from the infection of even minor wounds and scratches with <i>Clostridium tetani</i>, a common micro-organism in soil. <i>Leptospirosis (Weil's disease)</i> that can be fatal if left untreated. The organism is carried by rats and excreted in their urine, and persists in water such as in puddles and slow-moving rivers in rat-infested places. Thus visits to the nests of rat-eating species or places where rats might occur may pose a risk. <i>Lyme disease</i>, a bacterial disease transmitted by animal ticks associated with rank vegetation, which leads to severe symptoms if left untreated. A variety of animals act as hosts for the bacteria, including domestic mammals, wild mammals and birds. <i>Avian Influenza</i>. Although low chance of getting ill, please do not handle any dead birds you see. Minimising the risk of such diseases requires straightforward actions; for example, immunisation against Tetanus and during fieldwork, cover cuts and abrasions with a waterproof dressing. Remove ticks from the skin as soon as possible, wear light-coloured clothing so that ticks are visible, tuck trouser bottoms into socks so that ticks cannot attach or climb up the leg, and make regular checks of skin and hair. 									
Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults	Volunteer surveyor who is under 18	Harm or exploitation of the under 18 year old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All volunteers must inform WWT if they are under 18 years of age. Parents or guardians of the under-18 will be asked to sign a 'Parental Consent Form' stating that they agree to their child undertaking the activities and have made them aware of the associated risks. To obtain a copy of the Parental Consent Form, contact WWT. 	1	3	3	yes					
Covid 19	Volunteer surveyor	Exposure to Covid 19 causes illness or they are asymptomatic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer surveyors should NOT undertake surveying if they are experiencing Covid symptoms or are self isolating. Volunteer surveyors should make themselves aware of all relevant government law and guidance, particularly 	1	4	4	yes					

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		and pass it on to a more vulnerable person	<p>around- travel, meeting people from outside your household, wearing face coverings, hand hygiene and social distancing. Ensure that you take wipes and hand sanitiser with you, this is particularly important when you have no access to hand washing facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer surveyors should make themselves aware of the guidance around who is classified as vulnerable or extremely clinically vulnerable. • If a landowner is shielding or self isolating, they may post signage or divert paths away from their farmhouse, please respect these. 									

WWT RISK SCORING MATRIX

Consequence of Accident/Incident				Likelihood of Accident/Incident occurring				
				Extremely Unlikely	Unlikely	Possible	Very Likely	Almost Certain
Equip/Property	Injury	Disease		1	2	3	4	5
Insignificant Damage, no rework	Insignificant No lost time	Insignificant Not applicable	1	1	2	3	4	5
Minor Damage requiring rework < 2 hrs	Minor Injury with up to 3/7 days lost time	Minor Non – Disabling	2	2	4	6	8	10
Moderate Damage requiring rework > 2hrs	Moderate Over 7 days lost time	Moderate Disabling, but fit for normal duties	3	3	6	9	12	15
Major Damage requiring rework > 8hrs	Major Long term absence	Major Disabling, Unfit for normal duties	4	4	8	12	16	20
Catastrophic Scrap of Eqpt/ plant	Catastrophic Death	Catastrophic Death attributable to disease	5	5	10	15	20	25

Contact at WWT

GSMP Team (Colette Hall – GSMP Project manager; Kane Brides – GSMP Network Coordinator)

E: monitoring@wwt.org.uk

T: 01453 891900 (main reception)

Further information

UK

- Rights of way and accessing land: <https://www.gov.uk/right-of-way-open-access-land>
- Countryside code: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code>

England and Wales

- Occupiers' Liability Act 1957: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Eliz2/5-6/31/introduction>
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) 2000: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents>

England

- Rights of way and accessing land: <https://www.gov.uk/right-of-way-open-access-land/use-your-right-to-roam>
- Open access land: <http://www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk/wps/portal/oasys/maps/MapSearch>

Wales

- Open access land: <https://naturalresources.wales/days-out/recreation-and-access-policy-advice-and-guidance/managing-access/open-access-land/?lang=en>
- Open access land maps: <https://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/evidence-and-data/maps/open-access-land-maps/?lang=en>

Scotland

- Occupiers' Liability (Scotland) Act 1960: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Eliz2/8-9/30/contents>
- A Brief Guide to Occupiers' Legal Liabilities in Scotland in relation to Public Outdoor Access: <https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/brief-guide-occupiers-legal-liabilities-scotland-relation-public-outdoor-access>
- Outdoor access Scotland: <http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com/>
- Scottish Rights of Way: <https://www.scotways.com/>

Isle of Man

- Public rights of way: <https://www.gov.im/categories/travel-traffic-and-motoring/public-rights-of-way/>

Northern Ireland

- The Occupiers' Liability (Northern Ireland) Order 1987: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1987/1280/contents>
- The Countryside Code: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/countryside-code>

Republic of Ireland

- Occupiers' Liability Act, 1995: <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1995/act/10/enacted/en/html>
- The Access to the Countryside (Northern Ireland) Order 1983: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1983/1895>
- Public rights of way: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/public-rights-way>

ZOONOTIC & OTHER ANIMAL RELATED DISEASES

Instructions to WWT staff & volunteers who may come into contact with infectious agents from animals in the course of their work.

IMPORTANT THIS CARD IS FOR YOUR PROTECTION.

Keep it in a safe place.

Show this card to your doctor should you fall ill. It is important you seek medical advice promptly

Print your name below

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¹Zoonotic': describing a disease that can be transmitted naturally between vertebrate animals and humans.

Zoonotic Diseases include

Leptospirosis

Ornithosis (Chlamydiosis/Psittacosis)

Salmonellosis

Campylobacteriosis

E. coli O157

Cryptosporidiosis

Giardiasis

Lyme Disease

Bovine TB

Avian Influenza

West Nile Disease

Rabies

Cryptosporidium

Q Fever

For more information see Safety Code of practice WWT Code of Practice for Reducing Zoonotic Risks (safety CoP 29)

Please refer to Safety Code of Practice 18 for more information on risk assessments

Transmission can occur from both direct & indirect contact from an animal or animal-contaminated environment.

This could occur e.g. working with animals, waste disposal, cleaning operations, working on (or in) ponds & waterways, pathways, fencing & equipment, working with sewerage/ treatment systems, or within laboratory work

Leptospirosis

WWT staff & volunteers, during the course of their work, may be at risk of developing leptospirosis, a disease transmitted by rodents, especially rats, which excrete the causative organism in their urine. The variety *L hardjo* can be transmitted by cattle urine. Anyone working in contact with rodents, or cattle, or anything contaminated by them, is at risk from these infections. It is especially liable to occur in wet or damp places.

Infection can enter the body through cuts and abrasions in the skin, and through the nose, mouth or eyes.

Avian Influenza

Highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1, contracted mainly from infected domestic birds, has caused infections and deaths in Asia, Eastern Europe and Africa. Risks from UK wild or captive birds are lower however symptoms reported in humans include flu-like symptoms, fever, difficulty breathing, cough, diarrhoea and vomiting, and conjunctivitis.

Infection can enter the body by ingestion or inhalation of secretions or faecal material from infected birds.

General Precautions

1. Always wash your hands and arms thoroughly with hot water and soap before eating or drinking.
2. Avoid rubbing your nose or mouth with wet hands during work outside.
3. Wash any cut, scratch or abrasion thoroughly and cover with a good waterproof dressing. Keep covered until healed.
4. Whenever possible wear protective clothing, particularly gloves (chest waders if working in ditches / dykes). Wet protective clothing should be dried immediately after use.
5. Wear a mask when working in confined spaces with birds and/or their by-products.
6. Wear clothing to protect against fly and tick bites.

For further information for yourself or GP contact: Adele Masztalerz, Head of Safety Management, WWT, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, GL2 7BT. T 01453 891118/ 07825 312424.

Adele.masztalerz@wwt.org.uk