

Risk Assessment – Youth Rangers

Generic Site (Use additional TRA as appropriate)



Gloucestershire
Wildlife Trust

Assessor	Jennie Denton	Assessment date	10 December 2024	Approved by:	Claire Garrity	Review date:	10 December 2025
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Task hazard – potential for harm to persons and/or property	Who's at risk	Precautions – to reduce risk levels	Risk level (see below) - after precautions have been taken	Person responsible – for ensuring precautions are taken
Group activity with young people	GWT staff, participants	Activities and participants will be supervised by a minimum of 2 adults (over 18 years), at least one of which will be a member of GWT staff and will have an enhanced DBS certificate. No participant will be left alone with a adult volunteer or staff member.	Slight	GWT staff
Risks of trips, slips, falls Resulting from uneven ground, overgrown areas and trailing plant hazards.	GWT staff, participants	Walk group through teaching location at start of session to highlight possible trip areas and advise that trip clearance is the first task to avoid any injuries related to falling. Group to wear suitable footwear.	Likely x Slight Harm = Slight	GWT staff Volunteers Other staff e.g GCC rangers Participants
Allergy Related hazards resulting from pollen/plant dust or irritant	GWT staff, participants	Highlight the risk at start of session and advise those with allergies to avoid any areas they know will caused a reaction. Show plants likely to cause irritation and advise participants to wear gloves if dealing with such. Check allergies of participants and ensure that activities for session do not include any potential allergens e.g. bird feeders; use lard/suet rather than peanut butter. Remind participants to have any medication they need with them; check they have at the start of the session e.g has hayfever medication been taken? Have you got your inhalers?	Likely x Slight Harm = Slight	GWT staff Volunteers Other staff e.g GCC rangers Participants
Low lying branches Poses risk to face, eyes, and other scratches	GWT Staff, participants	Participants will be made aware of this risk and asked to move carefully through area where they are working; avoid springing branches back on the person behind you.	Likely x Harmful = Slight	GWT staff Participants
Use of hand tools Such as scratches, cuts, entrapment, heavy items hitting fingers/toes, empalement, saw dust in eyes	GWT Staff, Participants	All hand tools will be used in line with the specific risk assessment for the tasks being carried out. 1) GWT staff to provide tool safety info before starting work with tools, ensuring participants are confident. All to wear gloves	Likely x Slight Harm = Slight	GWT staff Participants

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		<p>and eye protection when appropriate and ensure fingers are kept clear of sharp blades.</p> <p>2) Tools to be used safely and to not be used incorrectly. Group leader will go through safe use at the start of the session</p> <p>3) Safety covers and locks to be in place when tools not in use, where appropriate.</p> <p>If moving around with sharp tools, ensure blade is pointing towards the floor and keep an eye on the pathway ahead</p>		
Weather: Exposure from heat or cold	GWT staff, participants	<p>Participants will be instructed to dress appropriately for the weather conditions on the day: sun hat, sunscreen if hot and sunny – or if cold and wet, wear warm clothing and waterproofs. If the area of activity becomes dangerous during the session, the activity will be adapted by the group leader. If the weather is determined to be dangerous to participants, it will be cancelled especially in the event of a storm or high winds due to risk of falling trees.</p>	Unlikely x Very harmful = Moderate <u>Managed to be Slight</u>	GWT staff Participants
Clearing undergrowth/overgrown areas And possible broken items amongst overgrown areas	GWT staff, participants	<p>Participants advised to take care and keep an eye out for broken glass or other sharp objects that would be amongst the overgrown areas</p> <p>Participants to wear gloves when working in overgrown areas. Group advised to pause task and inform group leader of unsafe areas that need clearing before continuing with task – i.e. broken glass needs to be removed to a suitable disposal area</p>	Likely x Slight Harm = Slight	GWT staff Participants
Sharps, broken glass: Cuts, scratches, infections	Staff, Volunteers, Participants	<p>Participants advised to take care and keep an eye out for broken glass or other sharp objects that would be amongst the overgrown areas.</p> <p>Participants to wear gloves when working in overgrown areas. Group advised to pause task and inform group leader of unsafe areas that need clearing before continuing with task – i.e., broken glass needs to be removed to a suitable disposal area</p>	Unlikely x Harmful = Slight	GWT staff Participants
Lost participant Young person leaving the group on their own	GWT staff, participants	<p>Activity taking place on public sites</p> <p>Ensure appropriate level of supervision of participants</p> <p>Ensure participants are aware they should stay with their group</p> <p>Participants given contact phone number of group leader if there is an issue. Participants asked to remain in groups of at least 3 during breaks/when using the public toilets on site.</p>	Likely x Harm = Moderate <u>Managed to be slight</u>	GWT staff Participants

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		<p><u>Procedure if someone goes missing</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Contact senior rangers prior to the session to find out who is the on duty ranger 2) All Youth Rangers at sessions have the GWT staff leaders work mobile number saved in their phone. 3) If another young person has a mobile number for the missing participant, they should ring them. 4) Emergency contact phoned within 15min if young people not found/contacted by phone and asked to try the participants mobile number and to advise on contacting emergency services 5) If possible, contact GCC ranger on duty to see if they are on site for if a search using their buggy is necessary <p>This is the draft procedure for now. It is under discussion by the Safeguarding/Health and Safety Teams</p>		
<p>Vehicles Car's parking area and roads in and around the reserve</p>	GWT staff, participants	<p>Participants will be supervised at all times near cars and when machinery is moving in the area, they will be moved to safer area as soon as practical. Groups will stay away from roads/tracks within area of activity and during movement to activity area where possible</p>	<p>Unlikely x Very Harmful = Moderate Managed to be slight</p>	GWT staff Participants
<p>Bites and stings, Insects including ticks</p>	GWT staff, participants	<p>All participants asked to wear long sleeves and trousers rather than shorts, and carry insect repellent. Allergies should be flagged up to the first aiders in the group, ie EpiPens. Participants will be warned to look for ticks and to seek First Aid advise https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/lyme-disease. GWT First Aid kits contain tick removal tools. Participants to be aware of tick bite advice and symptoms of Lyme disease and to pass on this information to their parents/carers where necessary</p>	<p>Unlikely x Harmful = Slight</p>	GWT staff Participants
<p>Finding a snake: snake bite shock; severe pain at the location of the bite; swelling, redness and bruising at the location of the bite; nausea and vomiting; diarrhoea; itchy lumps on the skin; swelling of the lips, tongue, gums, and throat; breathing difficulties; mental</p>	Staff, Volunteers, Participants	<p>If it is possible that if there are snakes in the area participants will be warned not to approach them. If a snake is found, the participant will alert group leaders and the group will move back to a safe distance to give the snake space.</p>	<p>Unlikely and harmful = Slight</p>	GWT staff Participants

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confusion, dizziness, or fainting; irregular heartbeat.				
Harmful plants: Thorns can cause cuts and scratches. Stinging nettles can cause painful stinging and rash. Bracken, ragwort, fungi can cause irritation and can be poisonous if ingested. Hogweed, giant hogweed, euphorbia and wild parsnip sap can cause irritation, photosensitivity, burns and temporary blindness.	GWT staff, participants	Recommend long sleeves and trousers to be worn. Participants are warned to be careful of these plants. Do not to touch or pick any plants or fungi unless told to do so as part of the session or if they know it is safe to do so. Do not eat anything. Not to cut plants down, snap the stems in case of giant hogweed. If contact is made with hogweed sap a reaction will be imminent - wash as soon as possible and go not expose to light. If there is contact with eyes, wash as soon as possible with eye wash solution and seek advice from GP.	Unlikely x Very Harmful = Moderate <u>Managed to be Slight</u>	GWT staff Participants
Consumption of food choking and allergies	Participants	Participants can bring along their own food or purchase food from GWT cafe; GWT staff informed of any allergies. Biscuits will be provided during work party; GWT staff to ensure these are appropriate for those with allergies	Unlikely x Very harmful = Moderate <u>Managed to be Slight</u>	GWT staff Participants
Gates, fences and doors	GWT Staff, participants	Participants should use gates sensibly to avoid trapping appendages in them and only climb over boundaries if instructed to do so.	Unlikely x harmful = Slight	GWT staff Participants
Poked in body or eye by twigs and stakes	GWT Staff, participants	While moving stakes and whips everyone will be extra careful	Unlikely x slight harm = Trivial	GWT staff Participants
Lifting / rolling logs / stones/carrying equipment/using wheel barrow	GWT Staff, participants	Participants will be supervised to ensure they don't try and move huge logs and hurt themselves but participants will naturally limit their own risk.	Unlikely x slight harm = Trivial	GWT staff Participants
Injury from materials being used nails/screws in wood, wood, chicken wire	GWT Staff, participants	Warn participants of sharp/dangerous materials such as nails (do not leave on the floor or sticking up out of wood), chickenwire etc. and associated dangers associated with damaged items such as potential for the presence of sharp shards of terracotta upon breaking.	Likely x slight harm = slight	GWT staff Participants
Drowning	GWT Staff, participants	Participants must be supervised at all times when near the water's edge or in the water. Participants should be instructed to enter the water only if it is safe to do so and managed in an ordered fashion to enable effective supervision.	Unlikely x Very harmful = Moderate <u>Managed to be Slight</u>	GWT staff Participants

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Leptospirosis (Weil's disease) Animals (including rodents and livestock) harbour this disease which you can contract if soil or freshwater that contains infected urine gets into your mouth, eyes or a cut.	GWT Staff, participants	This is rare in the UK, however, as a precaution participants will be asked to wear wellies when entering water and asked not to put their fingers in their mouths. All participants should wash hands as soon as possible after the session, and certainly before eating. Use hand sanitiser after activity if hand washing is not possible. Parents to ensure that this happens. Should anyone feel unwell within 4-14 days after the session they should mention to their GP that they have been in open water https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/leptospirosis	Unlikely x Very harmful = Moderate <u>Managed to be Slight</u>	GWT staff Participants
Wasp/bees Nests	GWT Staff, participants	All participants made aware that there are wasp/bees nests in the area and made aware of the location. Work away from these areas.	Unlikely x Very harmful = Moderate <u>Managed to be Slight</u>	GWT staff Participants
Injury from use of surveying equipment magnifying glasses and small bug pots, rulers, pipettes, measuring tape	Participants	Equipment will be check before use to check no broken or sharp items. Students will be asked to remain stationary when looking through magnifying glasses rather than walking while looking through them.	Unlikely and slight harm = Trivial	GWT staff Participants
Burning, scalding with use of fire pit and Kelly kettles	GWT Staff, participants	Warning and risk discussion prior to activity by group leader. Fire lighting equipment to be kept in box/with leader unless in use. Safe working distance in designated work area away from building. Safe technique to be demonstrated before use. Participants to demonstrate safe use to group leader. Close supervision at all times. A bucket of water and fire blanket will be located at fire pit site. Fire fully extinguished at end of activity	Unlikely x very harmful = Moderate <u>Managed to be Slight</u>	GWT staff Participants
Risks due to dangerous behaviour within the group	Participants	Communication about the content of the session and the individuals within the group will take place prior to the session to ensure appropriate behaviour can be managed. Activity may be changed at short notice to one with lower risk to mitigate - there will always be a backup activity without tools. The participants will understand that the activity will need to be halted if the behaviour is unacceptable. Adults are always present with the group during activities and there to deal with specific behaviours relating to these young people. Any participants with additional needs or medical issues to ensure group leader is aware of	Likely and slight harm= Slight	GWT staff Participants

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		them at the start each session starting (as well as on the sign up form).		
Risks due to learning needs	Participants	Ensure a higher adult to participant ratio depending on the needs of the group and/or the individuals within the group. Activity leader to request details of the needs of the individuals in the group in advance of the session when possible or discuss this with the staff before the sessions begins and adapt activities accordingly.	Likely and slight harm= Slight	GWT staff Participants
Grazing animals	Staff, Volunteers, Participants	Grazing animals may be present at certain times of the year on some reserves. Participants will be kept together as a group and walked quietly through a field if the GWT leader feels it is safe to do so. Participants will not be taken through fields of young cows or bulls. They will be asked to walk quickly and quietly, but not run. They will be told not feed any livestock, incl. ponies and asked to apply hand gel immediately after touching any animals.	Unlikely x Very harmful = Moderate Managed to be Slight	Task Leader Participants
Ingestion of soil/invertebrates/seeds/plants	Participants	Activity conducted using appropriate level of staff supervision Importance of not touching face with dirty/muddy hands or eating soil discussed with participants and staff	Unlikely x Slight Harm = Trivial	GWT staff Participants
Activity with young people Staff/visitors = >18yrs WEX = 14-15yrs	GWT staff, participants	All activities will be supervised by a minimum of 2 adults (over 18 years), at least one of which will be a member of GWT staff and will have an enhanced DBS certificate. No participant who is under 18 will be left alone with an adult volunteer or GWT staff member. Participants will have parental permission to attend. In the event that a participant turns 18 and moves to a position of adult volunteer, a discussion will be had by the GWT staff with the participant about appropriate behaviour, use of phones and relationships with the group. Training will be provided for young people moving to being adult leaders of Youth Rangers.	Slight	GWT staff Participants
Social media/photography Taking/sharing of photos and sharing of any photos etc on social media	Participants	All participants to sign a photo/video consent form (under 18's will be signed by parent) and if any member who ticks no on the form, then they will be excluded from photos. All photos taken by GWT staff will be taken using a GWT work phone and save securely on the GWT server along with the permission form. GWT staff member will inform the group when	Slight	GWT staff Participants

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		they are taking photos and remind them that photos will only be taken on a work phone. If participants are sharing anything on social media related to views which are not shared by GWT, then they make sure GWT is not linked to GWT. If their profile includes their role on YAG, then the line 'these are my views and not those of GWT'.		
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PPE required

Gloves, hand washing/clearing facilities, appropriate clothing

Other info

A personal first aid kit must also be carried and there should also be reasonable access to a more comprehensive kit.
Hand gel