

Field Risk Assessment			
*Grey boxes must be completed by field leader			
College/PSU		Assessment Date	
Location		Assessor	
Activity		Approved By	
		Review Date (if applicable)	
Associated documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E.g. HS plan, participants list, COSHH form 		

Part One: Risk Assessment

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed?	How could they be harmed?	What are you already doing?	Do you need to do anything else to manage this risk?
Snagging and tripping	Staff/ students/ members of the public	Lacerations, fractures, serious injuries, death	<p>All field workers should be aware of general trip hazards (and holes) particularly in dense undergrowth or near steep drops/slopes.</p> <p>Personnel encountering trip hazards should make other team members aware and issues should be noted for repeat surveys.</p> <p>Any ropes and other equipment needed shall be kept in a tidy order and monitored at all times to prevent snagging. Any equipment should be routed in way not to create trip hazards for field workers or anyone using the site.</p>	
Difficulties in communication	Staff/ students	Unable to summon aid if required.	Communication pathways shall be briefed and fully understood by everyone so that safety measures are upheld when teams are out in the field. Field team will carry mobile phones. Ensure adequate mobile phone coverage when planning a survey, before setting off, if the sites are out of range then a satellite phone should be considered.	

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			Ensure that the communication devices can be heard at all times.	
Working in rural locations	Staff/ students	Electric fences Electrocution	When working in rural environments, fieldworkers will make a check for unmarked electric fences before proceeding. When approaching a fence assume it may be electrified, even barbed wire fences, unless it is obvious that the fence is un-electrified.	
		Livestock fractures, bites, death	Field teams will try to avoid working in locations with livestock present and no segregation. If this cannot be avoided, assess the situation and contact the landowner for advice if possible. Bulls, Rams and Nursing cows can be particularly dangerous so tread warily and avoid where possible. Do not enter an area without a safe means of escape. Ensure that any equipment is cordoned off from livestock and do not work in a manner that may antagonise livestock.	
Climbing over fences/ gates	Staff/ students	Cuts, sprains fractures	Field workers must access sites via gates where possible. If a gate cannot be opened and the team has permission to be at the side then a gate should be climbed only on the hinged side and if in good condition. If the gate is unsuitable or you have no option but to go over a fence try to pick a secure location such as a solid fence post. If the landing site is obscured, try to determine if there are any hidden hazards, which could cause injury if landed on.	
Manual handling	Staff/ students	Musculoskeletal injuries	Where equipment has to be carried over a long distance, manual handling protocols should be observed. No one should carry weight over what they are comfortable with and have regular rest breaks. If the equipment exceeds the capabilities of the team then an additional field team member(s) should be added to ensure the task can be carried out safely.	
Driver fatigue	Staff/ students	Various injuries associated with road traffic collisions	It is recommended drivers stop of rest breaks for 15 minutes every 2 hours. When combining driving and fieldwork on the same day sufficient time should be allowed to avoid over extending the day. If in doubt, it is recommended that personnel stay the night and travel again the following day. Parked vehicles must be parked in a safe, legal and convenient location and in a manner that does not cause and obstruction or	

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		including death.	nuisance.	
Discarded needles, sharps, pathogens or disease	Staff/ students	Various health risks.	All field teams should have at least one qualified first aider. A first aid kit is then carried to site if site is away from the vehicle. Appropriate PPE will be worn at all time. Medical attention must be sort immediately in cases of suspected infection. All staff should be informed how to safely dispose of sharps and what to do if a sharps injury has been sustained.	
Working in close proximity to the general public	Staff/ students	Various injuries	Keep any field sites free from obstacles and trip hazards. Use signs to indicate any potential hazards, if appropriate. Remove all equipment following the completion of work. Avoid confrontational situations at all times and retreat from potentially volatile situations. Contact the police if confronted with threatening behaviour	
Adverse weather	Staff/ students	Direct injury as a result of weather e.g lightening strike or indirect e.g. flooding, wind blown hazards	The field leader will check the weather forecast for the area. Appropriate clothing will be worn by all fieldworkers for the tasks they are carrying out. Including appropriate footwear and headwear.	
Potentially harmful	Staff/ students	Irritation, Death or long	Using their training and competence fieldwork leaders should always be alert to the possible presence of harmful species (e.g. wasps, bees,	

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species		term sickness	venomous snakes, ticks or poisonous plants). PPE should be worn as appropriate e.g. boots, long trousers. Emergency protocols should be followed if feeling unwell. First aid kits should be carried or close by. The Fieldwork Leader should be aware of anyone who may have anaphylaxis reactions to stings.	
Use of hand tools	Staff/ students		Care must be taken when using any tools and safe working practices followed. Appropriate PPE must be worn for the tools being used.	
Working outside	Staff/ students	Hypo/Hypert hermia	<p>In hot sunny weather team members musy wear appropriate sun protection cream and a hat or head scarf during prolonged sunny conditions. Keep hydrated and maintain electrolytes. Ensure that each field team member has adequate hydration fluids. If a team member complains of effects of heat, stop work and assess the situation. If suffering from significant unburn or from heat exhaustion stop work immediately, find shade and seek medical advice. If heat stroke is suspected, get medical help.</p> <p>In cold weather conditions, wear extra layers to prevent hypothermia. In wet weather suitable waterproofs should be worn. If signs of hypothermia are shown, stop work and retreat to somewhere warm and sheltered. Assess the situation. For serious hypothermia call for medical assistance.</p>	
Hand hygiene	Staff/ students	Sickness, diarrhoea	When undertaking fieldwork, always clean hands before eating and drinking. Use soap and water if available or antibacterial gel. Where protective gloves when appropriate.	
Ill health, lack of fitness	Staff/ students	Illness or injury	Any team members who do not feel fit to partake should alert the Fieldwork leader as soon as possible.	
Working near water	Staff/ Students	Drowning/ Death	Field teams must wear serviceable lifejackets when working with 2m of the waters edge. All fieldworkers are to be issued with life jackets and trained in their use. Life jackets should be subject to quarterly recorded maintenance checks. Life jackets that fail maintenance checks are removed from use until repaired by a competent person.	

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			<p>Ensure where rucksacks are worn they are carried using only one strap to prevent being dragged under the water.</p>	
<p>Deep waters high velocity flows</p>	<p>Staff/ students</p>	<p>Drowning/ Death</p>	<p>Field participants must follow the water entre procedures at all times. Weather and EA/NRW river level websites should be checked before embarking on field work. If levels are high or heavy, rain is forecast the implications should be considered and a decision made if safe to continue.</p> <p>On site, a visual inspection on the condition of the water body and a dynamic risk assessment will be undertaken by the team leader. If conditions are considered unsafe or unsuitable for the survey being carried out then the survey will not take place</p> <p>Participants will not enter moving water bodies with strong flows. They must be able to stand up and wade easily within the water body. If in any doubt to the strength of the flow then they must now enter the water.</p> <p>Life jackets are to be worn at all times</p> <p>Watercourses are to only be entered if safe access/egress points are easily accessible in the event that water levels rise unexpectedly</p> <p>If there is deep soft sediment on the bottom of the watercourse such that it is difficulty for workers to move or extract themselves alternative points of entry shall be found. If no alternative safe entry point can be found then those points should be abandoned.</p>	

Actions arising from risk assessment

Actions	Lead	Target Date	Done Yes/No

EXAMPLE