

ARG UK Generic Risk Assessment



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	Hazard	Risk	Control measures	Probability	Comment
1.	Infectious (human transmission) disease e.g. COVID-19	Transmission of COVID-19 between members of the group or with members of the public	Reduced numbers of persons on tasks/events or training sessions (following national guidelines - each country may differ), maintain 2 metre distance between volunteers and also with members of the public you may encounter, avoid crowded beauty spots, stay outside as much as possible (wearing face masks if inside), travel separately or with your residential bubble or family unit, take extra care with public transport (wear a face mask), plan tasks carefully with volunteers bringing own food/refreshments. Organise meetings online wherever possible.	High	Government guidelines may differ at short notice, always check the latest update the night before a task/event/training, and be prepared to cancel if in any doubt.
2.	Assault	Physical injury, sexual assault	Try to defuse any potentially confrontational situations. If possible walk away. Contact police if unsure or feel threatened. Apply Lone Working Procedures.	Low	
3.	Stings and bites	Diseases, allergic reaction	If known allergy to stings take appropriate medication on site. If feeling unwell after a site visit seek medical attention.	Moderate	
4.	Road and Vehicle	Collision	Wear Hi-Viz clothing to highways standard. Don't listen to audio devices or wear headphones. Be very vigilant when crossing and working on the edge of the road. Ensure road signs are present on site. Park safely in pre-designated areas away from crossing. Only patrol where there are safe walkable verge and road is straight – see map. Carry torches/ lantern do not dazzle drivers	Moderate	
5.	Working with children and vulnerable adults	Harm to children/vulnerable adult or allegation of improper behaviour made against volunteer ARG worker	Ensure that any children/vulnerable adults attending an activity do so under the responsibility of a family member/guardian/carer. Request a DBS check if routinely working with particular children (even with supervising adult present). Never work along with a child (under age of 16, or 16-18 without parent/guardian consent).	Low	
6.	Ticks	Transmission of Lyme disease	Be aware of ticks (e.g. BADA-UK www.bada-uk.org) and take precautions in the field. Wear long trousers and long sleeves, use insect repellent, avoid brushing through tall vegetation, check clothing for ticks, consult a doctor in the event of tick bite.	Low to high depending on whether ticks present locally.	

7.	Pond (etc.) water	Pond water may contain bacteria that may cause disease (e.g. <i>Leptospirosis</i> /Weil's disease).	Treat all pond (etc.) water as potentially pathogenic. Do not ingest, do not expose cuts on skin to pond water. Wear gloves to protect against scratches when working near water. Wash hands after immersion in pond water and especially prior to eating. If feeling unwell after accidental ingestion of pond water or contact with open wound seek medical attention.	High	
8.	Ponds /deep water	Drowning	Take extra care when near water bodies, and risk assess points of entry and exit. Do not lone work near water bodies. Take throw-rope when working near water.	Moderate	
9.	Cold	Hypothermia	Wear appropriate clothing. Inform group leader if feeling cold.	Low/Moderate in winter	
10.	Concealed holes/ditches	Physical injury, ankle injuries	Take care when walking through areas of deep habitat or areas where there is poor footing visibility. Avoid areas of poor footing visibility is possible.	High	
11.	Dogs	Bites, lacerations, disease	Be wary of dogs off leads. Disinfect any bites and seek medical attention.	Moderate	
12.	Adders	Envenomation. allergic reaction, paralysis	Never attempt to pick up adders unless trained and equipped to do so. Take care to look at ground when kneeling or placing hands on ground. Wear stout boots. Take extra care when lifting refugia or debris.	Moderate, Low in winter	
13.	Exposure to sun	Sun burn	Where appropriate use sunscreen and a broad-brimmed. Avoid midday sun if possible.	High	
14.	Hazardous waste/fly tipping	Cuts, lacerations, chemical burns, infection	Wear gloves when handling waste. If unsure of contents of containers or if known to be hazardous contact emergency services.	Moderate	
15.	Heat and difficult terrain	Exhaustion, dehydration	Walking through difficult terrain may cause extra fatigue in hot weather. Do not rush and drink plenty of water.	Low	
16.	Old and partially buried structures (eg buried fences)	Tripping, ankle injuries	Take care when footing is not clearly visible. Look for signs nearby of structures e.g, partially collapsed fence, old mine workings.	Moderate	
17.	Sharp grasses and thorny bushes	Eye injuries, cuts, lacerations, infection	Do not bend down or kneel in areas of sharp sea grass or other sharp plants. Disinfect any lacerations or punctures	Moderate	
18.	Sharp objects (eg tins)	Cuts, lacerations, infection	Take care when picking up any potentially sharp objects. Wear gloves if appropriate or desired.	High	

18.	Shooting	Physical injury	Do not approach any person suspected of carrying a weapon. If there is shooting allowed on site establish where and when shooting will take place and avoid. In cases of unauthorised shooting contact the police.	Low	
19.	Steep slopes/ unstable ground	Physical injury, trips, ankle injuries	Try to avoid climbing steep slopes. Take care with footing.	Moderate	
20.	Stock	Physical injury, trampling	Be aware of stock behaviour, if in doubt leave site. Do not take dogs on site.	Moderate	
21	Tree felling	Injury from felled timber	In forestry plantations look out for indications of felling in progress (posted notices, sounds of felling activity). Avoid areas where/when felling is in progress.	Low	

Activity _____ Date _____ Assessor _____

Amphibian and Reptile Groups of UK (ARG UK) is a registered charity (number 1165504) committed to the conservation of native amphibians and reptiles and their natural environment by supporting the development of a network of independent volunteer amphibian and reptile groups (ARGs)