

Site risk assessment record

Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
Oxfordshire



Location: Bowdown Woods	Date of assessment: 18/05/2018	Nearest postcode: RG19 8DB	Main entrance OS Grid Ref : SU 505 652
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Hazards/hazardous events	Who is affected?	Typical outcome	Precautions	Risk Level LxH=RL
Uneven ground due to roots, stones and muddy paths causing slips, trips or falls	Public. BBOWT workers	Bruises, sprains, minor cuts and grazes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warn of uneven ground to group. 	Likely x Slight harm = slight
Thorny bushes along paths and in work areas.	Public. BBOWT workers	Cuts and grazes, Puncture wounds, eye damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure paths are kept clear. Provide safety glasses if working in thorny area. 	Unlikely x harmful = slight
A number of permissive footpaths cross the site	Public. BBOWT workers	Injury to passer by from conservation work taking place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warn people working on site and put up suitable signs when work is being done. 	Unlikely x harmful = slight
Dead branches in trees. Dead standing trees – risk of falling down	Public. BBOWT workers	Head injuries, cuts and bruises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conform to COP 31, Tree safety assessment and any areas worked in are to be checked for dangerous trees. No tree work should be carried out in high winds. 	Unlikely x harmful = slight
Irritable and poisonous plants such as bracken and Fungi.	Public. BBOWT workers	Spores are Carcinogenic Poisoning from ingestion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not work in bracken infested areas in July/August/September. Do not eat fungi, berries or other plant material. Wash hands after handling such material. 	Unlikely x harmful = slight
Stings from bees, wasps or hornets	Public. BBOWT workers	Allergic reaction to stings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware of any nests close by and do not get too close. All volunteers / staff should declare any known allergic reactions. 	Unlikely x harmful = slight
Grazing animals may be present in accessible areas of the reserve	Public. BBOWT workers	Contact injury incl crushing, bites from ponies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The grazed area is closed to access by locked gates. Ensure advisory notices displayed when stock on site. 	Unlikely x harmful = slight
Power lines , cross part of the reserve in Baynes Wood, tree work on the reserve may affect these lines	Public. BBOWT workers (incl contractors)	Electrocution or power cuts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work carried out by staff/vols with a chance of impacting on the lines, use only certified contractors. 	Unlikely x very harmful = moderate

	Slight harm	Harmful	Very harmful
Unlikely	Trivial	Slight	Moderate
Likely	Slight	Moderate	Substantial
Very likely	Moderate	Substantial	Intolerable

Access structures – esp bridges, but also gates and boardwalks	Public. BBOWT workers	Slips and trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor access structures to ensure good condition ie not rotten, surface is not slippery, or handrails sound (if present), and that gates open or close properly. 	Unlikely x harmful = slight
Barbed wire fences around cattle grazed fields	Public. BBOWT workers	Scratches, entanglement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check fences are in good condition. 	Unlikely x slight harm = minor
Livestock and/or wild animals' (incl rats' dung/urine, and dirty water may be present with the possibility of water borne disease	Public. BBOWT workers	Illness with leptospirosis (Weil's disease)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform workers or groups to practice good personal hygiene, esp prior to eating. Conform to CoP 15. 	Unlikely x harmful = slight
Anti-social behaviour , incl parties, drinking or drug use has been observed, mostly in Bombsite and it's car park, and usually at night.	Public. BBOWT workers	Injury from confrontation with individuals, or risk of cuts or disease from refuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not approach large groups or dangerous situations. If danger is present or criminal activity is suspected, call police. 	Unlikely x harmful = slight
Fly tipping occurs in the Bombsite and Bowdown car parks, and their access tracks	Public. BBOWT workers	Cuts or disease from contact with refuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make a judgement on whether material is safe to collect, if not contractors will be needed and possibly police; if hazardous, EA should be notified. 	Unlikely x harmful = slight
Adders occur on the Bombsite area of the reserve	Public. BBOWT workers	Infected bites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care taken in spring summer in undergrowth, long trousers, gloves worn if necessary. Advise groups. 	Unlikely x harmful = slight
Ticks are known form this site	Public. BBOWT workers	Infected bites or at worst Lyme's Disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long Trousers and sleeves should be worn in season, check body over after visit esp waist, legs, armpits. Remove with a twist, but ensure all mouthparts come free, if in doubt visit GP. Advise groups. 	Unlikely x harmful = slight
Parts of the reserve are valley sides with some steep banks. Most paths are directed away form these, but work may be necessary on them	Public. BBOWT workers	Falls, leading to sprains or breaks, grazes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care taken over personal safety, esp placing feet and balance. Avoid using heavy or power tools on steep ground. 	Unlikely x harmful = slight
Bombsite contains rubble piles from building demolition, piles may be unstable in places	Public. BBOWT workers	Falls, sprains, grazes or crushes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep away, but if necessary take care over footing. 	Unlikely x harmful = slight
There are two shallow ponds and several lengths of shallow stream	Public. BBOWT workers	Drowning very unlikely, but may get stuck in mud.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take care when working in or near water, esp balance and footing; also ensure good personal hygiene. 	Unlikely x harmful = slight

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Nearest telephone (landline): Thatcham railway station (2 miles)	Emergency telephone number 999 or 112		
Nearest A&E department: Royal Berkshire Hospital A&E, London Road, Reading, RG1 5AN Tel: 0118 322 7020 Minor Injuries – West Berks Community Hospital Rookes Way, Thatcham, RG18 3AS Tel: 01635 273 300	Type of access for emergency services (delete as appropriate) Pedestrian 2WD 4WD AIR All, depending on part of site	Access point/route for emergency services from road: There are 3 access routes, all from Bury's Bank Road. Western side – Bowdown Car park SU 501 655, access is 200m along a gravel track leaving Bury's Bank road to the north. Central part – Bombsite Car Park SU 505 652, access is 200m along a surfaced track, a vehicle height restriction barrier is in place approximately half way along (2m/6'8"), ensure key is with work party leader, and advise emergency services. Eastern end – Baynes Car park SU 511 651, access is 150m along an unsurfaced track between properties	
Assessment undertaken by: Simon Barnett	Position: Berks LM (People & Estates)	Manager confirming assessment: Alex Cruickshank	Date for revision: March 2019

Work identified from site risk assessment	By whom	Date completed
Carry out tree safety assessments	Reserves staff	annual
Ensure safety notices are posted (livestock grazing, tree work, path works, contractors machinery present, flooding)	Reserves staff/ contractors	
Task/work party leaders convey relevant information to participants	Reserves staff/Volunteer Reserve Warden	

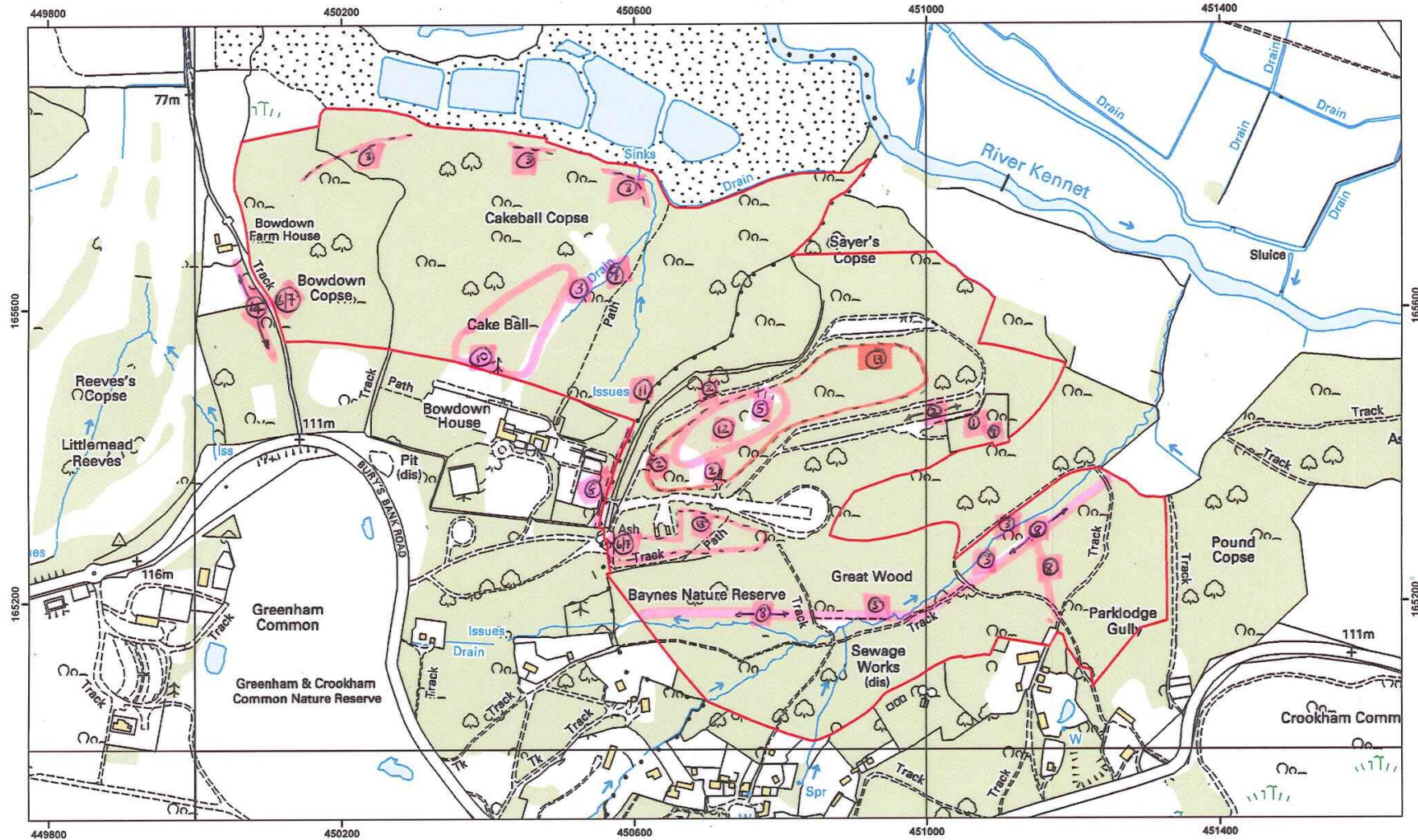
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This checklist is designed to assist in the production of Site Risk Assessments. For those hazards present, more specific information should be provided, e.g. location within site and precautions required entered on SRA form. **This list is not comprehensive. Map is located in reserves office.**

No.	Risk	Present		Recorded on map
1	Steep slopes and banks	yes		1
2	Drowning risk – deep water [pools, streams, rivers]	yes		9
3	Fall hazards – rock outcrops, buildings, building foundations	yes		2
4	Areas liable to flooding		no	
5	Areas of permanent soft ground		no	
6	Areas of soft ground following rain	yes		3
7	Uneven path / track surfaces	yes		all
8	Uneven ground	yes		all
9	Remote areas	yes		various
10	Dry weather fire hazard – heath, scrub, grass	yes		5
11	Sun exposure – poor shade - burn / dehydration		no	
12	Site used for walking [Inc dogs]	yes		all
13	Children playing	yes		all
14	Site used for horse riding		no	
15	Site users include people with mobility problems	yes		bombsite
16	Site history of abuse [drunks, vandals, drugs, needle stick injury]	yes		6
17	Site history of staff and/or volunteer intimidation		no	
18	Fly-tipping	yes		7
19	Unauthorised and/or authorised shooting [i.e. poaching/stalking]	yes		all
20	Unauthorised vehicles [cars and motorbikes]		no	
21	Difficult or restricted access / egress [esp. for heavy plant]	yes		
22	Authorised vehicles	yes		Paths
23	Areas inaccessible to vehicles	yes		rest
24	Former landfill site		no	
25	Proximity to public highway		no	
26	Proximity to Public Rights of Way	yes		14
27	Overhead service lines	yes		8
28	Underground service lines		no	
29	Barbed wire	yes		13
30	Personal hygiene facilities		no	
31	Poisoning from blue / green algae		no	
32	Exposure to bracken [carcinogenic spores] (see CoP 15)	yes		10
33	Puncture wounds [blackthorn / hawthorn]	yes		various
34	Wild parsnip burns		no	
35	Giant hogweed burns (see CoP 15)		no	
36	Poisonous berries	yes		all
37	Poisonous fungi	yes		all
38	Standing dead wood	yes		all
39	Risk of Weils' disease (see CoP 15)	yes		
40	Site known for wasps	yes		
41	Site known for bees	yes		
42	Site known for hornets	yes		11
43	Site known for adders	yes		12
44	Site known for stray dogs		no	
45	Site known for ticks [Lyme disease] (see CoP 15)	yes		all
46	Site known for allergens [pollen / spores]	yes		
47	Injury to pregnancy – exposure to lambs [listeria, chlamydia]		no	

Bowdown Woods, Reserve Boundaries SU 5071 6547

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Scale 1:5,000
0 100 200 400
Metres
18/08/2011