

Risk assessment

Woodlands are usually safe places, but use your common sense while recording, and be aware of potential hazards when conducting fieldwork.



Hazard	Nature of risk	Degree of risk	Prevention/control measure	Adjusted degree of risk
Weather <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cold, wet or snowy conditions. • High winds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cold/chill factor. • In severe winds branches may fall from trees. 	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recorders should wear weatherproof clothing and appropriate footwear. • Do not conduct recording in stormy conditions or in high winds. 	Low
Environmental <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uneven ground, broken or overhanging branches, fences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury from slipping or tripping, from tree branches or other obstacles. • Getting lost. 	Low to moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recorders should familiarise themselves with their site and take care when on uneven terrain. • Take note of any broken/overhanging branches before survey. • Pay attention to any warning signs and follow instructions. • If the site is large, recorders may need to carry a map while surveying. 	Low
Lone Working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being injured and not found quickly 	Low to moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure someone knows where you are while out recording, and carry a charged mobile phone. 	Low
Biohazards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prickly/stinging or poisonous plants/fungi. • Toxic moth caterpillars. • Tetanus/Lyme's disease. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skin irritation from plants or moths or allergic reactions. • Infected cuts/scratches or tick bites. 	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash hands thoroughly after recording, especially before eating. • Avoid contact with prickly plants or fungi, or any caterpillars. • Ensure cuts/scratches covered and new injuries treated. Wear tick proof clothing and check for ticks. 	Low
Other woodland users <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyclists, horse-riders, vehicles. • Woodland management activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collisions with others. • Debris from tree surgery or hedge trimming. 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware of activities going on around you, and allow space for other users to pass. • Do not conduct recording when woodland management is taking place. 	Low