

ARG UK generic risk assessment

	Hazard	Risk	Controls	Probability
1	Adders	Poisoning, allergic reaction, paralysis	Never attempt to pick up adders unless trained and equipped to do so. Take care to look at ground when kneeling or placing hands on ground. Wear stout boots. Take extra care when lifting refugia or other debris.	Moderate, Low in winter
2	Assault	Physical injury, sexual assault	Try to defuse any potentially confrontational situations. If possible walk away. Contact police if unsure or feel threatened. Apply ARG UK lone working procedures.	Low
3	Biological/ stings and bites	Diseases, allergic reaction	Wear long trousers and long sleeved tops to limit tick bites. Wash hands before eating. If known allergy to stings take appropriate medication on site. If feeling unwell after a site visit seek medical attention.	Moderate
4	Cold	Hypothermia	Wear appropriate clothing.	Low/ Moderate in winter
5	Concealed holes/ ditches	Physical injury, ankle injuries	Take care when walking through areas of deep habitat or areas where there is poor footing visibility. Avoid areas of poor footing visibility is possible.	High
6	Dogs	Bites, lacerations, disease	Be wary of dogs off leads. Disinfect any bites and seek medical attention.	Moderate
7	Estuarine soft sand/ mud	Quicksand, slipping	Take care with footing when walking on slippery mud. Use a stick or similar to probe area being walked. Do not walk out onto estuary alone.	Moderate
8	Exposure to sun	Sun burn	Where appropriate sunscreen. Avoid midday sun if possible.	High
9	Hazardous waste/ fly tipping	Cuts, lacerations, chemical burns, infection	Wear gloves when handling waste. If unsure of contents of containers or if known to be hazardous contact emergency services.	Moderate
10	Heat and difficult terrain	Exhaustion, dehydration	Walking difficult terrain will cause extra fatigue in hot weather. Do not rush and drink plenty of water.	Low

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12	Old and partially buried structures (eg buried fences)	Tripping, ankle injuries	Take care when footing is not clearly visible. Look for signs nearby of structures eg, partially collapsed fence.	Moderate
13	Ponds / deep water	Drowning	Take care when near water bodies. Do not lone work near water bodies.	Moderate
14	Sharp grasses and thorny bushes	Eye injuries, cuts, lacerations, infection	Do not bend down or kneel in areas of Sharp sea grass or other sharp plants. Disinfect any lacerations or punctures	Moderate
15	Sharp objects (eg tins)	Cuts, lacerations, infection	Take care when picking up any potentially sharp objects. Where gloves if appropriate or desired.	High
16	Shooting	Physical injury	Do not approach any person suspected of carrying a weapon, contact police. If there is shooting allowed on site establish where and when shooting will take place and avoid.	Low
17	Steep slopes/ unstable ground	Physical injury, trips, ankle injuries	Try to avoid climbing steep slopes. Take care with footing.	Moderate
18	Stock	Physical injury, trampling	Be aware of stock behaviour, if in doubt leave site. Do not take dogs on site.	Moderate
19	Tides	Becoming cut off from dry land leading to possible drowning	Always be aware of tide times, carry a tide timetable if working in an area that may be affected by tides. Allow plenty of time to reach shore. Do not venture out onto a tidal area once the tide is coming in.	Moderate