

Site risk assessment record

Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
Oxfordshire



Location: Thatcham Reedbeds	Date of assessment: 18/05/2018	Nearest postcode: RG19 3FU	Main entrance OS Grid Ref : SU 506 167
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Hazards/hazardous events	Who is affected?	Typical outcome	Precautions	Risk Level LxH=RL
Two main watercourses flow through the reserve serving a number of smaller subsidiary ditches, a series of lagoons in the south east compartment and a number of lakes. The reserve is bounded by the river and canal to the south and west. Banks may be lined with reeds making it difficult to see the channel/lake edges.	Public, BBOWT workers	Falling in and risk of drowning, or exposure from wet clothing	Workers or groups warned to take care on river/lake/canal banks, esp where banks are overgrown. Access to banks discouraged. Keep to paths where possible. Temporarily mark indistinct hazardous edges when working nearby, especially with machinery or groups of volunteers.	Unlikely x very harmful = moderate
Uneven ground due to roots, stones and muddy paths causing slips, trips or falls	Public. BBOWT workers	Bruises, sprains, minor cuts and grazes	Warn of uneven ground to group	Likely x Slight harm = slight
Railway crossing 'on the level' (London-Plymouth mainline) via gated crossing on Public Footpath to access southern reedbeds..	Public. BBOWT workers (incl. contractors)	Hit by train – death; Bruises, sprains, cuts and grazes from falling.	Use alternative route to access southern reedbeds where possible, particularly with groups. Network Rail have warning signs and gates to stop people crossing without being aware of danger. Safety leaflet available to view at NDC detailing safe crossing instructions. Site Map to include the safety instructions & location of crossing. If deemed necessary to cross have look-outs on either side of track and see people across in small groups.	Unlikely x very harmful = moderate
Scrub along paths and in work areas.	Public. BBOWT workers	Cuts and grazes, Puncture wounds, eye damage	Ensure paths are kept clear by routine maintenance. Provide safety glasses if working in thorny scrub.	Likely x harmful = moderate
Dead branches in trees. Dead standing trees – risk of falling down	Public. BBOWT workers (incl. contractors)	Head injuries, cuts and bruises	Conform to COP 31 Tree safety assessment and any areas worked in are to be checked for dangerous trees prior to task. No work to be undertaken on or below trees in high winds.	Unlikely x harmful = slight

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

Two public footpaths, the canal towpath and a permitted path cross the site, frequently used by walkers/cyclists.	Public. BBOWT workers	Injury to walker/cyclist from conservation work taking place	Warn people working on site and put up suitable signs when work is being undertaken.	Unlikely x harmful = slight
Poisonous plants (hemlock water dropwort, Lords and Ladies); plants secreting skin irritants; fungi	Public. BBOWT workers	Poisoning from ingestion. Skin irritation.	Do not eat fungi, berries or other plant material. Identify hemlock water dropwort for group. Wash hands after handling such material and before eating.	Unlikely x very harmful = moderate
Stings from bees, wasps or hornets	Public, BBOWT workers	Allergic reaction to stings; anaphylaxis in severe cases.	Be aware of any nests close by and advise group members not to get too close.	Unlikely x harmful = slight
Ticks are known from parts of the reserve	Public. BBOWT workers	Infected bites or at worst Lyme's Disease	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
Barbed wire fence – a run of fencing around the Butterfly Lake education area.	Public, BBOWT workers	Scratches, entanglement	Check fences are in good condition. Replace with plain wire when repairing/replacing fence.	Unlikely x slight harm = minor
Dirty water or wild animals' (incl. rodents') dung/urine may be present with the possibility of water borne disease	Public, BBOWT workers	Illness with leptospirosis (Weil's disease)	Inform workers or groups to practice good personal hygiene, esp prior to eating. Conform to CoP 15	Unlikely x harmful = slight
Algal blooms such as blue-green algae (cyanobacteria)	Public (specifically dog owners), BBOWT workers	Illness if ingested; skin irritation.	Post warning notices on site during long hot periods when algal blooms proliferate in waterbodies. Ask visitors to keep dogs out of lakes in these periods. Do not undertake work in affected lakes/ponds.	Unlikely x harmful = slight
HV overhead power lines run across part of the site	BBOWT workers, contractors	Electrocution	No tree work that could influence the lines to be undertaken by BBOWT staff, use only certified contractors. No bonfires under power lines. Contractors using machinery will be made aware of power lines.	Unlikely x very harmful = moderate
Three footbridges cross Main Ditch/Moor Ditch, all with handrails. Also boardwalks throughout reserve. Surface can be slippery when wet.	Public, BBOWT workers	Falling in and drowning	Warn groups or workers to watch footing crossing bridges and boardwalks. Annual condition checks as part of H&S audit. Repair and replace timber and, where appropriate, anti-slip welded mesh or slip resistant strips used as necessary.	Unlikely x harmful = slight

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Anglers tracks (includes path to bird hide and Muddy Lane) used by vehicles to access fishing lakes and car parks.	BBOWT workers (incl contractors) motorists	Injury from contact with vehicles.	5 mph speed limit on anglers tracks. Post warning signs if undertaking any work near these tracks and inform NAA/Thatcham Anglers. Do not undertake work in periods when there are fishing matches planned (check with NAA/TA).wear Hi-Viz clothing. Position vehicles back and front of work group with beacons running if working adjacent to these routes. Consider temporary closures of paths after liaising with NAA/TA for emergency repairs and sign/barrier appropriately.	Unlikely x very harmful = moderate
Uneven tracks and car park pot holes/slippery ground	Public, BBOWT workers, contractors	Damage to cars Slips, trips & falls	Regular checks and maintenance of surfaces to identify/remedy/prevent hazards.	Unlikely x harmful = slight
Dogs – attack, faeces.	Public, BBOWT workers	Panic, Dog bites, infection, <i>Toxicara plasmosis</i> .	Signs on site asking dogs to be kept under control, dog bins on upper site, consider dog bin at Princehold Lane entrance. Notify dog warden of any problem dogs visiting reserve/NDC. Inform workers or groups to practice good personal hygiene, esp prior to eating. Conform to CoP 15	Unlikely x harmful = slight
Flooding	Public, BBOWT workers	Falling in and risk of drowning or exposure from wet clothing.	Close off flooded paths, tracks and other areas with orange netting and appropriate signage. Request WBC close any Public Rights of Way that are flooded. Liaise with NAA/TA re: track, path and car park closures. Update media (Facebook, Twitter and web pages) with this information accordingly. Do not undertake any work in flood conditions other than essential work to close off these areas. Cancel any group visits to the reedbeds in these conditions.	Likely x harmful = moderate
Flytipping and rubbish incl: dumped cement-bonded asbestos, furniture, tyres, broken glass, cans, ring pulls and used needles	Public, school groups, BBOWT workers	Cuts. Sun on glass can start fire. Punctured tyres on vehicles. Needle wound infected.	Regular weekly site checks and litter picks. Used needles removed with needle proof gloves and stored in Sharps box until incinerated by contractor. Flytipping reported to WBC and removed by waste contractor.	Likely x harmful = moderate
Antisocial behaviour including camping, parties and arson on site.	Public BBOWT workers	Injury from confrontation. Damage to property	Avoid confrontation, call police if suspect criminal activity.	Unlikely x harmful= slight

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Bird hide	Public BBOWT workers	Slips, trips falls on boardwalk; injury from vandalised woodwork. drowning.	Non slip material fitted to boardwalk; weekly checks of boardwalk and hide and appropriate repairs made/made safe and isolated. Bird Hide access controlled by key only, available at NDC Contact details taken for additional security.	Unlikely x very harmful = moderate
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Nearest telephone (landline): Nature Discovery Centre, Muddy Lane or properties on Princehold Lane	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 Dependent on location within reserve.	Access point/route for emergency services from road: Off Lower Way: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Princehold Lane – western reedbeds• Muddy Lane RG19 3FU – N/W reedbeds and access to southern reedbeds via NAA track and towpath.		
Assessment undertaken by: Simon Barnett	Position: Berks LM (People & Estates)	Manager confirming assessment: Alex Cruickshank	Date for revision: March 2019	

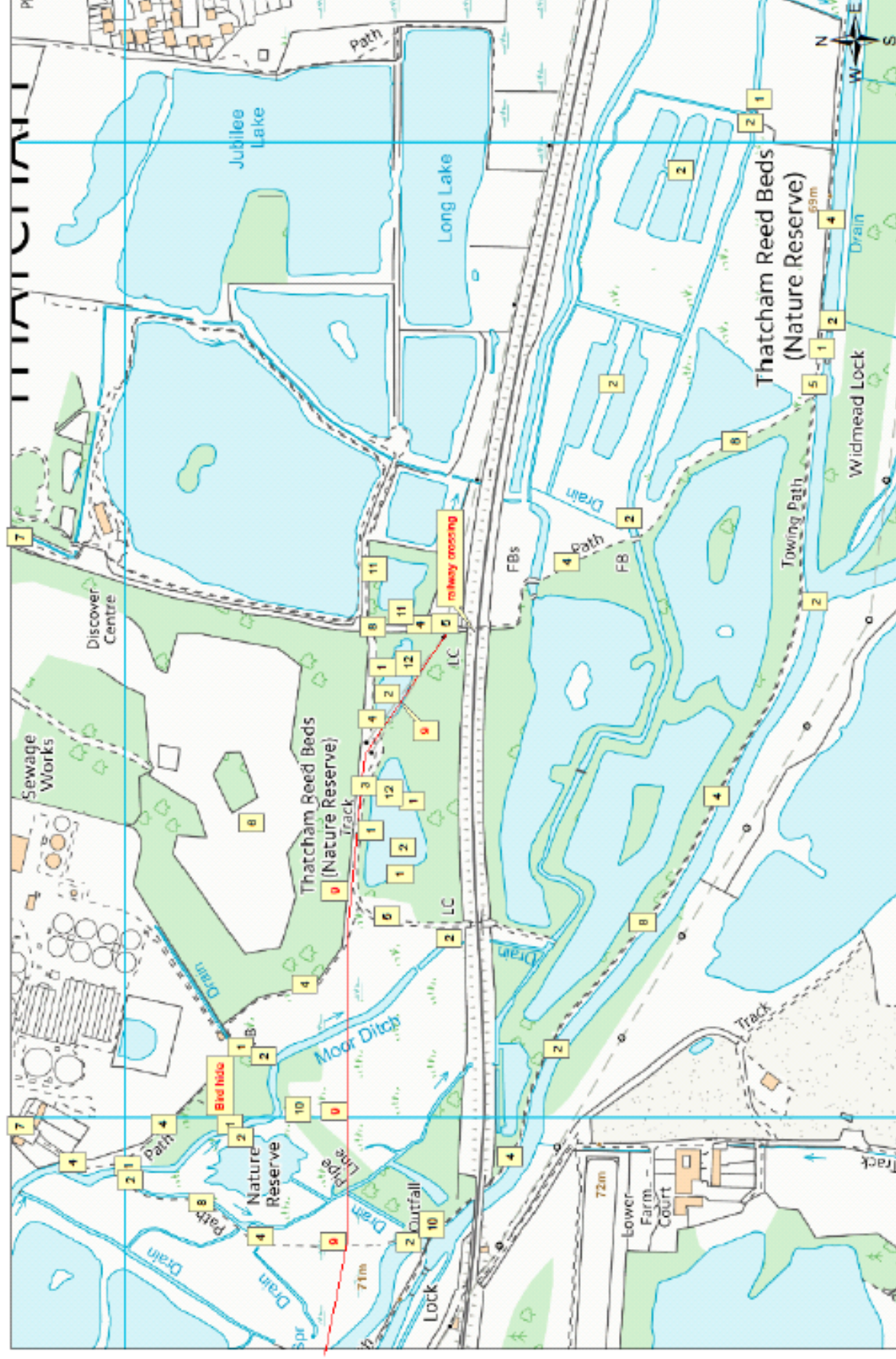
Work identified from site risk assessment	By whom	Date completed
Carry out tree safety assessments	Tree safety & woodlands Officer	annual
Ensure safety notices are posted (tree work, path works, contractors machinery present, flooding)	Reserves staff/contractor	Ongoing
Task/work party leaders convey relevant information to participants	Reserves staff/leader	Ongoing
Annual H&S audit of site infrastructure	LM (P&E) or LMO (Access)	Annual

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

Thatcham Reedbeds



Thatcham Reedbeds Access

