

## Path maintenance - risk assessment

Use this risk assessment template to help you understand the risks and any steps you need to take to stay safe before leading a path maintenance activity. You must complete and keep a risk assessment for every work party.

See the guidance notes for more information – if you have any questions, please contact [volunteersupport@ramblers.zendesk.com](mailto:volunteersupport@ramblers.zendesk.com)



Team Coordinator		Date of work party	
Path Maintenance Team		Date of risk assessment	
		Task location	

Possible hazards	Who might be harmed and how?	Ways to control the risk	Action taken? (click on the box to tick)
Transmission of COVID-19 through close contact / meeting other people	Team members, members of the public – risk of spreading COVID-19	Assess the space available on the site and limit numbers so there's space for everyone to work safely.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Plan tasks that can be done while following physical distancing guidance.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Keep a record of who was on each work party for 21 days.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Advise team members during pre-task briefing about physical distancing – this is everyone's responsibility.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Stop working and stand well back to allow other path users to pass.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Carry a face covering in case of incidents.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Work where 2m distancing is not possible (England and Wales only)	Team members – risk of spreading COVID-19	Remain at least 1m away and avoid working face-to-face.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Minimise the time spent working at less than 2m.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Work with the same people each time – use a pairing system.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transmission of COVID-19 through touching tools, materials and equipment	Team members – risk of spreading COVID-19	Avoid sharing tools and equipment where possible.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Wipe down equipment handles with disinfectant spray between uses.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Wash hands regularly with alcohol-based hand sanitiser.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Possible hazards	Who might be harmed and how?	Ways to control the risk	Action taken? (click on the box to tick)
Vegetation clearance	Team members – risk of injury from thorns/stings etc.	Wear durable long-sleeved clothing and heavy-duty gloves.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Check for hazards that could be hidden behind vegetation (e.g. barbed wire, or any sharp or solid objects).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Risk of property damage	Don't use power tools close to adjacent property (e.g. wooden fence panels).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use of power tools	Operator, other team members, members of the public – risk of injury	Operate tools in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, and maintain a safe distance between the operator and others.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and Hi vis clothing.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Make sure tools are well maintained and in good working order before use.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Refuelling petrol-powered tools	Operator – risk of burns, injuries	Refuel tools in a well-ventilated area away from naked flames, and at least 4m from your working area. Mop up any spillages immediately.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Turn off tools before refuelling and securely reattach the fuel cap afterwards.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Manual handling	Team members – risk of injury	Plan your work site to minimise the amount of carrying needed.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Use good lifting technique, lift within your ability, and take regular rests as required.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use of hand tools	Team members – risk of injury	Check that tools are in a good condition before using. Sharpen bladed tools and replace any broken or worn out tools as required.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Store tools securely when not in use and lock the safety catch if there is one.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Working with path furniture (e.g. gates, stiles, signposts)	Team members, members of the public – risk of injury	Be aware of sharp edges or protruding nails when dismantling path furniture. Store any dismantled materials safely, away from your work area, and dispose of appropriately when finished.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Check with the local authority or landowner to identify any potential hazards from underground cables or pipes before starting work involving digging post holes.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>(Please add more lines if needed)</i>			

## How to carry out a risk assessment

This template is a tool to help you plan Ramblers path maintenance activities safely. You must do a risk assessment for each activity, ticking the sections that are relevant to you, and adding any extra lines required.

- Use the template to assess whether your path maintenance activity is safe to go ahead.
- It's important to carry out a risk assessment **before** the activity takes place.
- Think about the different types of hazards and risks, and the different steps you will take to reduce the risks. We've included some common examples, but think carefully about your own activity and ways of working in case anything needs adding.

Examples of other risks might include:

- Site-specific risks – for example livestock, steep drops or flooded ground.
- Task-specific risks – for example any materials or tools with risks or control measures that aren't covered above.

**This isn't an exhaustive list, so think carefully about any specific risks associated with your task**

- Next, consider the steps you can take to minimise the risk.

If you're taking measures to reduce the risk which aren't included on the template above, please add them to the list.

- If you're not sure what to do to reduce the risk, contact us at [volunteersupport@ramblers.zendesk.com](mailto:volunteersupport@ramblers.zendesk.com)

### Your volunteering & COVID-19

Due to COVID-19, there are extra steps we need to take to organise Ramblers activities safely. Please visit the [Ramblers website](#) for the latest updates and guidance.

It's **essential** for all volunteers to consider the following questions, when deciding whether to take part in Ramblers activities:

<p><b>Do you (or does someone else from your household) have COVID-19 symptoms?</b></p>	<p><i>If so, you should self-isolate for 7 days. If another person in your household has symptoms, you should self-isolate for 14 days.</i></p> <p><i>You must not take part in Ramblers activities during this time.</i></p> <p><i>Symptoms include a high temperature, a new continuous cough and the loss, or a change to your sense of smell or taste. Find out more about COVID-19, and what you should do if you have symptoms on the NHS website in <a href="#">England</a>, <a href="#">Wales</a> or <a href="#">Scotland</a>.</i></p>
<p><b>Are you 'clinically vulnerable'?</b></p>	<p><i>If you (or someone you live with) are at higher risk of getting seriously ill from coronavirus, you should take extra care to minimise contact with others from outside your household.</i></p> <p><i>Taking part in a Ramblers activity may put you and those around you at higher risk. <b>It may not be the right decision at this time.</b></i></p> <p><i>Remember – everyone over 70, and those with certain underlying health conditions are considered to be 'clinically vulnerable'. You can find more information on the NHS website in <a href="#">England</a>, <a href="#">Wales</a> or <a href="#">Scotland</a>.</i></p>
<p><b>Do you want to volunteer, and do you feel safe and comfortable doing so?</b></p>	<p><i>Volunteering is a personal choice. There will never be any obligation or pressure to volunteer or take part if you don't want to, or are not able to at this time.</i></p> <p><i>There are lots of ways to get involved from home too – get in touch to find out more: <a href="mailto:volunteersupport@ramblers.zendesk.com">volunteersupport@ramblers.zendesk.com</a></i></p>