

RISK ASSESSMENT

GREEN SPACE VOLUNTEERING	
Location:	Rewley Road Swing Bridge
Description of Tasks:	Mowing/scything and cutting back vegetation as well as various tasks to maintain the Swing Bridge, tracks and fixings.
Activity Leader:	OPT (Hannah Brockwell)
First Aider:	HB
Nearest A&E dept:	John Radcliffe Hospital, Headley Way, Headington, Oxford OX3 9DU

Volunteer's Checklist:

- ✓ **Complete** the OPT registration form if you haven't already: <https://forms.gle/LYB3QNw6EGaqyPo16>
- ✓ **Bring** your own gardening gloves, hydration (hot / cold), an energising snack, sturdy shoes/boots and weather suitable layers.

Hazards to consider with potential to cause harm	Who is at risk?	Level of risk H/M/L	Precautions to reduce risk	When?	New level of risk H/M/L
Health conditions, disease, illness and sickness					
Individual health conditions	All	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals should complete the OPT registration form before attending volunteering and make OPT aware of any new or changes to health conditions. • Individuals to responsibly manage their own health needs e.g. diabetes etc • Make the Activity Leader aware of any relevant health conditions e.g. allergies. 	Before; during; after	L
Exposure to COVID-19	All	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow latest government & NHS guidelines • Do not attend the session if you have tested positive for COVID-19 • Use hand sanitiser before handling food • Use gloves when collecting litter 	Before; during; after	L
Poisoning & allergic reaction from natural sources e.g. berries; bee and wasp stings; nettles; refreshments	All	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals be aware of own allergies, treatments and act responsibly. Those who require an auto-injection device or medication to carry these at all times and make the activity leader aware. • wear gloves • no eating of unknown foraged items during the session unless included in task • be made aware of refreshments and good hygiene prior to handling refreshments • keep away from known bee/wasp nests 	Before; during; after	L
Risk of tick bites	All	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware of risk of ticks and Lyme disease • long trousers and sleeves to be worn in tick season • check yourself carefully, especially waist, legs and armpits. • Remove ticks by pulling upwards slowly and firmly, but ensure all mouthparts come free, if in doubt visit GP. 	During; after	L
Risk of waterborne diseases e.g. Weil's disease	All	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware of the risk of being in contact with contaminated water • Take usual precautions: wear protective clothing like gloves, follow good hygiene (washing hands before eating, avoiding hand to mouth/eye contact). • Cuts and grazes should be cleaned and covered. 	During; after	L
Injury					
Slips, trips and falls on uneven paths and slippery surfaces	All	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check paths at the start of the work party, brief all involved of potential on-site hazards. • Make volunteers aware of risks and restrict access with hazard tape if necessary • Take care on uneven or wet ground/surfaces including on and around the Swing Bridge • Wear appropriate footwear 	During	M

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Open water	All	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch the safety videos (see links on page 3) • Stay vigilant when working near the water • Only walk along / work near the edge of the channel when necessary • When working near the channel, always have at least one person close by who is aware of what you're doing • A throw line will be available should anyone fall in • Be mindful of boats passing through the channel when working close by • Do not stand or walk on frozen water bodies 	During	M
Weather conditions: sun burn; heat stroke; heat exhaustion; chills.	All	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check weather on the day of the activity and make changes to activity if necessary • Bring sun cream / wear appropriate clothing, water proofs and warm layers • restrict work near trees during high winds or after storms, use hazard tape if necessary • reduce time of activity in hot weather • remain hydrated 	Before; during	L
Using tools	All	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electric or motorised tools and scythes should only be used by those trained to use them • ask leaders for demonstration of tool use if unsure • correct PPE e.g. gloves, eye protectors • maintain a safe working distance • volunteers to ideally have up to date tetanus vaccinations 	During	M
Thorns, twigs & branches	All	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gloves to be worn where needed • check all paths for clearance and overhanging branches, restrict access with hazard tape if necessary & do not take unnecessary risks 	During	L
Lifting/carrying loads that are: heavy/ bulky/unpredictable sharp/ hot	All	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lift only what is comfortable & alternate activity to prevent strain • ensure enough volunteers are allocated to a task to minimise back injuries 	Before; during	L
Pets, wild animals and livestock	All	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • do not touch or approach dogs or wild animals on site • make other volunteers aware of any risks you observe 	During	L
Roads and vehicles	All	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader to provide appropriate PPE as necessary & all to take reasonable safety precautions near roads • Spread out and share warnings to keep aware of risk. 	During	L
Litter / flytipping	All	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use gloves when collecting rubbish and strong bags. Do not overfill. • Inform activity leader if needles or syringes found, for advice on disposal. 	During, after	L
Hazardous substances (COSHH)					
Hazardous substances e.g. lawn mower petrol; wood treatment substances	All	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid their use where possible • only handle hazardous substances if instructed & have been informed of risks • wear appropriate PPE e.g. gloves, goggles • remain in well ventilated space • substances to be substituted for less harmful forms where possible • report spillages or anything untoward to activity leader 	Before; during; after	M
General awareness					
Members of the public	All	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware of people passing the green space and make them aware of keeping clear of activities which may put them at risk as appropriate. • Be mindful that you are a representative of OPT whilst undertaking activities. 	During	L

(See videos and NHS advice on the next page).

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We recommend you look at this information before attending a work party at the Rewley Road Swing Bridge:

Canal & River Trust Water Safety:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SVBq35oT-SU>
<https://youtu.be/SZL80SZ6ymQ>

Royal Life Saving Society video on throw bag rescue:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRYxrSzk6EU>

Water safety training:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGKDk54w_NY

NHS advice on Weil's disease:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/leptospirosis/#:~:text=You%20can%20get%20leptospirosis%20if,working%20with%20animals%20or%20animal>

Risk Assessment Completed by:	Job Title:	Date of update:
Hannah Brockwell	Green Spaces Officer (OPT)	20/02/24