

ASHPLATS CONSERVATION GROUP COVID-19 RISK ASSESSMENT

NB. This is a general risk assessment. Separate individual risk assessments will still be required for each specific task.

COVID-19 Government Guidance in relation to activities outdoors (as of 21st June 2021):

Most restrictions on meeting people outdoors have been lifted, but gatherings must not exceed 30 people unless covered by a legal exemption, such as:

- for the purposes of work or volunteering
- to provide care or assistance for disabled or vulnerable people

Proposal

To allow volunteers to recommence activities in our greenspaces such as litter picks and vegetation management using hand tools in a maximum group size of thirty people including the leader. Volunteers will not be required to pre-book a space since we have fewer than 30 volunteers.

One first aider will be available when possible.

Risk Estimator:

The following table shows a method for estimating risk levels and for deciding whether risks are tolerable. Tolerable means that a risk has been reduced to the lowest level that is reasonably practicable.

	Slightly harmful	Harmful	Extremely Harmful
Highly Unlikely	Trivial risk	Tolerable risk	Moderate risk
Unlikely	Tolerable risk	Moderate risk	Substantial risk
Likely	Moderate Risk	Substantial risk	Intolerable risk

- Trivial Risk: No action required.
- Tolerable Risk: No additional controls required. Monitor to ensure controls maintained.
- Moderate Risk: Avoid risk if possible. Otherwise efforts should be made to reduce risk further as far as reasonably practicable. Where a moderate risk is associated with extremely harmful consequences, further assessment is necessary to establish more precisely the likelihood of harm.
- Substantial Risk: Work should not be undertaken. Do not proceed unless risk can be reduced.
- Intolerable Risk: Work should not be undertaken.

HAZARDS IDENTIFIED	PERSONS AT RISK (tick all that apply)			EXISTING CONTROLS	SEVERITY OF HARM			LIKELIHOOD/PROBABILITY			RISK LEVEL & ACTION TO CONTROL RISK
	Volunteers	Young People	General Public		Slightly Harmful	Harmful	Extremely Harmful	Likely	Unlikely	Highly Unlikely	
More than 30 people want to volunteer	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create 2 groups working in different areas of the task location with separate leaders. - If possible, group together those who wish to leave early 	X					X	TRIVIAL RISK - If more than 30 volunteers attend, split into two distinct groups
Vulnerable Volunteers	X	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any volunteer falling into the governments vulnerable categories will be asked to consider the government advice and decide if it is appropriate for them to attend. 		X				X	TOLERABLE RISK -Monitor
Presence of volunteer group make it harder for the general public to maintain social distancing guidelines in the woodland	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tasks will be located away from paths where possible. - Signs will be used to notify members of the public that there is a task area ahead - Pre-task talk given at start to remind volunteers to make way for the public if necessary. 	X				X		TOLERABLE RISK Site visits will be carried out before the task to assess the location.

Volunteers do not maintain social distancing during task	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pre-task talk given at start. - Task leader responsible for monitoring activity. Those not adhering to be reminded and if do not change, asked to leave. - any task requiring close contact will not be allowed. - No communal refreshments will be provided. Groups to remain separated at break times. 		X				X	TOLERABLE RISK - Monitor to ensure controls are maintained.
Risk of picking up virus from equipment or items touched in the park.	X	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pre-task talk given at start. - Volunteers asked to bring own gloves if possible. Gloves provided by the task leader will be retained by the volunteer to take home and wash. - Hand gel and disinfectant available on request. - All volunteers advised to wash hands thoroughly before and after task. - Volunteers reminded not to share equipment if possible - Task leaders only allowed in the tool shed and to distribute tools. 		X				X	TOLERABLE RISK - Monitor to ensure controls are maintained.
Volunteers approached by member of the public	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pre-task talk given at start. - Remind volunteers of social distancing guidelines. - Advise volunteer to walk away if they feel uncomfortable 		X				X	TOLERABLE RISK - Monitor to ensure controls are maintained.
Social distancing of first aid is required	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First aider will avoid contact with injured person as much as possible. Gloves and a mask will be worn if first aid has to be administered. First aid box to be wiped down with disinfectant after every use. 		X			X		MODERATE RISK - health and safety talk given at start. - Provide first aider with face mask and gloves as part of kit.

Confusion over what is and isn't allowed	X	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Task leaders will endeavour to keep updated on guidance issued by government, MSDC or other official bodies - Pre-task talk given at start. - Guidance to be followed until formally told otherwise by MSDC. 		X					X	TOLERABLE RISK - Monitor to ensure controls are maintained.
Volunteer has COVID symptoms within 14 days of taking part in task	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All volunteers asked to confirm they do not have symptoms at pre-task talk. - Sign in sheet including contact details kept by task leader. - All volunteers asked to notify task leader if this happens so that others can be notified. 		X				X		MODERATE RISK - Monitor to ensure controls are maintained.