

Small Mammal Trapping Session Risk Assessment

Activity: Small Mammal Trapping

What are the hazards? Small mammals,
Small mammal traps
Low hanging branches, roots
Rough Ground
Disease

Who is at risk? Staff, participants and members of the public.

What are the risks?	Existing safety measures/controls	Likelihood	Risk Rating
Weil's disease – collecting traps with mice/voles urine inside trap	Instructor to wear gloves and to wash hands on completion of activity All participants to avoid touching face with hands during session and to wash hands immediately after session	LOW	LOW
Excessive stress in group members due to proximity of small mammals	reassurance at the start of the session by instructor	LOW	LOW
Bitten by mice/voles	Only instructors to handle the mammals. If bitten, to consult their doctor about tetanus boosters if required. Avoid direct contact with the animals where possible.	LOW	LOW
Inhalation of toxic spores from fungi (e.g. earth-balls)	Group told not to touch anything but to ask instructor if unsure about an object they have found.	LOW	LOW
Tripping over and	Group advised about rough terrain and to	LOW	LOW

falling	tread carefully, told not to run All areas maintained to acceptable conditions for the activity in question (i.e. natural woodland for environmental sessions, clear footing where spotting is required etc.) Instructors and participants should wear appropriate footwear		
Cuts from bracken and inhalation of carcinogenic spores	Group warned about bracken cuts and areas with bracken avoided during late summer and autumn when spores released	MEDIUM	LOW

Reference to other manuals assessments:

Avon Tyrrell reference and training folder

UK Youth Health and Safety policy

When was the assessment reviewed and by whom?

November 2017 Chief Instructor

Date of next review and to be done by whom?

November 2018 Chief Instructor