

### Field Work Risk Assessment

ACTIVITY	HAZARD	RISK	MEASURES REQUIRED
Field Work General	Environment: Geographical	Getting lost/disorientated	Carry maps, compass and GPS; aim to familiarise self with site or go with someone who knows the site.
	Environment: Terrain	Tripping and falling; twisted ankles etc	Take care; be properly equipped; have good lone working system in place.
	Environment: Weather	Heat exhaustion/sun burn; lightning, cold, hypothermia.	Wear appropriate clothes; hat, suncream; sunglasses in hot/sunny weather. Avoid work in extremes of temperatures. Ensure good warm and waterproof clothing in cold and wet weather.
	Injury	Risk of injury from tripping, falling rocks, cutting self on fences, bushes and trees. Beware of animals (eg livestock, dogs). Severe injury may lead to loss of consciousness or concussion.	Take care on uneven or difficult terrain; avoid unnecessary contact with animals. Liaise with landowner if appropriate. Have good lone working system. Ensure appropriate 'survival' equipment when at remote locations.

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Field Work General (cont.)	Bites and infections	Bites from large animals; insect/tick bites and stings – may cause reactions and may result in zoonotic infections (eg. Lymes disease); adder bite	Avoid large animals; be aware of potential risks from insects and use repellents or wear clothing that covers areas where insects/ticks may bite. Be aware of symptoms of zoonotic infections and consult doctor if illness follows tick bites. Take care in areas with adders.
	Human factors: confrontation (landowner/poachers etc)	Assault, threat, stress/fear	Ensure clearance with owners for visit on private land; good judgement of situation; carry a mobile phone.
	Lone working	Undetected injury; unable to summon help.  Some situations may require more than one worker to make them safe.	Do not work alone in risky situations. Ensure a good reporting system so that someone knows location of surveyor and when expected to return (and can summon help if needed) with set ‘trigger times’ and defined procedures to call for assistance/alert emergency services. Carry a mobile phone.

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Urban Sites	As for 'General' above plus: Human factors	People with dogs, risk of attack, joy riders, discarded syringes and other discarded, hazardous material and objects.	Take special care; in many areas avoid lone working if there are risks or try to work during daylight hours. Ensure good reporting system; Carry a mobile phone.
Construction/building sites	As for 'General' above plus: Construction activities on site	Machinery and vehicles. Uncompleted buildings, foundations, sewers etc	Only enter site with permission and once construction staff are briefed; follow instructions, avoid work areas. Wear hard hat and high visibility jackets.
Military sites	As for 'General' above plus: Military use of site	Unexploded ordnance; military vehicles	Liaise with MoD; do not touch metal objects; keep to marked routes.
Reptile Survey	As for 'General' above plus: Adder Bite	Injury/consciousness through adder bite	Take care in areas with adders. Avoid handling adders, if necessary do so only if experienced/trained using appropriate handling and safety equipment.
	Fire	Injury/smoke inhalation due to heath grassland fire	Be aware of fire risk; take care not to start fires; be especially vigilant if high fire risk.

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Pond survey (day).	Water related risks.	Risk of drowning; particularly if in boat, on steep sided banks or wearing waders.	Ensure ability to swim. Consider need for life jacket when working on or near water and especially if working from boat or wearing waders.
		Risk of cold following immersion in water; care with slippery or crumbling bank edges.	Consider need to bring towel and change of clothing if some distance away from home/base; take special care at water edge.
	Infections	e.g. Weils disease (Leptospirosis).	Ensure cuts are covered (consider rubber gloves) and any new injuries are thoroughly treated. Seek medical advice if illness follows work near water especially if injured or immersed in water.
Pond survey (night).	As for Pond survey (day) plus: Reduced visibility.	Poor visibility leading to increased likelihood of slipping in to water.	Ensure good torch is used (with back up torch). Head torches recommended.
	Human factors.	Risk of attack.	Keep a safe distance. Try to avoid lone working; carry mobile phone.