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| Bitton Toad Patrol  Risk Assessment  Spring 2025 | | | | | **toad** |
| **Risk assessor:** Andy Ryder  **Date of risk assessment:** 15/01/2025 | | | | | Risk assessment No: AJR2025GVB |
| **Hazard** | **Nature of risk** | **Who is at risk** | **Degree of risk** | **Prevention/Control Measures** | **Adjusted degree of risk** |
| Covid 19 | Risk of transmission or infection | Volunteers | Moderate – High depending on local R rate | Volunteers to follow local tier guidance at all times and not to patrol or move between tiers if against current guidance.  Volunteers to keep at least 1 meter away from other volunteers and avoid any physical contact  Volunteers to wear facemasks when interacting with other volunteers  Volunteers to use only their own equipment & not to swap buckets  Volunteers to wash hands/sanitise after patrolling  **Please don’t pick up amphibians if you have used hand sanitiser. It will likely kill them.** | Low – Moderate depending on local R rate |
| Adverse weather conditions | Cold, wet & windy conditions could lead to accidents or adverse health issues such as hypothermia | Volunteers | Moderate | Inform volunteers of the need to wear appropriate weatherproof clothing and footwear. Volunteers to carry mobile phone in case of emergency. | Low |
| Risk or injury from passing motorised & non-motorised vehicles including almost silent E-scooters | Risk varying from minor collisions with bicycles to potentially fatal car accidents. The road is unlit and could be described as a “rat run”. Bizarrely it is subject to the National Speed Limit. There are no pavements and the road is single track in places.  The nature of the road means that most of the traffic goes through at a reasonable speed however this is not always the case. | Volunteers | High | Volunteers to wear high-visibility jackets, and use torches wherever possible, patrol in pairs and follow safety guidelines provided.  Volunteers to stand to side when vehicles approach and to be wary at all times.  Volunteers to never to risk personal safety to save an animal at risk from approaching vehicle.  On one stretch of the patrol area volunteers to patrol on the other side of the hedge in field with footpath if possible.  Volunteers to park in layby opposite Aubrey Meads   Volunteers to look in both directions and to rely on visual checks for vehicles due to almost silent nature of E-scooters. | Low |
| Crime | Threat of verbal abuse or physical attack | Volunteers | Low | Patrol activity to be publicised prior to commencing. Volunteers to patrol where possible. Volunteers to carry mobile phones. Volunteers briefed on the need to avoid confrontation and to present themselves in a courteous fashion at all times. Police given prior notification of patrol activities and to be discreetly notified of any suspicious or threatening behaviour witnessed or experienced during patrols. Volunteers asked not to carry valuables. | Low |
| Deep water | Minimal risk of drowning if releasing amphibians at fishing lake. Site access currently restricted so not an issue at present. | Volunteers | Low | Amphibians to be released at two designated points. Access to the lake(s) is not required (one is a fishing lake and is locked up and the other is set several meters back from the release point and is very difficult to access. | Very Low |
| Environmental/geographical factors | Risk of slipping, tripping or falling on wet paths, slopes or muddy banks. Risk of cuts, scratches and grazes from thorns, wire fences and litter. Injuries varying from trivial scratches or cuts to sprains, fractures and serious infections or tetanus. | Volunteers | Moderate | Inform volunteers of the need to wear appropriate weatherproof clothing and footwear. Volunteers to  carry mobile phone in case of emergency.  Where possible volunteers to familiarise themselves with patrol area during daylight hours.  Where at all possible volunteers should patrol in pairs. | Low |
| Biological factors | Injury varying from trivial insect bites to waterborne diseases and serious animal bites. | Volunteers | Low | Only amphibians to be handled by volunteers. No UK Amphibian species poses any physical threat to humans and volunteers advised of the need to wash their hands after handling. Any non-amphibians encountered should not be handled. Likelihood of encountering harmless grass snakes is low and adders are not recorded in local area.  Volunteers encouraged to cover legs and arms due to weather conditions so risk of insect bites is minimal | Low |