

RISK ASSESSMENT

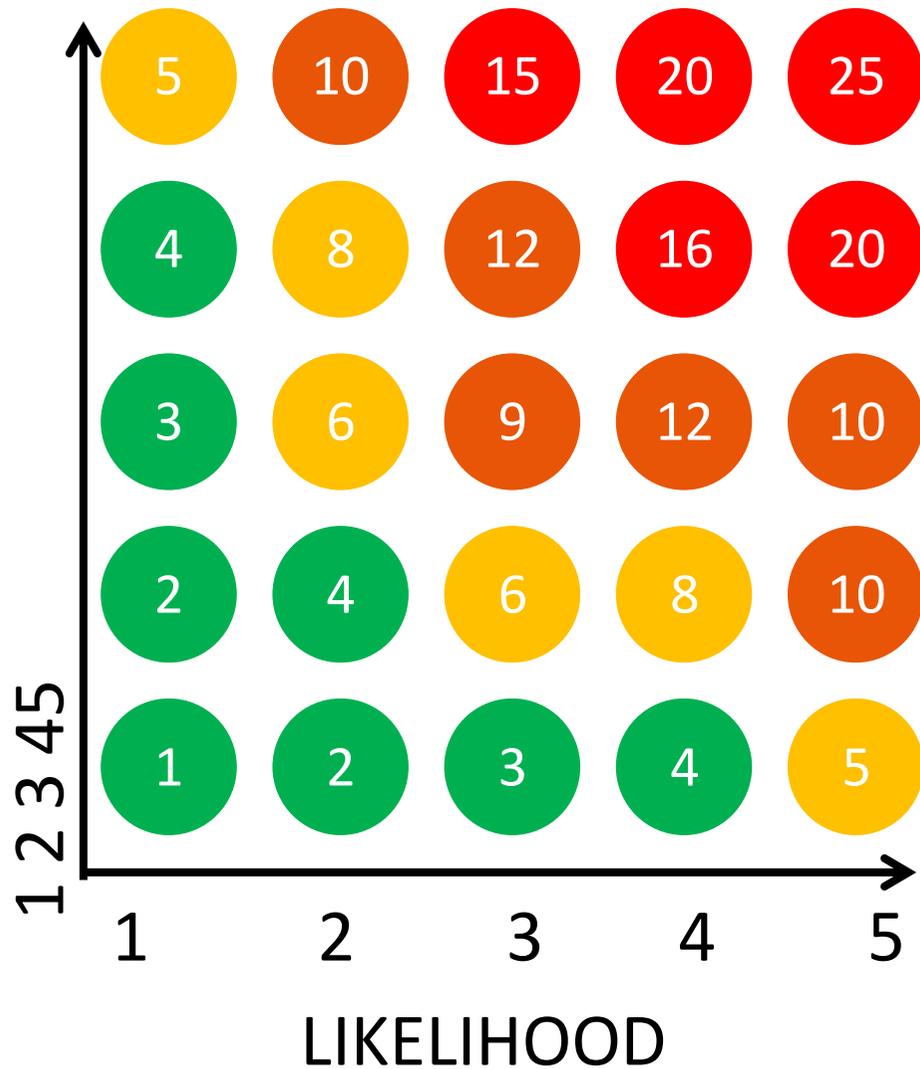
Activity	Manning's Pit Volunteer Teams		
Location	Manning's Pit (aka Land North of Lynbro Road, Barnstaple)		
Intended Recipient	Volunteers working in Manning's Pit		
Risk Assessment Prepared by	Martin Haddrill		
Valid From	June 2021	Valid To	September 2021
Date of Assessment	June 2021	Date of Review	September 2021

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Number of access points	4
Description of how to find pedestrian access points	SS 555 345 (Lynbro Road entrance) SS 558 348 (Shearford Lane entrance)
Vehicular Access	Yes but normally only from Windsor Road : SS 554 345. Postcode EX31 1QG
Nearest Hospital	North Devon District Hospital (24 hour A&E): Raleigh Park, Barnstaple, Devon EX31 4JB. Tel No: 01271 322577.
Nearest public phone	Mobile reception is reasonable for all networks.

A Risk Assessment is not valid unless signed. This Risk Assessment must be signed by an authorised individual

Signed	<input type="text"/>	Print Name	<input type="text"/>
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KEY			
LIKELIHOOD		SEVERITY	
1	Extremely Unlikely	1	Very Minor Injury
2	Unlikely	2	First Aid Injury
3	Possible	3	Lost Time Injury
4	Likely	4	Hospital Treatment
5	Very Probable	5	Disabling Injury

LIKELIHOOD X SEVERITY = RISK RATING

MEANING OF RISK RATING	
RISK RATING	ACTIONS
4 OR BELOW	Acceptable.
5 - 8	Tolerable.
9 - 14	Tolerable. Additional controls must be introduced as soon as possible
15 and over	Unacceptable. Activity must not proceed and additional controls must be introduced to lower the risk to below 9

Covid-19 Assumptions and definitions:

- COVID-19 virus expected to survive for up to 24 hours on paper / card¹
- COVID-19 virus expected to survive for up to 72 hours on plastic and stainless steel ²
- The term “sanitised” is used in this risk assessment. We define this as “being cleaned with a disinfectant or other cleaning substance proven to be effective at killing viruses”
- In all cases, the most effective control is eliminating the hazard. For this reason, the founding principle in protecting Volunteers against COVID-19, is for all volunteer Volunteers to work from home unless their role cannot be carried out in this way
- DWT regards the use of gloves as a last resort and the least effective method of Covid-19 control. In accordance with the General Hierarchy of Control, priority must always be given to avoiding contact with the virus, the next most effective control is good hygiene. The use of PPE should only be employed if these control measures are not possible

PLEASE NOTE: RISKS RELATED TO COVID-19 ARE SHOWN IN RED. THESE ARE BASED ON CURRENT GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES (AT JUNE 2021) AND WILL BE REVISED AS NECESSARY.

HAZARD	WHO MAY BE HARMED AND HOW?	WHAT ARE WE ALREADY DOING TO CONTROL RISK OR REDUCE IT TO AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL?	RESIDUAL RISK		
			L	S	R
COVID-19					
Contracting CV19 (General)	Volunteers coming into contact with virus either through other people or from surfaces they touch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure no direct contact is made with others – provide clear guidance to all volunteers and others that social distancing is critical • Ensure a minimum of 2m distance if approached by other persons • Employ strict hygiene practices at all times and take extra care especially before starting activity • In the unlikely event of the need to travel by vehicle, only one person can travel in a vehicle at a time • If using own or designated vehicles / disinfect vehicle surfaces (pay attention to contact surfaces) before and after use • Carry out work alone where possible and in groups no larger than 6 when working with others 	2	4	8

¹ Source – World Health Organisation - <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/question-and-answers-hub/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>

² Source – World Health Organisation - <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/question-and-answers-hub/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>

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At risk groups		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not share equipment – or disinfect equipment before and after use Log working visits and times 			
	Volunteers who are following social distancing guidance, protecting older people and vulnerable adults. Volunteers who fall into at risk groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone who is shielding should not undertake work in Manning’s Pit Anyone who is in an at risk group should follow government guidance 	1	4	4
Inability to maintain 2m distance from others	Volunteers who find themselves unable to maintain the mandatory 2m spacing from other people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a volunteer finds themselves in a situation where a member of the public comes closer than is safe, the volunteer must insist the person moves to a safer distance. If the person does not comply, the volunteer must walk away immediately If the nature of the activity means that 2m cannot be maintained for any reason, it should be halted and redesigned in a manner that does allow it 	1	4	4
Physical contact	Physical contact between people is a proven method of transmission. Volunteers may be susceptible of contracting COVID-19 if physical contact occurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers are instructed not to shake hands or undertake any other physical contact on greeting or leaving another individual Maintaining a distance of 2m at all times will prevent the likelihood of this happening Volunteers should be aware that other people that they meet may not have the same perception of risk and may try to make contact (e.g. handshake). In this instance the volunteer must not be afraid to ask the other person to move back. 	2	4	8
Lack of handwashing facilities	Handwashing and good hygiene are the main method of combating the virus. Volunteers who cannot uphold this may be at increased risk. Handwashing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers should be always be prepared with antibacterial handwash (alcohol based) and carry it with them at all times If this is unavailable then volunteers should wear gloves throughout the activity If wearing gloves, Volunteers must not touch their face. 	1	4	4

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Communal equipment	facilities are likely to limited when undertaking work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers must remove gloves carefully at the end of work, ensuring they do not come into contact with the outer surface during removal and dispose of them safely 			
	Sharing tools, equipment or PPE would significantly increase the risk of contracting or spreading the virus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tools and equipment must not be shared. Ensure there is adequate equipment before setting out PPE must never be shared – this would be an extreme risk 	1	4	4
Fences, gates, stiles or other surfaces	Surfaces that may have been touched by other people may harbour traces of the virus. Volunteers coming into contact with these surfaces may be at risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers instructed to minimise the touching gates, fences, stiles, etc. wherever possible If contact cannot be avoided, volunteers must employ routine hand cleansing or wear gloves 	2	4	8
Litter	Discarded tissues and other materials may have been used to catch sneezes and coughs – highly likely to contain significant traces of the virus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers must not attempt litter picking without using litter pickers – assess the risk of the item before collection – high risk items should be left If a litter picker is not available then gloves may be a suitable alternative but may become contaminated during contact If litter is picked up safely, it must be disposed of immediately. If it is put in a bag, the bag must be immediately sealed and ensured its final disposal would not present a risk to others (i.e. if the bag was not properly sealed and the contents spilled out at a later date) 	1	4	4
Suspected exposure	If exposure to the virus is suspected, volunteers may become carriers and spreaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a member of volunteers suspects that they may have been exposed to the virus – especially if they were unable to avoid close contact with a carrier – they must stop work immediately, keep a minimum distance of 2m from all other people and contact a manager for further advice immediately Log all visit locations and the details of anyone they come into contact with if possible(to assist with track and trace) 	2	4	8

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First Aid	If the need to administer first aid arises, the first aider may be exposed to virus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General advice on providing first aid during the CV19 outbreak is provided by the HSE and should be followed at all times (click here to read) It is important to note that while we stress that volunteers must be protected from CV19, this doesn't mean that giving first aid should be avoided. This is controlled as follows: For minor injuries: The casualty should be given the required first aid material and asked to administer treatment themselves, with advice from first aider who can maintain a safe distance. For Major injuries or minor injuries that the casualty cannot treat themselves: The first aider should carry out the appropriate treatment but should wear a mask and gloves and ensure they have access to hand washing or hand sanitising equipment and use it immediately after treatment takes place CV19 first aid kits should be available if required to volunteer teams If CPR is required, the following advice from the National Resuscitation Council must be observed (Click here to read) Those who are classed as vulnerable or who are shielding must not undertake first aid treatment 	2	4	8
General Hazards					
Aggressive individuals	Volunteers – aggression could be triggered in some if they do not agree with the approach to CV19, are angry about management concerns of the land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware of body language of approaching individuals Clearly explain reasons to keep safe 2m distance Explain reasons for the visit – provide letter of authorisation Diffuse situation – provide contact details Leave site / walk away 	2	3	6
Uneven ground (slips, trips and falls)	Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay within your own limits – don't do it if you feel uncomfortable Take care, slow down – allow enough time for activity Wear suitable footwear 	2	3	6

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Livestock	Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There may be cattle or sheep in Manning's Pit Leave gates as you find them If approached by livestock remain calm and do not make sudden movements, avoid eye contact and move calmly away to nearest exit Keep dogs under strict control 	1	4	4
Lone working	Any of the injuries listed here could be suffered by volunteers, but hazard level could be increased because help may not be in easy reach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No lone working, particularly around Bradiford Water Volunteers should remain in easy calling distance and ideally within sight of another volunteer whilst working No use of tools out of range of co-workers 	1	5	5
Moving heavy objects / large brush piles	Strains and sprains, slips, trips and falls may be suffered by volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know and work within own capabilities. This can only really be assessed by the worker in question Bear in mind uneven and difficult terrain and take this into account when considering what and how much to transport When lifting bend knees not back Consider alternative methods of moving material – rolling, dragging, two-person lift, barrow, machine 	2	3	6
Handling wire	Scratch and stab wounds, eye injuries may be suffered by volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers to be warned in advance of the hazards of handling wire (straight and barbed) Wear safety glasses and gloves when handling wire. Clear communication between workers at all times – be aware of tension in wire and likely result of e.g. cutting wire that is under tension. Do not cut high tensile wire without first controlling the free ends. 	2	4	8
Dogs	Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dogs are to be kept under strict control If approached by a strange dog - stay still – do not run away. Drop anything you are holding in case this is what has attracted the dog to 	1	3	3

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Bites and stings		<p>you. Do not shout or wave your arms. Calmly and softly give a command such as 'sit' or 'stay', as many dogs respond to these</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid eye contact – do not look the dog directly in the eye as this can be seen as a form of aggression. • Ignore the dog if it jumps up – do not shout or push the dog down, as it may think it is a game. Stay still and do not respond and it may eventually get bored and walk away. If you are knocked to the ground, remain motionless in the foetal position and protect your face • When you move, move slowly and stay facing the dog • On the 10m wide strip of permissive access land on the north side of Bradiford Water (see map), all dogs must be kept on the lead. 			
	Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware of plants that might cause skin irritation (e.g. stinging nettles and hogweed) and biting/stinging animals and insects (e.g. adders, horseflies, bees, wasps, hornets) • Always carry appropriate medication if you suffer from anaphylaxis 	1	4	4
Ticks and Lyme disease	Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try to avoid walking through dense vegetation • Check for ticks thoroughly after walking through dense vegetation • Remove ticks carefully if found and remain vigilant for symptoms (point of bite forms a bull's eye). 	2	4	8
Tetanus	Spores of tetanus bacillus are commonly found in the soil and may infect wounds or where the skin is broken.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All involved in work out of doors are advised to have tetanus immunisation and to be extra careful to protect (cover and seal) any existing cut, or if they obtain one during work. 	1	4	4
Adverse weather	Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dress appropriately for conditions (e.g. sun hats and lotion, warm / waterproof clothing) • Check the weather forecast in advance of your visit • If severe weather sets in – postpone or abandon 	2	3	6

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Working alongside water		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware of river levels when close to Bradiford Water 			
	Immersion, drowning, foot entrapment, hypothermia, cuts and puncture wounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants must work in pairs and inform someone if they are going anywhere alone Take regular head counts Avoid riverbank at times of high water/flood condition. Banks with evidence of erosion should be avoided Never enter the river in spate and be aware of changes in flow conditions and depth Do not reach or stretch into or over deep water. 	2	4	8
Working in or near water	Waterborne disease or infections: Leptospirosis, Weil disease, Hepatitis, Blue-green algae.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential water borne diseases have been explained to the volunteers The importance of good hygiene and hand gel is emphasised Everyone advised to cover all cuts and broken skin with gloves or waterproof plasters No person should enter the water 	2	4	8
Falling debris when working in wooded areas	Injury to head or limbs, crushing or entrapment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give a safety briefing to all volunteers prior to entering wooded areas. Check the weather forecast and monitor throughout the day, if winds are scheduled cancel or find an alternative working area away from the woodland/trees Check and observe for potentially hazardous trees; make sure no working is carried out in the vicinity of any identified trees of concern Warn participants of the risk of low hanging branches at eye level and to pay attention when walking. Look out for each other and warn other volunteers of small branches flicking behind as they walk. 	2	4	8

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Poisonous plants and fungi (e.g. giant hogweed etc)	Skin irritation, dermatitis, poisoning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid touching the plant or fungi with bare skin or hands. Avoid touching any plants if unsure of the identity / without advice. If contact occurs, wash immediately and monitor for change or seek medical advice. 	2	2	4
Animal Contact – Pregnant woman	Pregnant women are at risk – especially from sheep during lambing. Chlamydiosis, toxoplasmosis, listeriosis can result in a range of symptoms including miscarriage and defects in the unborn child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pregnant women avoid any contact with lambing ewes – especially during the lambing season Jan – April). It should however be remembered that lambing can occur at times outside of this period. It is, however, not expected that Manning’s Pit will be grazed by sheep because of the potential issues with dogs 	1	4	4
Dead Animals	Disease or bacteria transfer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not touch or move dead animals. If you suspect poisoning report to police. Arrange for a report of dead animals to the relevant farmer. 	1	3	3
Ash dieback – falling limbs, branches and material	Falling branches, limbs or trees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continually monitor/observe for ash trees. When in wooded areas or working on hedgerow trees do not stand under the tree canopy to avoid any falling material, an effected tree may shed at any point even without a breeze 	1	4	4
Hand tools – Saws, Loppers, Billhooks, etc.	Cut and impact injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All volunteers to receive guidance on the safe use of tools. Suitable gloves to be worn at all times Safe distance to be maintained between workers All tools to be stored safely when not in use. 	2	2	4
Fires	Burn injuries. Smoke inhalation. Damage to sensitive flora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire site to be situated away from main area of work and away from overhanging trees. Corrugated metal roofing sheets to be used where possible to allow removal of ash. All volunteers to be aware of fire location and avoid working and loading the fire down wind. Fire to be kept under control through loading appropriate amounts. 	2	2	4

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire to be regularly 'turned in'. • Fire must be allowed to burn down to a safe level before the end of the work party. 			
Pruning small branches with hand tools	Crush injuries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small branches may be pruned with a bow saw provided this can be done safely 	2	3	6
Chainsaw and brushcutter use	Serious cut injuries, crush injuries, burns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Volunteers are not permitted to use chainsaws and brushcutters which should only be used by professional tree surgeons with appropriate certificates of competence under contract</u> • When working with a tree surgeon a minimum of 2 tree lengths to be maintained between operator and volunteers. • Operator to wear appropriate PPE at all times: steel toe-capped boots, chainsaw trousers, gloves, helmet with visor, ear protection. • Volunteers to be offered hearing protection. • Re-fuelling area to be kept up-wind and at a safe distance from a fire location. • Chainsaw operator to maintain good spatial awareness and inform all other workers of fall direction and timing. 	2	4	8
Kelly kettle/hot water flasks	Scalds, burns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care to be taken when pouring hot water from flasks or kettle. • All flasks or Kelly Kettle to be located on flat surfaces to prevent spillage. • Everyone to be aware of small fire powering Kelly Kettle. 	2	2	4

Note that the end column (R) Residual Risk is coloured to reflect the risk rating using the scoring matrix