



Hazard checklist and risk assessment for undertaking Opportunistic and Targeted Monitoring Surveys

Project:	Community Science Project	Location:	Peak District and South Pennine Moors
		Project Element:	Survey transects (including Tails of the Uplands)
		Review Period	2016 - 2017
		Date of Next Review	12/06/2018

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What are the hazards?	What should you do to reduce this risk?	Do you need to do anything else to manage this risk?
Access & egress on foot whilst biodiversity surveying in upland locations	<p>Check the weather forecast before you set out and be prepared for it to change rapidly. Be prepared to cancel your walk if conditions look too uncomfortable. Ensure you take waterproofs, warm clothing and suitable footwear for hill walking.</p> <p>Slips, trips and falls are the most common accidents you might have whilst walking; wearing sensible shoes reduces this risk.</p> <p>Carrying sunblock and a sun hat is a good idea as there is little protection from the sun on the moors and sun burn can occur even on a seemingly cloudy day.</p> <p>Carry plenty of food and drink (avoid caffeine and fizzy drinks as these are dehydrating) and take time to eat & drink regularly.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of volunteers unaccompanied by staff to arrange their own 'buddy' arrangements: before you set off tell someone where you are going, when to expect you back and what to do in an emergency. In some locations, especially on the moors, expect there to be no mobile phone signal.</p>	<p>Guidelines have been made available to all volunteers http://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/sites/default/files/cs/p/HealthAndSafetyGuidelines.pdf.</p> <p>Activities have been assessed as low risk and do not differ significantly to those encountered whilst out walking independently.</p> <p>Training on how to identify and understand risks is provided during 'Tails of the Uplands' survey training sessions as is how to complete a dynamic risk assessment on site.</p>



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	<p>Always survey with another person. If you are with someone else whilst out walking it is easier to get help if needed as one of you can seek assistance if necessary.</p> <p>In an emergency call 999 and ask for the Police, then Mountain Rescue (http://www.mountain.rescue.org.uk/). Although your mobile phone may not have reception, calls to 999 access all networks so can work even if you don't appear to have signal.</p> <p>Be aware of the route and terrain before setting off and carry a map of the route & transect(s). Please be aware one of the most dangerous things when surveying is crossing roads or when in car parks.</p> <p>If with a group, walk at a pace comfortable for all members. Arrange a plan in case team members are separated.</p> <p>Consider the use of insect repellents as midges and mosquitoes can be persistently irritating.</p> <p>Be aware of the risks associated with ticks when walking outdoors (Health Protection England; https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/lyme-disease-guidance-data-and-analysis).</p> <p>Please do not handle any of the wildlife you encounter.</p> <p>No first aid kit or guidance is provided for volunteers to administer first aid.</p>	
<p>Working in close proximity to water – danger of drowning or serious injury; including slips in the water leading to wet clothes and hypothermia.</p>	<p>Do not enter the water.</p> <p>No lone working – surveys carried out in pairs or more. Be careful when working close to water – wear suitable footwear (e.g. wellingtons), do not attempt to gain access to dangerous areas of the bank.</p> <p>Assess the stability of the bank before proceeding. Keep to paths when walking alongside rivers.</p>	



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<p>Changes in water level due to weather conditions lead to unsafe water conditions</p> <p>Low Branches in river; and dense brambles / nettles / plants on river bank</p> <p>Working under bridges and tunnels – danger of head injury</p>	<p>Be aware of daily weather report and daylight hours before beginning activity and choose to curtail visit if water levels deemed unsafe.</p> <p>Assess any dangers to eyes before moving along river bank; and avoid areas which look likely to be difficult to access. Wear long sleeved clothing; and avoid contact with Giant Hogweed – dermal contact causes burns.</p> <p>Identify if there is risk from low beams before proceeding under bridge/tunnel. If risk is high proceed with caution and be aware of ceiling at all times using a torch / head torch.</p>	<p>Training on how to identify and understand risks is provided during 'Tails of the Uplands' survey training sessions as is how to complete a dynamic risk assessment on site including: review the state (i.e. height and speed) of water before and/or on approach to water course.</p>
<p>Activities causing contact with water and open cuts resulting in contraction of Weil's disease or other water-borne diseases.</p> <p>Collection of otter spraint or other faeces samples for DNA analysis – risk of disease.</p> <p>Accident/injury from use of ethanol for preserving otter samples (flammable liquid can cause serious eye irritation)</p>	<p>Weil's Disease – infection by leptospirosis, a bacterial infection associated with animal urine, especially rodents. Broken skin or open cuts must be covered by waterproof plasters and/or latex gloves. Do not eat, drink or smoke while without using anti-bacterial hand sanitiser or washing your hands. Seek medical attention if last tetanus inoculation more than 10 years ago. Carry hand-gel; wash hands after survey.</p> <p>Wear latex gloves and only collect samples using the single-use spatula/stick provided; and place directly into sample tube. Avoid contact with mouth or any broken skin after you have collected samples; and use hand-sanitizer or wash hands as soon as possible afterwards.</p> <p>Keep liquid away from heat, hot surfaces, sparks or flames. Avoid contact with skin and especially eyes. Wear gloves if ethanol is likely to come into contact with skin.</p> <p>If in contact with eyes, rinse cautiously with water for several minutes and remove contact lenses if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing. If eye irritation persists, seek medical advice.</p>	<p>Seek medical attention if flu-like symptoms occur and tell the doctor you may have been at risk of leptospirosis infection. Inform project staff if you feel unwell up to 10 days after surveying.</p> <p>Store ethanol in a cool location when not in use and keep away from children.</p>



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<p>Hazardous litter, including glass, metal and syringes</p> <p>Attack from public or dogs</p> <p>Animal faeces</p>	<p>Be aware of risk. Do not pick up or attempt to remove sharp objects. Use discretion and avoid problem areas if you feel they are too hazardous to safely survey. Stout footwear to be worn at all times.</p> <p>Avoid kneeling or putting hands into dense undergrowth.</p> <p>Avoid provocation and be friendly, carry a mobile phone. Leave area if you feel threatened.</p> <p>Exercise care and avoid where possible. Check ground if kneeling or sitting.</p>	