

HS1: NOTES on HEALTH and SAFETY

After initial training and instruction on the tasks to be undertaken, volunteers will be expected to set their own timetable for carrying them out, and to do so without direct on-site supervision. It is therefore important that this is done responsibly and with all due consideration to issues relating to health and safety. A general Risk Assessment will have been carried out (copies to be supplied), but it is important that all those involved continue to consider what they are doing with care and to actively assess their activities for additional risks. Where a task or setting is not thought to be adequately covered, it must not be undertaken until it has been brought to the attention of the Project Manager, who will carry out a further risk assessment.

Notification and record of work undertaken

Each time any work is undertaken, it will be necessary for a completed form, HS2, to be sent to the Project Manager detailing those involved, the date, the location, the nature of the task, and the time spent carrying it out. This can either be in the form of a hard copy or via e-mail.

Please note that nobody should attempt to carry out survey work on the moors by themselves.

Weather Conditions

The weather forecast must be consulted before planning on doing any outdoor work. Once out on the moor you must pay close attention to the changing conditions, especially those relating to poor visibility, snow, and sudden drops in temperature. You should not plan to work in such conditions, but if the risk only becomes apparent after work has started it should then be brought to an end to give sufficient time to safely get off the moors.

Suitable clothing (including taking into account changing conditions) must be worn or carried by all members of the team. It will be the responsibility of each member to ensure that all the others are suitably attired before setting off. Any occasions where there are significant deficiencies in what a member of the team is wearing, they will not be allowed to accompany the rest of the team.

Ground Conditions

Much of the Watershed Landscape Project area is open moorland and most of the work will require working away from established paths. It is essential that suitable footwear is worn to cope with rough terrain, dense vegetation and waterlogged conditions. As with clothing, each member of the team must ensure that all the others comply and exclude anyone who doesn't.

Access

When planning on how to access an area in which to work, chose a route that avoids obstacles such as streams, bogs and steep drops. Consideration must also be given to rights of way and potential disturbance to wildlife, especially during the nesting season (March-July).

Livestock

Where your route passes through fields containing livestock you should observe their behaviour in detail to ensure that you are not causing undue disturbance, or possibly provoking an attack.

Landowners

If challenged by a landowner, or their agent, about your right of access you should take note of their views and leave if requested, even if they are mistaken. Such instances should be reported to the Project Manager who will make any necessary approaches to resolve the situation.

Personal Conduct

Any dealing with other members of the team, landowners, or members of the public, should be conducted in a polite manner. If asked about what you are doing, try to be as informative as possible, both about your activities and the nature of the project you are involved with. Should there be any objection or disagreement about what you are doing then they should be asked to raise them with the Project Manager.

Communications & Contact Numbers

To cover any possible emergencies, at least one member of the team should have a mobile phone that is fully charged, and checks should be made to ensure that there is effective network coverage for the area of work.

It is vital that any member of the team who has a medical condition that might affect them while out on the moor, no matter how low the risk, must make the others fully aware of any actions to be undertaken or contacts to be made in advance.