

Information for Buckland Wildlife Group May 2024

Thank you for volunteering with BBOWT. All participating volunteers to:

- Register as a BBOWT volunteer.
- Follow the Risk Assessment provided below.
- Report any accidents, incidents, or concerns to a member of staff from Chimney Meadows (Mon-Fri and for -emergency information T: 01367 870 904: For out of hours emergency only situations 01865 775476).

Tasks	Location (marked on map)	Resources
Litter picking	1.Public car park along single-track road into Chimney and down to lock cut bridge. 2.Either side of Duxford Ford Filled rubbish bags can be placed over the yard gate at the Chimney Meadows office. If rubbish cannot be carried, i.e. from the ford, please notify the Chimney office of its location so it can be collected in working hours.	Litter pickers – BBOWT can provide. Rubbish bags – BBOWT can provide. Gloves – volunteers to use own, i.e. gardening gloves.
Cleaning interpretation boards and other signs	Interpretation boards marked on map. Some gates have signs, i.e. “Sensitive Conservation Area – No Access” or “Cattle Grazing.” which could also be cleaned on passing.	Bottle of water and a cloth – volunteers to provide. Gloves and/or hand gel – volunteers to provide
Filling bird feeders	Small hide on boardwalk	Bird food – BBOWT to provide. To be found in locked bin at hide (code 2473) Gloves and/or hand gel – volunteers to provide.
Himalayan Balsam pulling	On public footpaths, especially the Thames Path	Training session and information sheet – BBOWT to provide. Gloves – volunteers to provide.

Information for Buckland Wildlife Group May 2024

RISK ASSESSMENT: Site Postcode Chimney OX18 2EH: Grid ref Chimney Office SP358 009			
Reasonably foreseeable hazards with potential for harm.	Who's at risk?	Reasonably practicable precautions to reduce risk level.	Risk Level - after precautions have been taken
Uneven ground, variable and changeable in condition, with some slopes, long vegetation, tussocks, ruts and animal burrows creating potential for slips, trips and falls.	All	<p>Consider the likely ground conditions before leaving home.</p> <p>Wear sturdy footwear with good grip.</p> <p>Be aware of where you are placing feet, especially when reaching off the path and when filling the bird feeders.</p>	Slight
Lone working	Anyone volunteering alone.	<p>Follow the BBOWT lone worker code of practice.</p> <p>Take a charged mobile.</p> <p>Ensure BBOWT have your emergency contact details.</p> <p>Tell someone where you are going and when you anticipate returning. Give them the BBOWT contact numbers in case of emergencies.</p> <p>Stay on public footpaths.</p>	Slight


Information for Buckland Wildlife Group May 2024

<p>Contact with contaminated substances, i.e. bodily fluids, or bacteria, i.e. dirt from notice boards, bird droppings on feeders, ticks and river/pond water.</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>Do not touch any litter – wear gloves and use a litter picker.</p> <p>Carry hand gel.</p> <p>Avoid touching mouth, nose and eyes during activities.</p> <p>Keep any cuts covered.</p> <p>Leave bodily substances, such as vomit or faeces and report it to a member of staff (on-emergency office number)</p> <p>Be aware of the symptoms of Weil’s disease and Tetanus (see below) and seek medical attention if concerned.</p> <p>Be Tick Aware (see below)</p>	<p>Minor</p>
<p>Sharps – broken glass, needles</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>Do not touch.</p> <p>Report to staff (non-emergency number)</p>	<p>Minor</p>
<p>Weather – heat, cold, rain, wind, thunderstorms</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>Check the forecast before leaving home and dress and pack accordingly, being prepared for changes in the weather.</p> <p>Consider taking sun protection, cold drink, extra layers and waterproofs.</p>	<p>Minor</p>

Information for Buckland Wildlife Group May 2024

		<p>Do not stand under trees in moderately windy conditions. Stay on public footpaths.</p> <p>Cancel session if extreme conditions are forecast.</p>	
<p>Working by water – the River Thames, the ford, the tarmac track from Chimney to the river, around the bird hides can be subject to flooding with strong flows, tripping hazards deposited by flooding and visibility of the ground obscured by water.</p>	All	<p>Cancel volunteering session if routes are flooded. Remember that there may be a delay between heavy rain and flooding and that flooding may persist for several weeks. Chimney staff can advise at the time.</p>	Minor
<p>Thorns, i.e. blackthorn, poisonous plants, i.e. hemlock, and insects causing risk of reactions, stings and bites, scratches, and puncture wounds.</p>	All	<p>Wear gloves and long sleeves when pulling Himalayan Balsam.</p> <p>Be aware of protruding thorns which could injure eyes.</p> <p>Be familiar with the identification of Hemlock and do not touch it (see below)</p>	Slight
<p>Antisocial behaviour – while most visitors to the nature reserve behave in a respectful manner, the occasional visitor can be unaware of how their actions have the potential to impact negatively on the environment.</p>	All	<p>Keep yourself safe.</p> <p>Do not feel responsible for challenging other people’s behaviour.</p> <p>Avoid getting into confrontations.</p>	Minor

Information for Buckland Wildlife Group May 2024

Risk Level	Slight harm	Harmful	Very harmful		First Aid Reporting Link – Scan the QR code to go to reporting page.
Unlikely	Minor	Slight	Moderate		
Likely	Slight	Moderate	Substantial		
Very likely	Moderate	Substantial	Intolerable		

Lyme Disease is an illness caused by bacteria which live in the guts of some ticks. These bacteria can be passed to humans if an infected tick bites them. Wear appropriate clothing to cover the legs. Arm coverings should be cuffed to help exclude ticks. Workers should inspect their skin for ticks when bathing or showering after work. Any tick bites which do not heal at a normal rate, develop an associated rash, or if any part of the tick cannot be removed from the wound, consult a doctor immediately. If symptoms of ill-health follow a bite, also consult a doctor without delay.

Weil's Disease is a bacterial infection carried in rodent's urine which contaminates water and wet river banks. The bacteria can cause serious illness in humans, requiring immediate hospital attention and possibly leading to kidney or liver failure. The bacteria enter the body through the membranes in your mouth and eyes and through cuts in the skin. The most common early symptoms include the following: high temperature; influenza like illness; joint and muscular pain; conjunctivitis; jaundice. If you suffer from any of these symptoms within 7-14 days (or can be 3 to 30 days) of a survey contact your doctor immediately and let them know you have been working near water and suspect Weil's disease.

Tetanus is caused by a bacterium which is found in soil and animal manure entering a wound. The infection may not seem severe, but the bacteria release a poison that attacks the nervous system. Symptoms include general tiredness or weakness followed by spasm of the jaw muscles (lockjaw). Spasms may occur spontaneously or be triggered by stimulation such as noise or light. Tetanus may be fatal if not treated but is now uncommon in the UK due to vaccination. If you have a deep wound or suspect infection don't wait for symptoms to appear but consult a doctor immediately for further advice.

Hemlock A tall, upright plant, hemlock can be distinguished by the distinctive and unpleasant, mousy smell of its foliage and its purple-spotted stems. Its leaves are finely divided and large, and its flowers are small and white and appear in umbrella-like clusters. It grows in damp places, such as along riverbanks. All parts of the plant are toxic and ingestion can be fatal.