GENERAL RISK ASSESSMENT FORM

Ref:

Describe the activity being assessed:	**Assessed by: Emma Stone**	**Endorsed by: Paul Lintott**
North Somerset Bat Survey. This is a citizen science project coordinated by the Bat Conservation Research Lab at UWE, volunteers recruited from the public will be deploying static bat detectors along linear features in North Somerset. Detectors will be fitted to hedgerows/fences/posts 1.4-1.8m from the ground using cable ties and string. Detectors will be deployed for six nights per site. Detectors have a sign and notice with the UWE logo and stating they are research equipment not to be removed with the University contact number in case of issue. Access to the land will be granted from landowners in collaboration with the North Somerset Council who are funding this work. Contact with landowners will be made via telephone. The public are given template letters to contact landowners. Landowner contact is made by the volunteers themselves not by UWE staff. Volunteers will be recruited through advertisements via the Bat Conservation Research Lab's web presence (website, Facebook, Twitter) and through contacts in local conservation organisations. Volunteers can sign up to the survey and download all protocols from the BCRL website, and will then choose a survey square and book a detector to collect from a local detector hosting centre. This is all automated and completed online at https://batconservationresearchlab.co.uk/north-somerset-bat-survey/ Volunteers will be required to read the risk assessment upon signing up to the project. Upon completion, volunteers load data to our online portal where it is analysed. The nearest hospitals with accident and emergency departments are: **Weston General Hospital,** Grange Road, Uphill, Weston-Super-Mare, BS23 4TQ Tel: 01934 636363 **Bristol Royal Infirmary**, Marlborough Street, Bristol, Avon, BS2 8HW Tel: 0117 923 0000		

Project leaders contact details Beth Gerrard (Project Officer): 07896 652 690 Emma Stone (Project supervisor): 07733 173567 Paul Lintott (Project co-supervisor): 0117 3283153 UWE general contact number (24hrs a day): 0117 9656261		
Who might be harmed: Volunteers **How many exposed to risk: 100+**	**Date of Assessment: 21/8/2021**	**Review date(s): 1/8/2022**

Hazards Identified ***(state the potential harm)***	**Existing Control Measures**	**S**	**L**	**Risk Level**	**Additional Control Measures**	**S**	**L**	**Risk Level**	**By whom and by when**	**Date completed**
Potential for Covid19 transmission through contact with contaminated equipment or person to person contact	All study sites are located in fields away from people on private land. Some are located near to public rights of way. Undertake the site survey, complying with the Government advice for covid and maintaining 2 m separation distance at all times If approached by the public politely explain the distance you are keeping and maintain that distance from them. If contact with personnel is unavoidable and becomes regular, leave the site. If you show any symptoms of Coronavirus you should not undertake the survey and follow Government guidance regards testing and isolation. https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus	5	1	5						

	Instructions during detector handover: 1. During detector handover, each party will maintain 2m social distancing at all times. 2. To minimise contact time, staff at Monitoring Centres are not be expected to answer questions in relation to the survey – all questions can be answered by a member of the Bat Team by phone during working hours Monday-Friday (contact details are provided on the instruction manual in the box). Instructions for survey participants: 1. Once the detector carry box, detector or anything else within the carry box is touched, avoid contact with your face, personal items or surfaces, until you have thoroughly washed your hands. You must thoroughly wash your hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and hot water, or a hand sanitizer with at least 75% alcohol content to kill viruses.									
Incidental exposure to HG2 organisms	The risk is very low and volunteers should read and be compliant with the UWE SSoW11 provided in the sign up pack	2	2	4						
Uneven Ground: slips, trips, falls	1. Take care – allow enough time for activity. 2. Be aware of any obstructions in your path. 3. Wear sturdy footwear suitable for the terrain.	2	2	4						

	4. Avoid traversing ground you are not comfortable with.									
Parking and walking on roads	1. Be vigilant if parking on or close to roads – adhere to the highway code and do not block field entrances or create a driving hazard for other road users 2. Do not walk along busy main roads. 3. Follow Highway Code where walking on minor roads. 4. Ensure you are highly visible to traffic (e.g. high visibility clothing).	5	1	5						

Driving ▪ Risk to workers and other road users. ▪ Risk of death or serious injury from: ○ Collision with other vehicles, pedestrians or objects ○ Overturn ○ Falling loads ○ Fatigue ○ Unsafe vehicles ○ Poor weather conditions ○ Distraction, e.g. phones, sat navs, etc. ○ Use of medications, alcohol, drugs	▪ All volunteers hold a current driving license for the category of vehicle driven. ▪ Maintenance and servicing of vehicles completed in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. Valid MOT certificate. All vehicles must be road legal and appropriately insured. ▪ Drivers adhere to speed limits in compliance with the Highway Code. ▪ Volunteers should not travel in severe weather conditions; meetings and surveys to be rescheduled where needed. ▪ Seat belts must be worn at all times when driving. ▪ Volunteers are not permitted to drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Workers to inform their supervisor if prescription drugs may affect their ability to drive safely. ▪ Mobile phones not to be used while driving (including hands-free). Satnavs to be set prior to the start of the journey. First aid kits and emergency triangles to be carried in vehicles.									
Livestock	1. Check for livestock in fields before entering. 2. Always check with land owners about possible aggressive animals in fields and avoid if necessary 3. Do not enter a field if you feel uncomfortable with livestock present.	5	1	5						

	4. Avoid getting between a cow and a calf. 5. Don't enter a field with livestock with a dog. 6. Do not set up detector in a field containing livestock.									
Climbing gates, fencing	1. Remain vigilant, use gates and styles. 2. Be aware of electric fencing and barbed wire when placing detector. 3. Locations of electric fences will be discussed with landowners in advance.	3	1	3						
Lone working if away from your own home	1. We strongly recommend that volunteers do not work alone 2. If having to work alone volunteers should ensure: a. A fully-charged mobile phone (turned on) is carried at all times b. You must notify someone of what you are doing, exactly where you are surveying, where you plan to park, what your start and end time should be, method of travel to and around the site, proposed itinerary, vehicle identification details and how you will let them know of your safe return and at what time. In the event of your not returning within an hour of your stated return time this person should try to contact you and if no success contact emergency services with your survey location details 3. Extra care must be taken during activity.	5	1	5						

Aggressive individuals	1. Be aware of members of public who may appear to show early signs of aggression or antagonism. 2. Engage with them where appropriate and explain what is happening, answer questions politely. 3. If any signs of aggression, placate if possible otherwise move away 4. Avoid being alone with aggressive individuals, stay with other volunteers if possible 5. If signs of intoxication (drugs, alcohol) are evident, move away and abandon activity immediately 6. If weapons (knives, firearms, air rifles, etc) are evident, move away and abandon activity immediately 7. If intimidation, antagonism or aggression becomes threatening call 999 police as soon as possible after moving away to safe distance	5	1	5						
Bites and stings: Anaphylactic shock, skin irritation	1. Be sure to wear trousers and long sleeves tops to protect from bites/stings. 2. Be aware of plants that might cause skin irritation (i.e. stinging nettles and hogweed) and biting/stinging animals and insects (i.e. adders, horseflies, bees, wasps, hornets). 3. Always carry any prescribed medication if you suffer from anaphylaxis 4. Follow guidance under lone working to ensure someone knows your location	5	1	5						
Mines, caves, shafts, adits, sinkholes, steep slopes, etc: falls, trapping	1. Avoid locations that pose a risk to you - where this appears impossible abandon activity	5	1	5						

	2. Don't enter caves, shafts, mines and adits. 3. Stay within your own limits – don't do it if you feel uncomfortable 4. Wear sturdy footwear/boots									
Water: Weil's disease, drowning.	1. Observe basic hygiene when working near water cover all cuts with watertight dressing and wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking 2. If working alongside a river, always work in pairs and not alone.									
Weather – cold, rain, wind leading to hypothermia. Heat and sun leading to hyperthermia.	Avoid working in poor weather conditions by planning work in conjunction with weather forecast. If on arrival the weather is bad, return home and make alternative arrangements. Appropriate outdoor clothing, such as walking boots, warm clothing, waterproof trousers and coat, woollen hat and gloves. Hat, sun cream and sunglasses, plus a supply of water and food. Ensure that you can find shade at some point during your work.	3	1	3						
Tetanus Deep cuts may fill with soils or other material leading to wounds becoming septic, or developing Tetanus, leading in turn to severe illness or death.	Individuals sustaining a cut or broken skin during the activity should check whether they need a tetanus jab (for advice on how to do this see https://www.nhs.uk/common-health-questions/accidents-first-aid-and-treatments/do-i-need-a-tetanus-jab-vaccine-after-an-accident-or-injury/.	3	1	3						

	People with cuts, wounds, and eczema (for example where the skin barrier is compromised) must use plasters, gloves or both when working with soils. Treatment of deep wounds from field work: Wounds should be thoroughly washed out with soap and water. Hand gel is not sufficient. If there is likely to be residual dirt in the wound that cannot be removed seek medical advice so that the wound can be assessed and if necessary vaccination or other treatment can be given.									
Woodland work may be dangerous in windy conditions with the risk of tree and branch fall.	Avoid working in woodland areas in very windy conditions by checking weather forecast and/or ensuring conditions on arrival are safe. High winds is not acceptable and field work will not be conducted under high winds.	5	1	5						
Lyme's disease (*Borrelia burgdorferi*) caused by tick bites. Symptoms include Headache, Extreme Fatigue, EM Rash - a typical bull's eye rash, spreading outwards not necessarily in the area of the bite.	Ticks can carry Lyme's disease. Working for long spells in woods or grassland it is possible to pick up ticks. Wear long trousers and long-sleeved shirts and a hat where possible. Check for ticks on your body after you have been out in the field. If you develop any of the symptoms in the left hand column, or if you have been bitten by a tick, seek medical advice as timely treatment is highly advisable.	5	1	5						

(Erythema multiforme is an acute, self-limiting, inflammatory skin eruption. The rash is made of spots that are red welts, sometimes with purple or blistered areas in the centre. It often also affects the mouth, eyes and other moist surfaces) Other Rashes (Only found in 50% of Patients)										

RISK MATRIX: (To generate the risk level).

Very likely 5	**5**	**10**	**15**	**20**	**25**
Likely 4	**4**	**8**	**12**	**16**	**20**
Possible 3	**3**	**6**	**9**	**12**	**15**
Unlikely 2	**2**	**4**	**6**	**8**	**10**
Extremely unlikely 1	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
Likelihood (L) **Severity (S)**	**Minor injury – No first aid treatment required 1**	**Minor injury – Requires First Aid Treatment 2**	**Injury - requires GP treatment or Hospital attendance 3**	**Major Injury** **4**	**Fatality** **5**

ACTION LEVEL: (To identify what action needs to be taken).

POINTS:	RISK LEVEL: 5	ACTION: Follow existing control measures above
1 – 2	NEGLIGIBLE	No further action is necessary.
3 – 5	TOLERABLE	Where possible, reduce the risk further
6 - 12	MODERATE	Additional control measures are required
15 – 16	HIGH	Immediate action is necessary
20 - 25	INTOLERABLE	Stop the activity/ do not start the activity