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| Fishponds Toad Patrol - Ridgeway Road  Risk Assessment  Spring 2025 | | | | | **toad** |
| **Risk assessor:** Andy Ryder  **Date of risk assessment:** 15/01/2025 | | | | | Risk assessment No: AJR2025RW |
| **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 or E-scooters to potentially fatal car accidents. | Volunteers | Moderate | Volunteers to wear high-visibility jackets, use pavements wherever possible, patrol in pairs and follow safety guidelines provided.  Volunteers to walk/stand to one side on cyclepath. Please avoid crossing the Road Bridge on foot.  **Extra care is needed due to the risk now posed by the use of E-scooters as this are almost silent & often ridden at high speed on the pavement, road or cyclepath** | Low |
| Crime | Threat of verbal abuse or physical attack | Volunteers | Road - Low Cyclepath - Moderate | Patrol activity to be publicised prior to commencing. Volunteers to patrol in pairs if patrolling cyclepath. 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. Slightly elevated risk on cyclepath although increased lighting has recently been installed to reduce risks to all path users. |
| Deep water | Minimal risk of drowning when releasing amphibians at fishing lake. Site access currently restricted. | Volunteers | Low | Amphibians to be released at gated entrance to fishing lake. If access to lake site granted at any time advise volunteers to remain at least 2m from water’s edge. Volunteers to work in pairs whenever possible. Torches to be used at all times. | 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 and to stick to paths and well-lit areas to minimise risk or accidents. | 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 only to be handled by co-ordinator. Likelihood of encountering harmless grass snakes is extremely low and historic record of 1 adder found in local area is probably inaccurate. The area has been surveyed in the past and no snakes found.  Volunteers encouraged to cover legs and arms due to weather conditions so risk of insect bites is minimal | Low |