

Risk Assessments – Surveying rights of way



Basic rules which cover many risks:

- Take a mobile phone with you, having checked there is a signal and that batteries are charged
- Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return
- Dress appropriately for the weather and take a snack and drink, bearing in mind the possibility of injury and that you may have to wait an hour or so for help
- Wear stout footwear which give adequate ankle protection and protection from falling objects such as tree branches

Hazard identified	Danger	Control measures
Walking and working on road surfaces or highway verges	Suction draught from high-sided vehicles. Hit by vehicle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk facing oncoming traffic if possible. • Park vehicles off-road where possible. • Survey in daylight hours.
Electric fences.	Electric shock (minor).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always assume electric fences are "live". Avoid contact.
Barbed wire.	Cuts and scratches to person or clothing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use walking stick/piece of wood to lay on barbed wire to press down to allow safe passage. • Fasten loose clothing before crossing over or past barbed wire.
Hedges/fences, walls, gates and stiles.	Falls when climbing over furniture, barriers. Trapped fingers or hands opening/closing gates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take care when climbing stiles, particularly in the wet. • Avoid climbing walls (use gaps, stiles or gates). • Wear stout footwear with good 'tread' and appropriate protective outwear, e.g. thorn-proof jacket. • Report dangerous structure to office
Inspecting dangerous structures, e.g. collapsing walls/damaged bridges	Fall or slip. Crushed/hit by falling stone/masonry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep clear where there is debris already on ground adjacent to a collapsing wall . Notify office ASAP. • Do not jump on suspect bridge to test
Hazards from others accessing path	Injury incurred as a result of other users e.g. walkers horse riders, cyclists legal or illegal motorbikes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware of personal safety from other members of the public • Allow plenty of space for horse riders and avoid sudden movements • Avoid confrontation with the public legal or illegal, report to office ASAP
Offensive occupier	Subject to aggressive threatening behaviour, verbal or physical assault.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are caught unawares and feel threatened, <u>leave the site</u>. Notify office ASAP and fill in reporting form
Inspecting paths crossing golf courses.	Being struck by golf ball.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take care on golf courses, particularly when crossing fairways. Be alert to warning shouts.
Passing fly tipping of refuse, toxic materials and "sharps".	Cuts, inhalation of fumes, infection by medical waste or rotting materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear stout boots. Do not disturb waste - inform Office
Game shooting.	Risk of being shot.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe the situation from a safe distance. • Make your presence known in advance by shouting. Keep to the ROW
Threatened with firearm.	Risk of being shot.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the use of a gun is threatened or suspected, <u>leave the scene immediately</u>. • <u>Report the incident</u> to the Police and to the Office (fill in report form)

Hazard identified	Danger	Control measures
Agricultural machinery	Collision, impact, struck by flying debris, sprayed by chemicals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good observation and sharp lookout at all times. • If you do need to approach ensure that the operator is aware of your presence before proceeding. • Seek immediate medical attention for any injury/inhalation of chemicals
Animals	Cattle, horses, pigs, goats, geese, ostrich, llamas – bites/kicks Bulls or bullocks – goring, stamping, kicks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise caution, especially if there are young around. • Do not place yourself between a female animal and her young. • Do not run or show signs of fear • Carry a walking stick for reassurance. • Let dog off lead if chased by cattle, horses etc
Insects, rats, ticks	Bites and stings Possible infection from Weil's Disease (Leptospirosis) from rats Possible infection (through bite) of Lyme's Disease from ticks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover up exposed skin. • Take care not to disturb hives or nests. • Wash hands thoroughly before eating or drinking. • Leptospirosis symptoms –similar to flu (headaches, fever and muscle pains) Inform Doctor that you may have been in contact with rats. • Lyme's disease symptoms: rash near area of bite, flu-like symptoms, joint pains, headache. Seek medical advice.
Uneven/rutted ground/heavily ploughed land	Trips, slides, falls, cuts, sprains, bruises, possible broken bones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear strong footwear with good ankle support and good tread. • Avoid dangerous areas and choose the safest routes over poor ground condition. Do not rush, take your time
Disused mine shafts, adits and wells	Falls, entrapment, immersion in water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise extreme caution when crossing old mine sites or near derelict buildings
Marshes, bogs and quicksand	Entrapment, immersion in water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid obvious areas of water or saturated ground.
Cliffs, quarry faces, steep slopes, steep riverbanks	Trips, falls, slides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear good footwear (see above). • Careful choice of routes over or around obstacles.
Water	Water courses, lakes, ponds, lagoons - falls, accidental immersion, drowning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid unstable banks and hazardous situations, (e.g. attempting to cross watercourse or bridge if dangerous).
Injury or problem whilst on site visit	Being stranded away from "civilisation" and unable to summon help.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry mobile phone if possible. Inform someone at home of whereabouts and estimated time of return
Crop spraying with pesticides.	Inhalation of chemicals, dust spores. Drift or contact with spray coming into contact with skin or clothing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid entering the field. Being sprayed • If you do become accidentally contaminated, seek immediate assistance; try to find out what chemical was being used. • Be aware that spray that is still wet on leaves can be damaging. • Wash hands after passing through arable fields prior to eating. If you start to feel ill after walking through arable land seek medical attention.
Weather: Extreme cold, heat	Exposure, Sunburn, heat-stroke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjust work programme to suit extreme weather conditions. Dress for the conditions. Carry water in hot conditions use barrier cream, hat.
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