

Site risk assessment record

Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
Oxfordshire



Location: Decoy Heath	Date of assessment: 18/05/2018	Nearest postcode: RG7 2PB	Main entrance OS Grid Ref : SU613 634
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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. 	Likely x harmful = moderate
There are no formal PROWs or permissive footpaths, but the site is considered open access. A PROW runs outside the south eastern boundary of the reserve	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 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
There are a series of steps , to facilitate access in the south east corner near the pond.	Public, BBOWT workers	Slips leading to sprains or bruises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure steps are well maintained and free of additional trip hazards. 	Unlikely x slight harm = minor

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

Adders are known to be on the reserve, esp in the scrubby margins of the open heath	Public, BBOWT workers	Infected bites, allergic reaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notify groups working of presence, wear suitable clothing/boots when in heath. 	Unlikely x harmful = slight
Ticks are known to be present on the reserve	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
Dry heathland sites are candidates for fire , through accidental ignition or arson.	Public, BBOWT workers	Burns or smoke inhalation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work party bonfires must be closely monitored, and never lit in high winds or summer. Where practical, fire breaks should be considered and then maintained short. Advisory notices are an option if arson/campfires are seen. 	Unlikely x very harmful = moderate
Overhead power lines cross the reserve running north to south. Lines may arc to earth through direct contact or spray drift. Metal objects may build up static charge. NB the utility company carry out routine scrub clearance beneath the lines	Public, BBOWT workers, and contractors	Electrocution or power cuts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work carried out by staff with a chance of impacting on the lines, use only certified contractors. Do not park vehicle beneath lines. 	Unlikely x very harmful = moderate
Soft ground occurs in many parts of the reserve, esp after heavy rain and during winter	Public, BBOWT workers	Trips or sprains due to loss of balance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise groups of ground conditions and stress careful foot placing. 	Likely x slight harm = slight
Barbed wire is present around the perimeter of the grazing unit and the site boundary	Public, BBOWT workers	Scratches or entanglement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure 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

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There is a history of antisocial behaviour at this reserve: in the form of illegal crayfish trapping in the ponds, parties in the car park, and infrequent use of the reserve for motorbikes.	Public, BBOWT workers	Injury from confrontation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid confrontation, call police if suspect criminal activity. 	Unlikely x harmful = slight
Fly-tipping is known in the reserve car park	Public, BBOWT workers	Cuts or disease from contact with refuse, strains from lifting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make a judgement on whether material is safe to collect, and use proper manual handling. If not safe, contractors will be needed and possibly police; if hazardous, EA should be notified. 	Unlikely x harmful = slight
There are a number of seasonal and permanent pools on site. Only the "step" pond has significant depth, but all have silty bottoms and overgrown, tangled edges.	Public, BBOWT workers	Tripping into water, possible drowning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suitable Footwear should be worn working in ponds (not chest waders), care taken, do not work in ponds alone. 	Unlikely x harmful = slight
Proximity to highway	Public, BBOWT workers, and contractors	Injury from contact with vehicles, or causing RTAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work carried out by staff with a chance of impacting on the highway, use only certified contractors. 	Unlikely x very harmful = moderate

Nearest telephone (landline): Four Acre Farm next door on southwest side	Emergency telephone number 999 or 112			
Nearest A&E department: Royal Berkshire Hospital A&E, London Road, Reading, RG1 5AN Tel: 0118 322 7020	Type of access for emergency services (delete as appropriate) Pedestrian 4WD AIR	Access point/route for emergency services from road: The reserve is not reached by road, but from a car park on Soke Road, RG7 2PB, or SU 614 635, and then via a track over which BBOWT has a right of access to the gate (GR above). The ground is suitable for a 4WD vehicle in dry conditions. A fence then must be peeled back to get vehicle access to the reserve, parts of which are not accessible due to wetness or terrain.		
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	

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Task/work party leaders convey relevant information to participants

Reserves staff/Leader

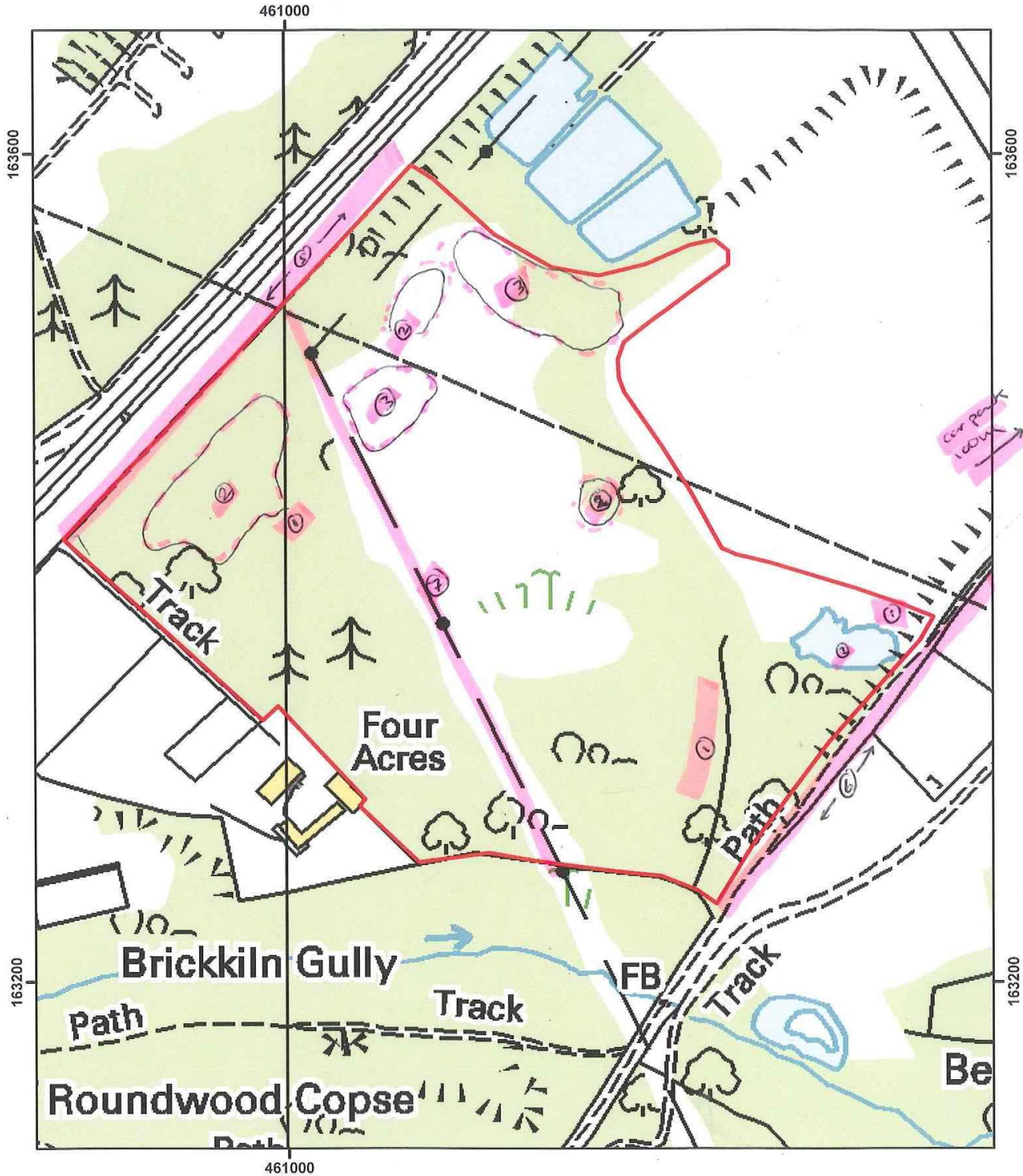
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This checklist is designed to assist in the production of Site Risk Assessments. For those hazards present, more specific information should be provided, e.g. location within site and precautions required entered on SRA form. **This list is not comprehensive.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

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

Decoy Heath Reserve Boundary SP 6109 6340

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