

Risk Assessment: Orchard Survey Fieldwork

Disclaimer: This Risk Assessment is intended solely for the named project and the activities described. It shall not be used for any other purpose. All rights reserved. © CW Hayes 2015.

Project: A National Orchard Inventory for Scotland; Field Verification Survey

Activity: Conducting Field Survey of Orchards during daylight hours.

Date of start of activity: 1st August 2015

Activity Duration: at various times during period up to 31st March 2017.

Drafted by CW Hayes Associates on behalf of partners organisations carrying out field verification.

Assessment for: Staff & Volunteers

Identified Hazard	Estimated Risk of Hazard	Control Measures to Mitigate Risk to an Acceptable Level
Dog attack	medium	Try to arrange visit previously. If the site is adjacent to a house, steading or other occupied building, enter property via formal entrance, and request access. Consider calling out before entering premises, remain close to vehicle initially.
Injury from Livestock	medium	Do not enter fields or orchards with bulls or with cows & calves in them, unless advised by the land manager that it is safe. Dairy cows without calves, and horses are not usually considered to be a problem ¹ . Follow land manager's advice. Do not take a dog into a field with livestock – it is likely to exacerbate their reaction.
Injury from crossing a fence	medium	Use the gate, or solid post and rail sections. Beware of electric fences. Avoid crossing wire fences, particularly barbed wire. Ensure tetanus is up-to-date.
Slip/ trip accidents	medium	Wear appropriate footwear, and proceed carefully on unfamiliar territory. Follow established paths if possible. When given, follow the advice of the land manager regarding routes.
Fall from tree, when close inspection, measurement or fruit collection required.	low	Don't climb trees; work from ground using extension tools when necessary.
Tiredness, leading to increase risk in some of other identified hazards.	low	In normal circumstances, plan and take regular breaks. Take refreshments with you.
Poor weather and low light conditions	low	Be informed & prepared. Wear appropriate clothing. Only ever work in daylight. Suspend outdoor work if weather is severe or if light significantly diminished. Carry a torch if working late afternoon.
Injury from traffic	low	High visibility clothing should be worn whenever working in the vicinity of roads and a second person should be allocated to watch & warn for traffic.

1 HSE 2012 Agriculture Information Sheet No 17S(rev1) Cattle and public access in Scotland
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais17s.pdf>

Getting lost	low	Always take a map of the area. If you have a compass, and/or a GPS unit, take them and ensure you know how to use them. Take a mobile phone for use in an emergency.
Lone working, personal attack	low	Working alone should be avoided. Try to work in a pair. If this is not possible, always notify someone (partner, friend, neighbour) where you are going and when you expect to be back. Agree on a course of action if you have not returned home by the time you stated. Lone workers should be aware of the location of the nearest house or phone so that help can be called if required. In general, anyone working alone, or those working on sites remote from the emergency services, should carry a mobile phone. This should be tested at the start of the visit to detect reception blind spots.
Alcohol, drugs, prescription drugs.	low	Persons under the influence of alcohol or non-prescribed drugs are not permitted to take part in any survey activities whatsoever. If you are using prescribed drugs, seek medical advice on any side effects that may affect your performance (eg drowsiness). It is your responsibility to inform the Local Facilitator of any likely affects, before you engage in the fieldwork.
Tetanus, leptospirosis, & faecal-oral diseases.	low	While not common, these diseases can have severe effects, and in rare cases result in death. Ensure that your anti-tetanus treatments are up-to-date. Carry a 'first aid' kit with you or in your vehicle. Clean any cuts etc immediately with clean water & cover adequately. Avoid contact with water, particularly if contaminated with cattle/rat urine. Do not eat unwashed windfall fruit as it may have unseen contamination from animal faeces or urine. Wash hands thoroughly at the end of fieldwork, and always before eating or smoking. If you contract flu-like symptoms, tell your doctor that you may have been exposed to Weil's disease.
Lyme's Disease	low	When working in areas where sheep or deer are or have been present, wear overtrousers and wellies, or boots & gaiters. When finished for the day, check your body for sheep/deer ticks. If a tick is found and you contract flu-like symptoms, tell your doctor that you may have been exposed to Lyme's disease. See these links ² .
<i>Please add any additional hazards when identified, together with risk & controls</i>		

Risks to Public

In terms of risks to the public, it is our opinion that the activities involved in this field survey work do NOT add any significant hazard, or increased risk of existing hazard, to the general public.