**Risk Assessment Template (H&S) NNRs**

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| **NNRs covered by this risk assessment:** | Roudsea Wood and Mosses NNR | | | **Date completed:** | September 2024 |
| **Assessment of any access onto the Reserve** | Roudsea Mosses are Lowland Raised Bog. This is a dangerous habitat due to the fragile mat of bog moss vegetation that overlays areas of deep, water saturated peat. On apparently intact vegetation, the surface vegetation can be easily broken through, with no solid footing beneath. Areas of Roudsea Mosses are on damaged peat that has undergone restoration works which leads to hazardous areas of wet peat, open water or a thin layer of vegetation over open water. Ensure you have full knowledge of the specific hazards of the site.  Access through the woodland is on rough tracks and paths that can be slippy/hazardous in wet weather. | | | **Review date (max 1 year):** | September 2025 |
|  | | | | **Signed off by (SRM/ Line Manager):** | Sarah Wilson |
| **Training Course:** | | | | **Mandatory/Optional** | **Applicable? ()** |
| NNR Staff – Outdoor First Aid Training | | | | Mandatory |  |
|  | | | | Optional |  |
| **Notes (e.g. mandatory safety precautions)** | Mobile reception across the Reserve is good.  Lone Working: You MUST NOT visit the Reserve alone unless you have specific knowledge of the site conditions **and** lone working procedures are in place. Do not visit the site alone in extreme weather conditions or poor visibility. In good conditions if visiting on your own you must always use a Natural England buddy or People Safe.  Carry a standard outdoor first aid kit  The road to/from and parts of the reserve flood during the highest spring/autumn tides. Review tidal times prior to visiting during these seasons and ensure you have vacated sites within 2 hour range of high tide.  Please use in reference with relevant equipment/activity risk assessments.  ***Note: young persons, new & expectant mothers etc., a separate risk assessment should be recorded.*** | | | | |
| **Minimum PPE/RPE requirements** | First Aid kit. High visibility jacket if lone working but make sure at least one person in the group has bright clothing anyway. | | | | |
| **What are the hazards common to all?** | **Who might be harmed and how?** | **What precautions are you already taking?** | **What additional local precautions are required?** | | |
| Lack of site specific knowledge of the type of habitat and hazards on an intact or restored peatland | Anyone visiting the Reserve – NNR staff, contractors, volunteers, members of the public.  Getting stuck in soft peat – drowning, hypothermia.  Falling into deep water – drowning, hypothermia. | Read /provide information about the site before visiting and obtain up to date information about restoration works, as well as updates from local Reserve staff. Information boards are provided at the access points to the mosses.  No volunteers, contractors or staff should access the site alone without a full knowledge of the hazards and risks presented by the mosses and a good knowledge of past restoration work. |  | | |
| Exposed site (very little cover from sun or wind) | Anyone visiting the Reserve – NNR staff, contractors, volunteers.  Hypothermia.  Heat exhaustion  Sun burn | Wear appropriate clothing for the weather conditions.  Carry extra clothing on cold wet days.  Carry sufficient water on hot days.  Use sun cream and wear a wide brimmed hat. |  | | |
| Insect stings and bites and zoonosis | All visitors and staff  Bites, stings, infection, anaphylaxis. Transmission of disease through ticks, mosquitos or by close contact of other infected animals | Wear long sleeved tops and trousers, be aware of symptoms of anaphylaxis, and alert emergency services immediately if showing signs of this.  Check for ticks and be aware of symptoms of Lyme’s disease, consult GP if concerned. Tick removers available.  Insect repellent available  Avoid handling wild animals, especially if they appear sick  Check for insect bites and seek medical advice if any signs of infection or signs of a zoonotic disease are shown  Wash hands frequently | Identify anyone who has any allergies from insect bites prior to commencing visit. | | |
| Adders | Anyone visiting the Reserve – NNR staff, contractors, volunteers,  Poisonous bite – swelling and pain | Wear boots or wellies.  Take care when walking through, sitting in or reaching into vegetation.  Take care in cold weather when snakes are torpid and may not be able to get out of your way. |  | | |

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| **What are the hazards specific to your site/ staff/ equipment?** E.g. site features such as steep slopes, individual issues such as new starters, equipment features such as known complexities. | **Who might be harmed and how?** | **What precautions are you already taking?** | **What additional local precautions are required?** |
| Old and recently restored peat workings, deep water, steep drops off old cut faces, uneven ground, cell bunding covered with a thin layer of vegetation. | Anyone visiting the Reserve – NNR staff, contractors, volunteers, members of the public.  Getting stuck in soft peat – drowning, hypothermia.  Falling into deep water – drowning, hypothermia. | Stick to boardwalks and paths where possible. Only walk across the bog surface if you have a good knowledge of site conditions and the history of restoration work. Stick to bunds in restored areas and become familiar in reading the vegetation to assess underfoot conditions. Avoid areas of bright green sphagnum moss that are usually colonising hidden pools. If in doubt, retreat and find an alternative route.  Use a stick to test the ground ahead of you.  Take extra care when working in conditions of poor visibility (fog, heavy rain) |  |
| Using Boardwalks | Anyone visiting the Reserve – NNR staff, contractors, volunteers, members of the public. | All boardwalks and paths are checked each quarter as part of the site safety surveys and when staff are present in between these times.  Be aware of any damage to boardwalks, loose planks and highlight any safety issues to reserve staff.  Take care along the edges of the boardwalk and be aware of the small drop to the bog surface from the boardwalks. |  |
| Driving soft tracks/ diggers/ vehicles on old and recently finished peat workings with tracked/wheeled ATV. (large, deep, steep sided drains, old drains filled with soft peat or hidden by vegetation, areas of very soft bare peat, deep water, steep drops off cut faces) | Contractors  Vehicle tipping forward/sideways, or overturning, vehicle becoming bogged in – bruising, cuts, fractures, hypothermia, drowning. | Only access the peatland with low ground pressure vehicles and check this with reserve staff first. Operators must have appropriate training for the vehicles.  Keep speed down. Bumps, dips and soft peat are often difficult to see. If in doubt, get out and walk the ground ahead to check condition.  Do not drive to close to drain edges or cut faces.  Take extra care when working in conditions of poor visibility (fog, heavy rain) | Only trained and qualified contractors are to drive machinery/vehicles onto the raised bog surface. NE staff will not drive onto the raised bog surface. |
| Pedestrians being struck by digger boom, hit by an ATV from Contractors diggers and machinery | Anyone visiting the Reserve – NNR staff, contractors, volunteers,  Members of the public.  Severe injury, broken bones, bruising, hypothermia | Use temporary signs on site to ensure there are communications when there are contractors / vehicles on site. Communicate any works to others in advance. |  |
| Power lines | Contractors, NE staff.  Electrocution. | Be aware of height restrictions if working below power lines. Be aware of risk and advise contractors  Site Hazard maps |  |
| Fire | NE staff, volunteers, visitors and contractors.  Burns  Smoke inhalation – breathing problems. | No smoking on site  Refer to bonfire risk assessment. Do not light fires directly on ground or bog.  Do not tackle wild fires unless trained to do so.  Only use proper fire-fighting equipment e.g. fire beaters, ATV mounted fire pumps, under the instruction of the Fire Service.  Work so the wind is blowing the smoke and fire away from you. |  |
| Uneven terrain, cliff edges, rocky ground. | NE staff, visitors, volunteers, contractors. | Advise visitors to stick to the main paths/tracks.  Wear stout footwear.  Take care over uneven terrain and in wet weather for slippy conditions. | Consider altering plans/route dependent on conditions |
| Hazardous trees | NE staff, visitors, volunteers, contractors. | The reserve is inspected quarterly and dangerous trees that threaten footpaths or tracks are made safe.  Advise visitors of the dangers of visiting woodlands and to be aware of hazards in the canopy. |  |

ACCESS

Vehicular access off-road is restricted to made-up tracks, where 4-wheel drive vehicles and ATV should be used. Away from these, vehicular access is impossible. Access by conventional Fire fighting Tenders is limited to surfaced roads adjacent to the site.

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| Roudsea Wood west | Access from car park at SD 330 827 **by 4WD or pedestrian only**. |
| Roudsea Wood east; Roudsea Mosses | Access from NNR entrance at SD 330 828 from private metalled road. **Locked metal barrier** here outside office hours. **4x4/pedestrian only** |
| Stribers Moss north | Vehicular access to north of site along track starting at SD 350 816. |
| Stribers Moss south; Holker Mosses east | 4x4 access along stone track starting at SD 353 804. **NO TURNING FOR LARGE VEHICLES ON THIS TRACK** |
| Holker Mosses west | 4x4 access along stone track starting from SD 343 790 to SD 353 804. **NO TURNING FOR LARGE VEHICLES ON THIS TRACK** |

**Nearest A&E. Furness General Hospital Dalton Lane,  
Barrow-In-Furness,  
LA14 4LF**

**01229 870870**

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| **No.** | **Name** | **Position/Role** | **Contact Number** |
| **\*** | **Natural England** | **Duty Officer OUT OF HOURS/24 hr cover** | **0300 060 6000** |
| 1 | Jim Turner | Senior Reserve Manager, Natural England | 07769 725139 |
| 2 | John Osborne | Reserve Manager | 07967 971523 |
| 3 | Tracy Cumberbatch | Reserve Warden | 07388 385600 |
| 6 | Claire Green | Senior Manager South Cumbria Team | 07500107600 |