

Colwall Orchard Group : Site Risk Assessment: SRA01 - Colwall Village Garden

RISK		Increasing likelihood →			Level of Risk	Action
		1	2	3		
In c. se ve rit y →	1	1	2	3	1-2	Low risk: no further action
	2	2	4	6	3-4	Medium risk: ensure compliance with guidance notes and Safe Ways of Working (SWOW)
	3	3	6	9	6-9	Risk unacceptable: modify procedures to reduce risk

Prepared by: Helen Stace: 19th May 2017

Review: Annually (or in the event of any incident)

Reviewed by: Andy Ball 26 April 2021

Next Review: by 30 April 2022

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Step1 <i>List significant hazards and harm here</i>	Step 2 <i>Assess risk (likelihood x severity)</i>	Step 3 <i>Mitigation:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>issues relevant to this site and</i> ● <i>general and site specific controls required</i> 	Step 4 <i>Residual risk (likelihood x severity)</i>	Step 5 <i>Further action needed (by whom and when)</i>
ITEM 1 - Accidents or collisions causing damage to vehicles and possibly to participants and other motorists and pedestrians, due to car parking availability, layout and accessibility	6 (3x2)	In the summer parking is readily available in the car park area. However, the turning into the orchard from the road is at an acute angle on a blind bend. The access track is not owned but COG and gets very rutted in wet weather. In wet conditions vehicle access on site is not possible and unwary drivers can get stuck in the mud. Car drivers are advised to approach from Walwyn Road end or, if coming from the Church end, to turn in Old Orchard Road before attempting to enter the site. Volunteers and visitors are advised when conditions no longer permit parking on site and are asked to park on kerbed sections of Old Orchard Road, or in Orlin Road (preferably in the dedicated car park)	2 (2x1)	Install a visibility mirror on the road verge when funds permit. Install plastic parking mesh when funds permit. Lock the site gates if persistent attempts at parking in adverse weather persist.
ITEM 2 - Loss or dispersal of group members in large or complex sites leading to lack of appropriate supervision and H&S procedures	2 (2x1)	The orchard is quite large, in an arc around the allotments, and the allotments have various raised structures, so there is some scope for dispersal of volunteer or visitor parties. Establish an 'assembly point' or base Ensure instructions/demonstrations are given as a group Exchange mobile phone numbers Take and use an emergency whistle in the Battle Box	1 (1x1)	
ITEM 3 - Inconvenience to participants due to absence of toilet facilities on site, or nearby.	NA	There is a composting toilet on the site. NA	NA	

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<p>ITEM 4 - Trips and falls (due to rough terrain, steep slopes and vegetation) leading to cuts, abrasions, lacerations, puncture wounds, fractures, twists, sprains and strains.</p>	<p>6 (3x2)</p>	<p>The orchard field has been undergrazed in the past and so is quite thatched in places. At some times of year the sward is above knee height, and includes patches of nettle and thistles and some tussocky grass area. The orchard floor is uneven, with many throw holes from the bulldozing of the previous orchard, as well as occasional mole burrows and drainage holes. The allotments have well tended paths for access. The public areas around the site include some patches of brambles and piles of brash Hence, there are many trip hazards.</p> <p>Visitors are briefed on trip hazards via this Risk Assessment, and advised to wear sturdy footwear with good grips and beware of trip hazards.</p>	<p>2 (1x2)</p>	
<p>ITEM 5 - Trees and deadwood</p>	<p>6 (2x3)</p>	<p>The only large tree on site is in a bramble patch behind the Apple Packing Shed and so does not present a hazard from falling branches. However, there are tall trees and overstood hawthorn trees in the adjacent plantation and neighbouring hedge.</p> <p>Do not work under trees in windy condition.</p>	<p>3 (1x3)</p>	
<p>ITEM 6 - Trips and falls (due to man-made hazards) leading to cuts, abrasions, lacerations, puncture wounds, fractures, twists, sprains and strains.</p>	<p>4 (2x2)</p>	<p>There is an old water tank in stilts in the field. There are fences with barbed wire around the outside of the site, and tree cages around the orchard trees. The allotments have many made made structures The area behind the apple packing shed includes some areas of debris/defunct materials. A gas main crosses the site parallel to the plantation. This has leaked gas in the past, so there is a risk of further gas leaks in the future.</p> <p>Warn visitors of on site hazards if they are likely to encounter them.</p>	<p>2 (1x2)</p>	<p>Continue to tidy up and remove defunct materials .</p>

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		Ask visiting parties to avoid the allotments and the area behind the shed.		
ITEM 7 - Danger of electrocution burns or death due to electricity arcing from overhead electricity cables	NA)	There are no electricity lines, but there is a telephone line crossing part of the site.	NA	
		Do not use pole saws, ladders etc. within 6m of live electricity cables		
ITEM 8 - Drainage ditches, ponds and wet areas Drowning (in ponds or water tanks)	6 (2x3)	There is a pond in the far corner of the orchard, a water tank by the Apple Packing Shed and water butts around the allotments.	3 (1x3)	
		Advise any visitors with children on safety around water features and advise parents not to allow children to climb on water butts etc. Children are allowed to enter the pond eg for pond dipping, only under close supervision. A fence with pedestrian gate has been provided to the pond area to control access by people, dogs and sheep. A throw line has been provided by the gate to the pond in the event that people enter the pond and encounter difficulties.		
ITEM 9 - Risk of stings from nettles and snags and cuts from thorny plants. Possible allergic reaction e.g. to ivy Potential blood-poisoning from blackthorn spines	4 (2x2)	There are patches of nettles around the fringes of the site. All the hedges include bramble, rose and blackthorn.	2 (1x2)	If snagged by blackthorn spines, keep a close eye on the puncture wounds and seek medical advice if the wound swells, weeps or appears infected.
		Volunteers and visiting school parties are requested to inform COG of any pre-existing allergies to nettle stings, ivy etc. in their party and advise on appropriate emergency measures which may be required. Such participants should be warned not to handle plants if known to be allergic to them. Participants advised to exercise care when working near nettles, ivy and brambles. Wear gloves when handling cleared vegetation, particularly thorny shrubs.		
		The orchard is grazed by sheep.		

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<p>ITEM 10 -Farm animals (sheep and cows) causing bites or possible physical damage leading to falls, cuts, abrasions, lacerations, puncture wounds, fractures, twists, sprains and strains</p>	<p>4 (2x2)</p>	<p>Participants will not be allowed in the orchard if there are mature, grazing male livestock or female livestock with young. Brief participants on how to behave around animals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● approach and handle animals quietly and gently ● do not chase, frighten or torment the animals. 	<p>2 (1x2)</p>	
<p>ITEM 11 - Bee stings – causing standard discomfort, possible allergic reaction or anaphylactic shock.</p>	<p>6 (2x3)</p>	<p>There are up to four hives on site</p> <p>Volunteers and visiting school parties are requested to inform COG if any of their party have a pre-existing allergy to bee stings. Any such participants to carry relevant EpiPen, and make group leader aware of the location and use of the pen.</p>	<p>2 (1x2)</p>	<p>Our advice note on bee stings and how to treat them can be supplied on request.</p>
<p>ITEM 12 - Stings from wasps, hornets, mosquitoes etc. and bites from insects on site causing discomfort and possible allergic reaction</p>	<p>6 (2x3)</p>	<p>Wasps are frequently present and have nested on sites, hornets also nest on site.</p> <p>Volunteers and visiting school parties are requested to inform COG if any of their party have a pre-existing allergy to other insect stings or bites. Work parties briefed on potential risks of insect bites and stings.</p>	<p>2 (1x2)</p>	
<p>ITEM 13 - Infection with toxicara from dog faeces</p> <p>Infection with E. coli, Salmonella and other zoonoses transferred from farm animals and wild mammals.</p>	<p>6 (2x3)</p>	<p>The site is open to the public and some visitors bring dogs – they are asked to remove their dog poo, but some occasionally gets left behind Cows and sheep graze the orchard Badgers, foxes, muntjac deer and moles are present. Rats and other small mammals are present.</p>	<p>2 (1x2)</p>	<p>If a member of your group shows signs of illness (e.g. sickness or diarrhoea) after a visit, advise them or their parent/guardian</p>

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<p>Risk of infection from Weil's disease, Tetanus and other zoonoses in the soil, untreated water and general environment</p> <p>NB We have not had any reported incidents of ticks or tick bites here (so there is no known risk of Lyme disease).</p>		<p>Wash hands after work and before eating or drinking to minimise risk of food poisoning and Weil's disease etc. Keep tetanus injections up to date.</p> <p>The introduction to the site should cover stock and related H&S and hygiene procedures for participants, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● do not kiss animals. ● always wash hands thoroughly before and after eating, after any contact with animals or soil, and again before leaving. ● eat only food that they have brought with them, in designated areas, and never eat food which has fallen to the ground. ● do not suck fingers or put hands, pens, pencils or crayons, etc. in their mouths. ● clean or change their footwear before leaving, and wash their hands after any contact with animal faeces on their footwear. 		<p>to visit the doctor and explain that they have had recent contact with animals.</p>
<p>ITEM 14 - Confrontation with other reserve visitors resulting in verbal or physical assault Bites from dogs. Stress arising from confrontations with people or animals</p>	4 (2x2)	<p>The site is open to the public, so visitors with dogs may be present.</p> <p>Apply lone working procedures if appropriate. Avoid confrontational situations and walk away Alert police if necessary.</p>	2 (2x1)	
<p>ITEM 15 - Adverse weather Cold and wet weather - leading to potential hypothermia Wet weather – leading to increased risk of slips on wet ground. Hot weather increasing potential for sun burn, heat stroke and heat exhaustion)</p>	4 (2x2)	<p>Shelter is available in the Apple Packing Shed, the allotmenters shed and the composting toilet. There are also 2 gazebos which can be used to provide outdoor shelter from rain or sun.</p> <p>Working parties are advised to bring appropriate outdoor clothing for adverse weather conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● waterproof and wellies for rain or snowy weather ● warm jackets for cold weather ● wellies or stout footwear for every visit <p>sunhats, sun cream and drinks bottles for hot weather.</p>	1 (1x1)	<p>Our advice note on 'health concerns and emergency procedures', including weather related issues, can be supplied to party leaders on request.</p>

SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC RISKS

- 1. Accidents / collisions to vehicles and pedestrians - vehicle damage and personal injury**
- 2. Loss/dispersal of group members**
- 3. Trips and falls - general injuries**
- 4. Trees and deadwood - general injuries**
- 5. Man made hazards - general injuries**
- 6. Electricity cables - burns or death**
- 7. Ditches/ponds/watercourses - general injuries or drowning**
- 8. Plant stings and thorns - allergic reaction / blood poisoning**
- 9. Farm animals - bites / physical injury**
- 10. Insect stings - allergic reaction**
- 11. Zoonoses - infection and illness**
- 12. Confrontation with others - Risk of physical or emotional injury**
- 13. Dogs - risk of bite injury**
- 14. Adverse weather - sunburn/heat stroke/heat exhaustion/hyperthermia**

SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- 1. First aid kit (Battle Box)**
- 2. Emergency whistle**
- 3. Charged mobile phone**
- 4. Sturdy footwear**
- 5. Gloves**
- 6. Safety glasses**
- 7. EpiPen (for individual's use)**
- 8. Water and soap for handwashing**
- 9. 'Emergency Assembly Point' sign**

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- 1. H&S04 - Fire Risk Assessment for Apple Packing Shed and the Orchard Room**