

National Nathusius' Pipistrelle Project



Risk Assessment for bat field surveys

Section A of this form includes a checklist of potential hazards and risk prevention/control methods that may be relevant to a range of different types of site surveyed. Please note that the checklist is not intended to be exhaustive and is for guidance only, so please assess the site carefully and consider any risks not on the checklist. There are blank rows at the bottom of the table so that additional risks that are identified at a site can be added to the list.

Section B provides a format for completing a risk assessment for an individual site. Please complete this for each individual site as each site is unique and must be assessed individually. Please remember that as a volunteer you are under no obligation to take part in this survey. You should not put yourself, or others, in danger.

- **Rate the severity of each risk from 1 to 3**
 - 1 = minor injury/discomfort, e.g. scratches, swellings, pulled muscles, getting cold/wet
 - 2 = less than serious injury which does not require immediate hospital treatment, e.g. sprains or other which would reduce your mobility or prevent you from continuing the survey on the evening but which wouldn't have a more permanent impact on your health
 - 3 = serious injuries which require immediate hospital treatment, including but not exclusive to fractures (other than to fingers, thumbs and toes), head injuries, serious cuts and burns
- **Rate the probability of each risk from 1 to 3**
1 = low probability, 2 = medium probability, 3 = high probability
- **Severity x probability = risk level**
- **Input your prevention or control measure and complete the previous steps to calculate an adjusted risk level.**

Ideally the adjusted risk level should be no higher than 3. If it is higher than 4 then the activity must be avoided.

Please refer to the notes on RIDDOR in the document *Safety Guidelines for Evening Field Work with Bats (NNPP) 2022*.

Site name	Date of risk assessment	Person carrying out assessment

A. Checklist of potential hazards and prevention/control measures			B. Risk assessment for this site							
Hazard	Nature of risk	Suggested prevention/control measures	Relevant to this site? (Y/N)	Severity	Probability	Risk level	Prevention/control measures taken	Adjusted severity	Adjusted probability	Adjusted risk level
COVID-19 Also see 'NNPP COVID RA checklist 2022' for precautions regarding human to bat transmission	Exposing yourself or others to COVID-19	- Follow current government guidelines for reducing the risk to yourself and others - Follow BCT's current survey-specific guidelines - Do not carry out the survey if you are not able to do so within the above guidelines or otherwise have concerns about the safety of yourself or others - Wear appropriate face mask and gloves - Avoid travelling to the site by public transport; if this is not possible please assess the risks and only proceed if you are able to follow the current government guidelines and otherwise keep yourself safe.	Y				- Current government and BCT guidelines followed - Packed face masks and gloves - If you can only travel to the site by public transport, assessed that you are able to follow current government guidelines and ensure your safety throughout journey - Surveys not carried out if any of the above cannot be followed			
Lone working at night	Various, e.g. lack of immediate help if suffering injury or getting lost	- Ensure no one is left alone at any time - If you have any pre-existing health conditions, ensure there is someone who can come to your aid should you become unwell - Assess the following: - the nature of the site and activity - the likelihood of an incident occurring that would require you or your survey buddy to come to the other's aid - the ability of you or your survey buddy to come to the other's aid, e.g. reduced mobility (e.g. ankle sprain)	Y				- Buddy system set up - Assessed whether you and survey buddy would be able to come to each other's aid in potential H&S scenarios that could arise - Liaised with survey buddies on day before to confirm availability and remind of meeting time and place			
"No-go" areas of site	Dangerous animals, hazardous waste,	Contact relevant landowners before carrying out a survey to avoid livestock fields if need be, be aware of dangerous animals and other hazards to avoid					Landowner contacted for advice and received approval to be on site at specified date/time			

A. Checklist of potential hazards and prevention/control measures			B. Risk assessment for this site							
Hazard	Nature of risk	Suggested prevention/control measures	Relevant to this site? (Y/N)	Severity	Probability	Risk level	Prevention/control measures taken	Adjusted severity	Adjusted probability	Adjusted risk level
	unstable cliffs/banks etc.	- Ensure the landowner/property owner is aware you are carrying out the survey and has given permission for you to be on site at that date/time - Avoid contact with animals/dung - Carry out a daytime recce to identify hazards to be avoided at night					- Daytime recce carried out - Dangerous areas avoided at night			
Uneven ground/obstacles	Slips, trips and falls	- Carry out a daytime recce to identify hazards to be avoided at night - Wear suitable footwear for the terrain - Each surveyor to carry a torch and illuminate the ground while walking - Bring spare torch and batteries - Use headtorch to keep hands free if recording observations - Avoid climbing fences/gates where possible - Avoid dense vegetation where possible								
Falls from height	Injury or death	- Avoid steep banks where possible - Keep safe distance from edges: banks/cliffs/quarries/ravines								
Working near water	Drowning, being swept away, trapped in soft mud, exposure, disease	- Keep safe distance from water edge - When working close to deep water, non-swimmers should be accompanied by a swimmer - Use good hygiene practices, washing hands before eating or drinking - Take alcohol hand sanitising gel - When working near water, have spare warm layer - Do not cross rivers unless by bridge								

A. Checklist of potential hazards and prevention/control measures			B. Risk assessment for this site							
Hazard	Nature of risk	Suggested prevention/control measures	Relevant to this site? (Y/N)	Severity	Probability	Risk level	Prevention/control measures taken	Adjusted severity	Adjusted probability	Adjusted risk level
		Avoid work when risk of flooding and be aware of tides by checking the time of the high tide to avoid risk of becoming trapped by rising water								
Walking on roads/ railway lines	Danger of collision with vehicles	- Design route to minimise time walking on roads - Wear hi-vis jacket when walking on roads - Do not cross railway lines unless at a designated crossing								
Severe bad weather	Increased risk of hazards Getting cold and wet	- Check weather forecast on day and postpone if bad weather forecast (do not survey in heavy rain/storms or high winds) - Wear appropriate clothing for the weather/bring extra layers and waterproofs in case of unexpected bad weather								
Cuts/ scratches	Infection	- Bring antiseptic wipes and plasters - Ensure tetanus jab is up to date - Avoid contact with water if cut or grazed (see Notes on carrying out a Risk Assessment for info on Weil's Disease) - Recce site in daylight to be aware of hazards such as sharp fencing/barbed wire								
Losing way in dark/ transport break down	Getting lost/stranded	- Plan route beforehand/Identify key landmarks/put out markers during daytime recce - Notify someone of destination (grid reference) and expected time back/agree contingency procedure								

[illegible]

[illegible]