

Risk Assessment for the FSARG projects: 2 Field Activities including Field Walking, Geophysical and Geographical Surveying, and Metal Detecting

Hazard		Who/what affected n/a – not applicable	Controls for managed risk	Further action n/r – not required	Level of risk without management	Managed risk to be: As Low As Reasonably Possible (ALARP)
					H – high, M – medium, L – low, n/a – not applicable	
Survey activity (Using cables, ropes, marker poles and pea-sticks etc.)	Tripping on equipment	Volunteers	Care taken when laying out work equipment. All made clear of hazard. Yellow/black tape used on pea-sticks.	Watch-person may be necessary.	M to H	L , specifically ALARP
	Tripping on equipment	The general public	Care taken when laying out work equipment. Yellow/black hazard tape used as above and where necessary at 2m from hazard. Equipment will only be left in open areas overnight with owner's permission and where not on a public access area unless clearly marked as a hazard and not a clear danger.	Watch-person may be necessary. Further precautions are site and task dependent	M to H	L specifically ALARP
	Lifting	Volunteers	All equipment is able to be lifted by a single normally fit individual. Where this is not the case the heavier and difficult equipment shall be moved by two people.		M	L

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Electricity (mains power) (see also hazards specific to particular activities below)		Volunteers	Only powered equipment is the FSARG field computer when on charge and this is not seen to be other than a normal life hazard and general caution is used to control the known hazard. No mains powered tools to be used.	n/r	L	L
Hygiene. This includes handling low-level contaminants, such as animal excrement, metallic lead and its bi-products etc., when laying out cables and ropes and during finds processing work.		Volunteers in all activities	Toilet/washing facilities may not be within reach during the project active period of the day. Hand washing available at work base with disinfectant and obviously washing prior to eating advised during training. Protective clothing generally not applicable but latex gloves are available. Volunteers may take their own precautions eg antiseptic hand wipes.	Toilet/washing facilities may be available at individual locations.	M	L
Emergencies	On site	Volunteer	No fire risk due to activity but others may exist. The site supervisor will identify and discuss an escape route prior to work commencing at each site.	Will vary from site to site. Mobile phones always handy.	L	L
	At base	All volunteers	Supervisor will explain requirements to FSARG team as appropriate. Supervisors always present.	Mobile phones always handy.	L	L

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Need for First Aid	All volunteers	First aid kits at sites and base. Refer to a First Aider at one of the sites or the base, if available. Basic training in First Aid for all participants. 112 & 999 call preference explained.	n/r Transport to Faversham Cottage Hospital – Minor Injuries Unit or Doctors surgery as required. (Less than five minutes, 7 days a week.) Also, Canterbury Minor Injuries Unit (20-30 minutes). Ambulance station local.	L	L
Effects of weather Thunder storms Slipping in heavy rain Sunburn in hot sun	Volunteer	Thunderstorms can be sudden events. The obvious dangers of using long metallic equipment and cables during thunderstorms and the general danger from lightning strikes in open areas and under trees are explained during training. The activities are not normally pursued in general heavy rain but volunteers are reminded that slipping can occur in any wet surface conditions. In hot sun, head and back protection is required, and sunscreen should be used (all self-supplied.) Emergency drinking water always available on site.	n/r Note: Emergency bottled water is always available on site. Individuals are responsible for their own sunscreen and water.	H in storms and heavy rain. H in hot weather.	L L

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Tools and machinery	Volunteers	Appropriate tools for the work are available. All tools will be checked for condition by H &S officer.	n/r. (see below: <i>specific location hazards</i>)	M	L
Public access to hazardous and dangerous areas	Members of the general public (all ages), property owners and fellow residents.	All hazards are to be marked off using strips or small pieces of yellow/black hazard tape where appropriate. Where danger exists then red/white danger tape will be used to restrict access and a watch-person will be present. Where areas are more fully taped off, no members of the public will be allowed into taped-off zone unless escorted by a supervisor. This includes the land owner and fellow residents.	n/r	H	L specifically ALARP
Team relationship problems. Prior knowledge of possible health problems.	All volunteers	Experienced Supervisor for each activity (co-ordinated by J Reid.) Responsibilities clearly spelt out in training session. Documentation for each volunteer includes notification of any health problems.	n/r	M	L

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Specific to individual locations and equipment	General	All volunteers	All offered sites to be visited beforehand and assessed for potential hazards: under/over-ground utilities, wells, slopes, steps, dead trees, limited access, animals, public rights of way, etc. (See elsewhere and below regarding specific hazards)	n/r Note: A record of these will be taken to site, discussed by the team and reviewed as necessary at start of field activity. Supervisor will amend as appropriate.	H	L
	Farm animals, pets and children. Biting and stinging insects etc.	All volunteers	Free roaming dogs and other similar hazardous animals and children will be restrained to outside the work area by the volunteers or as with insects, work will stop until the hazard is removed.	Such situations will be clarified beforehand and prior to work commencing Individuals themselves may take additional measures e.g. Insect repellent and other creams, especially where allergic reaction is known or suspected.	H	L
	Sharp edged hazards e.g. metal finds, stones/flints, barbed wire and thorny vegetation.	All volunteers	Robust, covering footwear and clothing required where hazard exists. Gloves available.		M-H	L
	Probes and sharp edged small tools e.g. knife, trowel etc	All volunteers and members of the public	Care shall be taken when using spiked tools such as Geo-physics probes. Small tools shall be kept in hand or within reach, when in use. Tools kept in tool box/bag when not in use i.e. not accessible to the public.	No sharp-edged tool shall be carried in open sight in public or on a public road etc. unless in use in the controlled area.	M	ALARP and legal

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Specific to individual locations and activities	Adjacent to roads	All volunteers	High-Visibility (Hi-Viz) jackets shall be worn near traffic. Method of working clarified by the supervisor.	A watch-person shall be considered.	H	ALARP
	Possible contact with overhead power lines and other cables, wires etc.	All volunteers	Offered sites to be visited, dangers and hazards assessed and solutions recorded. Specific danger when using survey ranging pole covered during training, if necessary a no-go area will be delineated using red/white danger tape.	A watch-person may be considered necessary by the supervisor	H	L specifically ALARP
	Physical damage to adjacent property including street furniture and trees	All volunteers	Offered sites to be visited and dangers and hazards assessed and solutions recorded. Specific danger when using survey ranging pole covered during training, if necessary a no-go area will be delineated using red/white danger tape.	A watch-person may be considered necessary by the supervisor.	M	L
	Interference with underground utilities and other services	All volunteers	Offered sites to be visited and dangers and hazards recorded. Other than that for auger sampling, all ground penetrating equipment is short enough to avoid correctly buried services. Each location will be assessed for potential variations from the norm.	n/r	M	L specifically ALARP

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Specific to metal detecting & geophysical surveying	Repetitive Strain Injury (RSI)	Volunteers	Volunteers educated about potential hazard and precautions to be taken e.g. reduce exposure by sharing and hand changing.	n/r	M	L
Hazards associated with disability. (The term disability in this context is taken to have the widest possible meaning and is not intended to be an excluding term.)		All disabled volunteers and other volunteers who may be working with the disabled person.	Much depends on the disability. Although in many cases this may prevent active participation, some support work such as rope and cable deployment and computer data entry is possible. The H&S Officer, supervisor and volunteers shall agree there is no, unreasonable risk to themselves and FSARG team members.	n/r, although consideration of an assisting carer may be appropriate Note: Field activities are by their nature physical, however there are lighter elements within the work and there is extensive scope at the base location & follow-up on a variety of tasks.	M	L (specifically, ALARP)
		Volunteers with a specific problem	It is the responsibility of each person with a specific problem to notify the FSARG Director and as appropriate the specific supervisor of the nature of such limitation/s.	Consideration of the use of a colleague volunteer or specific carer may be appropriate.	M	L

Note: Training Sessions on Health and Safety for new volunteers are held as part of the Induction Training Session.

Nick Wilkinson
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