

## SURREY WILDLIFE TRUST

### Risk Assessment Form - Wildlife Recording Kits - Pond dipping

Site Location					Date:		
Assessed By:					Review: <b>Annually</b>		
Type of Hazard	Likelihood of Occurrence	Hazard Severity	Risk Factor	Precautions <small>Action to be taken to reduce the risk.</small>	New Likelihood of Occurrence	New Hazard Severity	New Risk Factor
Exposure to Inclement Weather Conditions	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	Minimise exposure as much as possible. Where exposure cannot be prevented, suitable PPE and/or skin protection should be used. Do not visit site unprepared for possible adverse weather conditions e.g. downpours or great heat/cold or strong sunshine. Stop work promptly if people are clearly ill attired for conditions, in discomfort, or the work is increasing in risk.	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
Slips, Trips & Falls	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	Inspect area of work for natural hazards such as banks, holes and roots etc., pointing out and marking if necessary. Keep site & equipment tidy. Avoid obstructing access routes. Recommend use of sturdy boots or wellingtons, with good grip. Avoid working on a sloped bank or a muddy area that may become slippery. Ensure the bank has been checked and if an area is not suitable for pond dipping, ensure this area is avoided and the group is aware.	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
Food poisoning/illness	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	Wash hands thoroughly after pond dipping and before eating or drinking.	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
Tetanus and Leptospirosis	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	These diseases may not be very common but can have severe effects, in rare cases death. Tetanus can be contracted if earth gets into cuts or abrasions. Treat all cuts, etc. immediately & cover adequately. If water that is contaminated with rats or cows urine gets into cuts, Weil's or Hardjo varieties of Leptospirosis can result. In areas likely to be soiled by rat/cow urine, e.g. urban stream banks/farms, avoid water contact; if contact with potentially contaminated water is made, wash thoroughly with clean water before eating drinking or smoking and prior to leaving the site.	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

Drowning	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	Plan rescue systems in advance. Before commencing work assign someone to effect agreed emergency procedures. Ensure the edge of the pond has been inspected and that it is accessible and safe to pond dip. If an area is not suitable for pond dipping, ensure the area is avoided and the group is aware. A first aider should be present at all times when surveying with children, and non-swimmers, or when near deep water. Do not survey in swiftly moving water over 20cm deep. Users should avoid entering the water. Do not enter the water without undertaking a separate 'working in and around water' risk assessment and the necessary equipment such as life jackets, throw ropes, poles and first aid supervision. No lone worker should enter or work near water courses.	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
Incorrect use of long handled nets	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	Ensure users are comfortable using the nets. Stress the importance of being aware of who is behind you.	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
General Emergency	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	All individuals to be aware of nearest Accident and Emergency Dept. A mobile phone should be available at all times (if no/poor signal, all individuals should know the location of the nearest public telephone).	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
Lyme Disease	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	All individuals to be aware that Lyme Disease can be contracted from ticks present in bracken. Wear long trousers and sleeves. Brush clothes down regularly. Check skin for ticks at the end of work. If bitten, seek medical advice immediately.	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
Skin Irritation from Plants	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	Skin and/or eye contact with irritant sap & other plant materials (e.g. Hogweeds, Spurges, Hemlock, Wild Parsnip, Foxglove) is to be avoided by wearing suitable PPE. Wash off skin and/or irrigate eyes with clean water thoroughly without delay if it does occur. Do not expose contaminated skin to sunlight.	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
Personal Attack	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	Avoid confrontation and attempt to leave the scene of any potential aggressive situation. Keep personal valuables out of sight. Any violent or aggressive incidents should be reported to the police. Check the locations of a public phone if mobile phones are in poor reception areas.	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
Hazards from/to Traffic or Public	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	Plan work away from roads. Erect signs warning of work hazards/preventing access on approaches to site if work is taking place near to roads. Leave vehicle parked on site able to leave quickly in case of emergency.	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
Thorny vegetation	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	Keep thorny vegetation cut back from well used paths and rake up cuttings. Protect exposed skin and eyes against thorns, especially blackthorn, which can break off and turn septic. Seek medical advice where thorns become embedded.	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
Dog faeces - toxicara and general infection risk	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	Use disposable gloves or bag if handling faeces. Warn others if working in a contaminated area. Where possible, discourage fouling.	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
Snakes	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	Avoid snakes wherever possible. In areas of risk, wear long trousers and tuck into boots or socks. Be aware of First Aid procedures and check communication methods.	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
Sharps	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	Carry out thorough inspection of sites where drug use is suspected before any work commences. Record all sharps finds and arrange for clinical disposal using a 'Sharps Pack'. Seek immediate medical treatment if injured.	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

Manual Handling	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	Assess the need to move items. If lifting is essential, use lifting aids where possible. Plan handling of heavy or awkward items prior to commencing task. Nobody should lift more than they feel confident with.	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
Alcohol and Drugs	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	Prevent anyone who is suspected of being under the influence of drink or drugs from participating.	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>