

Site risk assessment record

Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
Oxfordshire



Location: Hosehill Lake	Date of assessment: 04/05/16	Nearest postcode: RG7 4BE	Main entrance OS Grid Ref : SU 649 698
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Hazards/hazardous events	Who is affected?	Typical outcome	Precautions	Risk Level LxH=RL
The site is centred on a large flooded gravel pit. There are several subsidiary ditches, a watercourse (Hosehill stream), large inlet and outlet sluices and a lagoon.	Public, BBOWT workers	Falling in and risk of drowning, or exposure from wet clothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workers or groups warned to take care on lake banks, esp. where banks are overgrown. Keep to main paths where possible. Liferings at locations around the lake, checked weekly. Hazardous sluices fenced 	Unlikely x very harmful = moderate
Uneven ground due to roots, stones and muddy paths causing slips, trips or falls	Public. BBOWT workers	Bruises, sprains, minor cuts and grazes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warn of uneven ground to group. Take care of footing and balance. Ensure participants wear suitable clothing and footwear. 	Likely x Slight harm = slight
Scrub along paths and in work areas.	Public. BBOWT workers	Cuts and grazes, Puncture wounds, eye damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure paths are kept clear. Provide safety glasses if working in thorny scrub. 	Likely x harmful = moderate
Dead branches in trees. Dead standing trees – risk of falling down	Public. BBOWT workers (incl.contractors)	Head injuries, cuts and bruises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conform to COP 31 Tree safety assessment. Ensure any areas worked in are checked for dangerous trees prior to task. No work to be undertaken in high winds. 	Unlikely x harmful = slight
A signed footpath and several informal paths around the lake, frequently used by walkers.	Public. BBOWT workers	Injury to walkers from conservation work taking place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warn people working on site and put up suitable signs when work is being undertaken. 	Unlikely x harmful = slight

	Slight harm	Harmful	Very harmful
Unlikely	Trivial	Slight	Moderate
Likely	Slight	Moderate	Substantial
Very likely	Moderate	Substantial	Intolerable

Poisonous plants (hemlock water dropwort) plants secreting skin irritants; fungi	Public. BBOWT workers	Poisoning from ingestion. Skin irritation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not eat fungi, berries or other plant material. Identify hemlock water dropwort for group. Wash hands after handling such material and before eating. Wear suitable PPE when working near such plants. 	Unlikely x very harmful = moderate
Stings from bees, wasps or hornets	Public, BBOWT workers	Allergic reaction to stings; anaphylaxis in severe cases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware of any nests close by and advise group members not to get too close. All volunteers / staff should declare any known allergic reactions. They should declare whether they carry an 'epi-pen' for this and ensure that they have it with them at all times.* *This can be administered by the designated First Aider if necessary whilst waiting for the ambulance to arrive. 	Unlikely x harmful = slight
Dirty water or livestock/wild animals' (incl. rodents') dung/urine may be present with the possibility of water borne disease	Public, BBOWT workers	Illness with leptospirosis (Weil's disease)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform workers or groups to practice good personal hygiene, esp prior to eating. Conform to CoP 15 	Unlikely x harmful = slight
Algal blooms such as blue-green algae (cyanobacteria)	Public (specifically dog owners), BBOWT workers	Illness if ingested; skin irritation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post warning notices on site during long hot periods when algal blooms proliferate in waterbodies. Ask visitors to keep dogs out of lakes in these periods. Do not undertake work in affected lakes/ponds during periods when algal blooms are present. 	Unlikely x harmful = slight
Stock fencing around meadow area.	Public. BBOWT workers	Scratches or entanglement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspect regularly and repair fencing as necessary. 	Unlikely x slight harm = minor
Grazing animals are present in the fenced meadow during the spring and autumn.	Public. BBOWT workers	Contact injury, incl crush	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advice notices posted by access points, meadow is off main route around lake. Keep dogs on leads near livestock. Only stock accustomed to public used 	Unlikely x harmful = slight
Proximity to highway	BBOWT workers (incl contractors). motorists	Injury from contact with vehicles, or causing RTAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work carried out by staff with a chance of impacting on the highway, Use only certified contractors 	Unlikely x very harmful = moderate

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There are footbridges and boardwalks on the main routes and a viewing platform. Footbridge and platform have handrails. Surfaces can be slippery when wet.	Public, BBOWT workers	Falling in and drowning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warn groups or workers to watch footing crossing bridges and boardwalks. Annual condition checks, repair and replace timber and, where appropriate, use anti-slip welded mesh as necessary. 	Unlikely x very harmful = moderate
Dogs – attack, faeces.	Public, BBOWT workers	Dog bites, infection, Toxicara plasmosis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signs on site asking dogs to be kept under control. Dog bin near main entrance. Notify dog warden of any problem dogs visiting reserve. Inform workers or groups to practice good personal hygiene, esp prior to eating. Conform to CoP 15 	Unlikely x harmful = slight
Flooding	Public, BBOWT workers	Falling in and risk of drowning or exposure from wet clothing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close off flooded paths, tracks and other areas with orange netting and appropriate signage. Liaise with Theale Area Bird Conservation Group re: path closures. Update media (Facebook, Twitter and web pages) with this information accordingly. Do not undertake any work in flood conditions other than essential work to close off these areas. Cancel any group visits to the reserve in these conditions. 	Likely x harmful = moderate
There are areas of grassy meadow on site which are candidates for fire, through accidental ignition or arson. There have been several accidental burns/wildfires on this site.	Public. BBOWT workers	Burns or smoke inhalation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work party bonfires must be closely monitored, and never lit in high winds or summer. Inform Fire Control 0118 945 2888 prior to lighting bonfires on site. Where practical, fire breaks should be considered and then maintained short. Advisory notices are an option if arson/campfires are seen. 	Likely x very harmful = substantial

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Nearest telephone (landline): Fox and Hounds PH or adjacent properties.	Emergency telephone number 999 or 112		
Nearest A&E department: Royal Berkshire Hospital A&E, London Road, Reading, RG1 5AN Tel: 0118 322 7020 Minor Injuries – West Berks Community Hospital Rookes Way, Thatcham, RG18 3AS Tel: 01635 273 300	Type of access for emergency services (delete as appropriate) Pedestrian 2WD 4WD Air Depending on location.	Access point/route for emergency services from road: Off Bottom Lane and Sunnyside. Various gated access points (see map).	
Assessment undertaken by: Simon Barnett	Position: Countryside Officer	Manager confirming assessment: Alex Cruickshank	Date for revision: July 2017

Work identified from site risk assessment	By whom	Date completed
Carry out tree safety assessments	Reserves staff	Annual
Ensure safety notices are posted (livestock grazing, tree work, path works, sluices, contractors machinery present, flooding)	Reserves staff/contractor	As required
Annual H&S audit of site infrastructure	LM (P&E) or LMO (Access)	Annual
Task/work party leaders convey relevant information to participants	Reserves staff/leader	As required

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This checklist is designed to assist in the production of Site Risk Assessments. For those hazards present, more specific information should be provided, e.g. location within site and precautions required entered on SRA form. **This list is not comprehensive. Map is located in reserves office.**

No.	Risk	Present		Recorded on map
1	Steep slopes and banks	Yes		Various
2	Drowning risk – deep water [pools, streams, rivers]	Yes		1
3	Fall hazards – rock outcrops, buildings, building foundations		No	
4	Areas liable to flooding	Yes		All
5	Areas of permanent soft ground	Yes		Various
6	Areas of soft ground following rain	Yes		All
7	Uneven path / track surfaces	Yes		2
8	Uneven ground	Yes		Various
9	Remote areas	Yes		3
10	Dry weather fire hazard – heath, scrub, grass	Yes		4
11	Sun exposure – poor shade - burn / dehydration	Yes		Various
12	Site used for walking [Inc dogs]	Yes		All
13	Children playing	Yes		Various
14	Site used for horse riding		No	
15	Site users include people with mobility problems	Yes		2
16	Site history of abuse [drunks, vandals, drugs, needle stick injury]		No	
17	Site history of staff and/or volunteer intimidation		No	
18	Fly-tipping		No	
19	Unauthorised and/or authorised shooting [i.e. poaching/stalking]		No	
20	Unauthorised vehicles [cars and motorbikes]		No	
21	Difficult or restricted access / egress [esp. for heavy plant]	Yes		Various
22	Authorised vehicles	Yes		5
23	Areas inaccessible to vehicles	Yes		Various
24	Former landfill site		No	
25	Proximity to public highway	Yes		6
26	Proximity to Public Rights of Way		No	
27	Overhead service lines		No	
28	Underground service lines		No	
29	Barbed wire		No	
30	Personal hygiene facilities		No	
31	Poisoning from blue / green algae	Yes		1
32	Exposure to bracken [carcinogenic spores] (see CoP 15)		No	
33	Puncture wounds [blackthorn / hawthorn]	Yes		Various
34	Wild parsnip burns		No	
35	Giant hogweed burns (see CoP 15)		No	
36	Poisonous berries	Yes		Various
37	Poisonous fungi	Yes		Various
38	Standing dead wood	Yes		Various
39	Risk of Weils' disease (see CoP 15)	Yes		All
40	Site known for wasps	Yes		All
41	Site known for bees	Yes		All
42	Site known for hornets	Yes		All
43	Site known for adders		No	
44	Site known for stray dogs	Yes		Various
45	Site known for ticks [Lyme disease] (see CoP 15)		No	
46	Site known for allergens [pollen / spores]	Yes		All
47	Injury to pregnancy – exposure to lambs [listeria, chlamydia]		No	

Hosehill Lake SRA 2015 SU 649698

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