



Herefordshire Mammal Group - Risk Assessment

HMG03 - Mist Netting and Harp Trapping Surveys for Bats

Location: All of Herefordshire	Assessment No: HMG03
Event: Mist Netting and Harp Trapping for Bats	Assessment Date 01Nov16
Date: 01 November 2016 to 31 October 2017	Assessor's Name: Denise Foster
Other Relevant Risk Assessments: HMG02 - Outdoor Field Surveys, Monitoring for Bats and Other Small Mammals	Assessor's Signature:

Activity Description: Mist Netting and Harp Trapping for Bats Mist Netting Surveys Harp Trapping surveys.
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No.	Hazards Involved	Existing Control measures	Likelihood	X Severity	= Rating
1	Injury to batworkers and members of public when vehicles enter or leave site.	Obey Forestry Commission speed limit at all times. (10mph) if surveying in Forestry Commission woodlands. Vehicles to be turned around to face exit on arrival at site, before dark.	1	3	3
2	Forest Operations – timber stacks and heavy machinery	Awareness of forestry operations and avoid approaching timber stacks and parked machinery.	1	3	3

No.	Hazards Involved	Existing Control measures	Likelihood	X Severity	= Rating
3	Injury to bat workers whilst erecting and dismantling harp traps, mist nets and triple high canopy net system	<p>Only trained volunteers will be erecting and dismantling harp traps, mist nets and triple high systems.</p> <p>Trapping will not be carried out in storm force winds owing to the danger of lightning strike, fallen trees and other debris.</p> <p>When dismantling harp traps and the triple high canopy net system, a verbal warning will be given to group members working in the immediate area.</p> <p>First-aid kit to be provided by the leader in case minor injury occurs when dismantling traps.</p>	1	2	2
4	Local Wildlife – Attack by animals (wild boar and deer species)	<p>Awareness, working in pairs, do not approach animals and give a wide-berth if observed. In the event of threatening behaviour, use torches and make a loud noise to deter animal and call for assistance.</p> <p>No dogs are allowed on site.</p>	1	4	4
5	Hazards of working in darkness and on rough/steep ground, which includes slips, falls and dis-orientation.	<p>Able-bodied adults only. All persons to wear suitable footwear. Arrive at the site before darkness falls to become familiar with surroundings. All persons must carry suitable headlamps and torches plus spare batteries.</p> <p>Work in pairs and separated groups to remain in contact at all times using 2-way radios.</p>	2	2	4
6	Cold/wet weather - hypothermia from exposure or becoming wet.	All persons must wear suitable warm clothing and footwear and carry suitable water proof items and hot drinks	4	1	4

No.	Hazards Involved	Existing Control measures	Likelihood	X Severity	= Rating
7	Public – threatening behaviour	Avoid confrontation, and leave the site immediately.	1	4	4
8	Diseases – Lyme disease, Tetanus and Rabies (bat lyssavirus)	<p>All persons to be made aware of the dangers and symptoms of tick-borne Lyme disease. Long trousers and long sleeve tops should be worn to minimise risk. Check for ticks after each survey and seek medical attention in the event of any rashes or flu-like symptoms.</p> <p>All persons should be vaccinated again tetanus.</p> <p>Only persons who have up-to-date rabies vaccinations will be allowed to handle bats. Gloves must be worn when handling bats and medical advice regarding post exposure vaccination sought in the event of any bite or scratch.</p>	1	4	4
9	Allergies to insect bites and stings	<p>It is each person's responsibility to decide whether it is appropriate to attend the survey if they are known to have an allergy to insect bites and stings. If they attend they must carry any appropriate personal medication and advise the leader.</p> <p>Advise use of insect repellent as bites from insects are highest at dusk when bat detector surveys take place.</p>	1	4	4
10	Cuts and scratches from thorns, sharp vegetation and barbed wire	First-aid kit to be provided by the leader. All persons to be made aware of the possibility of collapsed or overgrown barbed-wire.	4	1	4

No.	Hazards Involved	Existing Control measures	Likelihood	X Severity	= Rating
11	Injuries from hand tools and poles	Volunteers are to be familiar and aware of the hazards of each tool and pole sets that may be used. A safe working distance must be applied.	2	2	4
12	Injuries to the public due to mist netting systems.	Nets will not be placed across public rights of way. No net set across any clearing or ride will be left unattended and "Forest Operation" warning signs placed on forest tracks.	2	2	2

Do any procedures/processes/plans relating to the task need to be amended or updated in light of your risk assessment findings? Yes ☐ No ☒
 If "Yes" give details:

Are current control measures adequate? Yes ☒ No ☐
 If "Yes" then the risk assessment is complete.

Risk Rating		Rating Action Bands	
To establish Residual Risk Rating multiply “Likelihood” by the “Severity”			
Likelihood	Severity of Injury	Band	Action Required
1 Most Unlikely	1 Trivial injury	1 & 2 Minimal/Trivial risk	No further action. Monitor situation.
2 Unlikely	2 Slight injury	3 & 4 Low risk	Monitor control measures for continued effectiveness.
3 Likely	3 Serious. Chronic injury	6 & 8 Medium risk	Improve or increase control measures.
4 Most Likely	4 Major injury/Death	9, 12 & 16 High risk	Stop the work. Improve or increase controls immediately.