



Herefordshire Mammal Group - Risk Assessment

HMG02 - OUTDOOR FIELD SURVEYS, MONITORING FOR BATS AND OTHER SMALL MAMMALS

Location: All of Herefordshire	Assessment No: HMG02
Event: Outdoor Field Surveys, Monitoring for Bats and Other Small Mammals.	Assessment Date 01Nov16
Date: 01 November 2016 to 31 October 2017	Assessor's Name: Denise Foster
Other Relevant Risk Assessments: HMG01 – Working with ladders	Assessor's Signature:

Activity Description: Outdoor Field Surveys, Monitoring for Bats and Other Small Mammals.
 Outdoor Field Surveys including NBMP transects, Habitat Surveys, Survey Training Days
 Monitoring includes box checks for Bats and Dormice
 Surveying for Dormice including siting Dormice Tubes
 Trapping for small mammals using Longworth Traps or other alternative
 Surveying in and around Water

No.	Hazards Involved	Existing Control measures	Likelihood	X Severity	= Rating
1	Hazards of working on rough/steep ground, which includes slips, falls and dis-orientation in daytime and darkness.	Able-bodied adults only. All persons to wear suitable footwear. Arrive at the site and become familiar with surroundings. All persons must carry suitable headlamps and torches plus spare batteries for working after dark. Point out any potential hazardous areas. Ideally work in pairs but separated groups/person should remain in contact at all times using 2-way radios or mobile phones.	2	2	4

No.	Hazards Involved	Existing Control measures	Likelihood	X Severity	= Rating
2	Cuts and scratches from thorns, sharp vegetation and barbed wire, falling objects from height eg branches and tools, Whiplash from branches if more than one person in the group	First-aid kit to be provided by the leader. All persons to be made aware of the possibility of collapsed or overgrown barbed-wire. Field Surveys, monitoring or counts will not be carried out in storm force winds owing to the danger of fallen trees and other debris. Verbal warning about potential hazards when walking through woodlands.	4	1	4
3	Placing traps and checking boxes – damage to eyes from close vegetation	Verbal warning about taking care when placing traps	1	3	3
4	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
5	Diseases – Lyme disease, Weils 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>This is a risk to those who accidentally come into contact with potentially contaminated water if volunteers are trapping or surveying in water. Anyone who does so should be warned to watch for flu like symptoms within a few weeks and report them to their doctor immediately.</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
6	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
7	Bites from bats and other small mammals	<p>Gloves must be worn when handling small mammals especially bats (see point 5).</p> <p>Minimise handling of mammals by emptying traps into bags</p> <p>Advise all participants to wash hands thoroughly after exercise.</p>	2	2	4

No.	Hazards Involved	Existing Control measures	Likelihood	X Severity	= Rating
8	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
9	Local Wildlife – Attack by animals (wild boar and deer species)	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. No dogs are allowed on site.	1	4	4
10	Working in and around water bodies such as rivers, streams, ponds and lakes.	Ensure that volunteers are made aware of where banks are located. Surveying for small mammal in and around water if the water body depth is more than 2ft deep, a life jacket must be worn. Always work in pairs if working in and around water.	1	3	3
11	Public – threatening behaviour	Avoid confrontation, and leave the site immediately.	1	4	4
12	Forest Operations in Forestry Commission woodlands – timber stacks and heavy machinery	Awareness of forestry operations and avoid approaching timber stacks and parked machinery.	1	3	3
13	Injury to volunteers and members of public when vehicles enter or leave site.	Vehicles to be turned around to face exit on arrival at site if working after dark.	1	3	3

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	
<i>To establish Residual Risk Rating multiply "Likelihood" by the "Severity"</i>			
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.