




Herefordshire Mammal Group - Risk Assessment

HMG04 - WORKING IN DISUSED, DERELICT OR ANY BUILDING STRUCTURE INCLUDING CONFINED SPACES

Location: All of Herefordshire	Assessment No: HMG04
Task: Working in Disused or Derelict Buildings and any Structure including Confined Spaces	Assessment Date 15 th June 2018
Review Date: 1 st July 2019	Assessor's Name: Denise Foster
Other Relevant Risk Assessments: HMG01 – Working with ladders HMG02 – Outdoor Field Surveys, Monitoring for Bats and Other Small Mammals HMG03 – Static Netting, Mist Netting and Harp Trapping for Bats	Assessor's Signature: 

Activity Description: Working in Disused, Derelict or any Building Structure including Confined Spaces.

Surveying for bats in any building structures eg Churches
Hibernation surveys in roof voids, basements, railway tunnels,
Other bat surveys in roof voids/basements, caves and disused mines.

NOTE:

SINCE THESE SITES ARE VERY VARIABLE IN NATURE, BEFORE COMMENCING ANY WORK, AN ASSESSMENT OF ANY LOCAL HAZARDS SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT AND APPROPRIATE CONTROL MEASURES APPLIED AND RECORDED, IN ADDITION TO THESE GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENTS.

No.	Hazards Involved	Existing Control measures	Likelihood	X Severity	= Rating
1	<p>Falls from height, due to rot or damaged floors, concealed/unprotected edges or openings and other structural defects.</p> <p>Fall of materials, due to the instability of the structure;</p>	<p>Information should be collected from plans/documents, owners, and/or wardens prior to the site survey about the condition of the survey site</p> <p>An initial appraisal should be carried out to identify structural defects and hazardous areas prior to entry.</p> <p>At least 2 persons should be involved in the initial entry - notification should be given to another person of their whereabouts, and the duration of their visit.</p> <p>Able-bodied, fit and competent adults with experience of working at height and in roof voids will only be allowed access. Hard hats or bump caps and adequate footwear must be worn.</p> <p>Arrive in good time at the site and become familiar with surroundings. Point out any potential hazardous areas to other parties.</p> <p>All persons must carry suitable headlamps and torches with spare batteries.</p> <p>Only walk on solid beams and joists of an adequate width or where there is a third point of contact.</p> <p>The area should not be entered if there are any signs of structural defects such as rot or weak floors.</p> <p>The positions of any voids or similar hazards should be noted and avoided. Where appropriate, consider placing obstacles around such hazards to avoid stepping too close and/or the deployment of portable lighting.</p>	1	3	3

No.	Hazards Involved	Existing Control measures	Likelihood	X Severity	= Rating
2	<p>Oxygen deficiency or accumulations of poisonous gas in confined spaces.</p> <p>Presence of Dust (fibreglass)</p> <p>Trips and slips and injury from loose or projecting objects;</p> <p>Waterlogged or flooded basements, pits or cellars.</p>	<p>Confined spaces without adequate ventilation MUST NOT be entered under any circumstances.</p> <p>Personal protective equipment and clothing must be used where appropriate, including overalls, hard hats or bump caps and suitable footwear</p> <p>Dust masks, eye protection, gloves and disposable overalls must be used when appropriate, especially in roof voids where fibreglass is present.</p> <p>A first-aid kit should be available;</p> <p>Other useful equipment might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - flashlight or miner's-type headlight; - portable radio communication; - access inspection ladder (see HMG01) - rope or tape to mark the route; - stick (for exploration); - Binoculars. <p>Waterlogged or flooded basements, pits or cellars MUST NOT be entered.</p>	2	2	4

No.	Hazards Involved	Existing Control measures	Likelihood	X Severity	= Rating
3	<p>Diseases – Biological hazards, e.g. leptospirosis (Weil's Disease), pathogens from leaking sewers, disease from decaying animals or accumulations of bird/bat droppings, contact with hypodermic syringes.</p> <p>Weils Disease, Tetanus and Rabies (bat lyssavirus)</p>	<p>Weil's Disease (leptospirosis) is a risk to those who come into contact with water in locations that may be frequented by rats, particularly 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, mentioning the possibility of exposure to Weil's Disease. .</p> <p>All persons should be vaccinated again tetanus.</p> <p>Any licensed person handling bats must be vaccinated against rabies.</p> <p>Dust masks, eye protection, and gloves should be worn where appropriate, especially in roof voids where fibreglass is present.</p> <p>Surveyors should wash their hands thoroughly at the end of the survey and particularly before taking food or drink.</p> <p>Protective clothing, footwear and equipment should be cleaned and dried after use.</p>	1	4	4
4	<p>Working in Confined Spaces such as Caves and Disused Mines.</p>	<p>Caves and disused mines can only be surveyed under the guidance of an experienced and competent caver or mine worker.</p>	1	4	4

No.	Hazards Involved	Existing Control measures	Likelihood	X Severity	= Rating
5	Working in Confined Spaces such as roof voids - heat stress	<p>Brief all volunteers about the symptoms of heat stress eg an inability to concentrate; muscle cramps; heat rash; severe thirst - a late symptom of heat stress; fainting; heat exhaustion - fatigue, giddiness, nausea, headache, and moist skin;</p> <p>If any of the above symptoms are experienced the person should leave the area immediately.</p> <p>Members should carry water at all times to prevent dehydration.</p> <p>Wear light clothing so allow heat in the body to escape.</p>	2	2	4
4	Injuries from hand tools and poles	<p>Volunteers are to be familiar with and aware of the hazards of all tools to be used in surveys.</p> <p>A safe working distance must be maintained at all times.</p>	2	2	4
5	Public – threatening behaviour	<p>Avoid confrontation, and leave the site immediately in the event of threatening behaviour.</p> <p>Vehicles should be parked in such a way as to allow speedy exit from the site.</p>	1	4	4
6	Disturbance or injury to bats	All survey work to be carried out in accordance with the Bat Workers' Manual (3 rd Edition, 2004)	N/A	N/A	N/A

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.