

RISK ASSESSMENT WC15

ACTIVITY: Excavation			SITE: Wark Estate, Wark on Tweed		
PEOPLE AT RISK: Visitors, volunteers and managers			ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Nearest A+E Borders General Telephone: 01896 826000		
Hazard identified	Risks	Rating	Existing control measures	Additional action required	Priority
Traffic	Parking, Vehicle movements	M	Designated parking areas for visitors, volunteers and managers on the south side of the road. Briefing of all volunteers on care to be taken when crossing the road in both directions to reach/return from the site Are these measures adequate? y	Cross directly not diagonally and walk along the broad verge on the south side of the road.	M
Uneven ground surface	Trips, slips and falls	M	Ensure correct footwear. Briefing on potential risks, animal burrows, uneven ground and correct access and exit routes in and around site. Are these measures adequate? y	Excavation volunteers will not be allowed to dig in inappropriate footwear	H
Use of hand tools	Cuts, bruises, blisters, crushing injuries	H	Briefing on correct use of tools, awareness of those around you and care, cleaning, maintenance and proper storage of tools Are these measures adequate? y		H
Weather	Exposure		The site is low lying and		L

	increasing risk of minor injuries including trips, slips and falls.		<p>open. Care should be taken in difficult weather conditions to avoid trips, slips or falls.</p> <p>Briefing on wind proof and waterproof clothing, sun block and suitable footwear</p> <p>Are these measures adequate? y</p>		
Ordnance	Injury and death	L	<p>Briefing of all volunteers on risk of ordnance and procedure for any ordnance remains encountered</p> <p>CB/RC should be informed immediately as soon as any ordnance is encountered</p> <p>Any remains uncovered are to be left in situ and must not be touched or moved. Northumbria Police will be informed at Alnwick of any ordnance and will make arrangements for its removal</p> <p>Are these measures adequate? y</p>	<i>There is no record of the site having being used for Military Training since 17th century however there are un-recorded home guard training areas to the south on the edge of the Cheviots</i>	L
Wildlife	Injury, infection, death	M	<p>CB to brief all concerned about risk of adder bites and procedure for those bitten by adders. Direct communications with Borders General Hospital, removal by Ambulance.</p>		M

			<p>Briefing to advise all concerned about the risk of insect bites, stings and pests. Briefing about the danger of tick bites and Lymes disease.</p> <p>Are these measures adequate? Y</p>		L
Disease	Injury, infection, death	M	Tetanus all excavators are advised to have been vaccinated against tetanus.	Volunteers should have upto date tetnus vaccinations. Volunteers will be made aware of the risks of not having such inoculations and continue on site without at their own risk	H
		M	Communicable diseases from human remains. Briefings will be given on potential risks. Risk of latex allergy – briefing of possibility.	All diggers will be required to wear gloves if working with human remains. Washing facilities with anti-bacterial hand wash will be provided and should be utilised regularly.	H
		L	Are these measures adequate? y	Volunteers should notify staff of any allergy. Alternate gloves will be sourced as necessary	H
Livestock	Injury and infection	L	There are currently no livestock in the field or any adjacent fields	This risk will be reassessed should livestock be moved to a nearby field	L
Deep excavations	Falls, collapses, injury, crushing and suffocation	M/H	Briefing all volunteers on the care that should be taken to avoid walking, standng or sitting on trench edges.		M
			CB/RC will ensure that all	Where appropriate deep	M

			<p>excavations are restricted to an appropriate depth and never more than 1.2 metres. Where appropriate depths are exceeded (or 1.2 metres is reached) the trench will either be backfilled or stepped back by a minimum of 1.2 metres.</p> <p>No excavation should ever be undertaken beneath a section of inappropriate depth and never beneath a section of more than 1.2 metres</p>	excavations will be marked at night and also during the day with poles and hazard tape to keep visitors back from the excavation edges.	M
Manual handling	Strain, sprains and injury	L	Care should be taken when moving heavy loads, follow instructions from site supervisors, do not attempt to move a load that you consider too heavy. Ask for assistance when dealing with heavy loads and if in doubt about lifting a heavy load do not attempt to lift it and an alternative method will be sought for removal.		M