# Risk assessment template: Nature Overheard Roadside Activity

## Group name:             Assessment carried out by:

## Date of next review:             Date assessment was carried out:

**This exemplar risk assessment is for demonstration purposes only and must not be used in its current form for any surveying activities. Please use this as a starting point only. Actions to control the risks have been suggested here but remember you must tailor this template to the specific risks present during your session and control measures you already have in place. The Natural History Museum accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions in this document, or any consequences of its use.**

| What are the hazards? | Who might be harmed and how? | What are you already doing to control the risks? | What further action do you need to take to control the risks? | Who needs to carry out the action? | When is the action needed by? | Done |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Working close to roads – risk of being hit by a car |  |  | Plan the survey in advance, selecting a safe area near the road.  Consider the route to your survey area when planning, using wide pavements and good pedestrian crossings.  Teach participants about road safety prior to the activity and brief them on health and safety before beginning.  Wear high-visibility jackets to make sure that participants are seen by drivers and group leaders. |  |  |  |
| Adverse weather conditions – storms/wind/rain or extreme sun/heat |  |  | Monitor the weather forecast prior to the activity and cancel if the conditions do not meet those in the instruction booklet.  Wear clothing appropriate to the weather e.g. cool loose clothing in warm weather.  In hot weather, wear sunscreen, a sun hat and carry water. |  |  |  |
| Sharp objects – cuts/grazes or splinters |  |  | Group leader to scope out the survey areas prior to beginning the activity to ensure there are no sharp objects e.g. broken glass.  Carry a first aid kit. |  |  |  |
| Bacteria – infection or illness after touching litter or dog mess |  |  | Make participants aware of the potential presence of litter and dog mess and make sure they identify its presence to others working in the same area.  Don’t pick up litter without using gloves or a non-contact tool or using anti-bacterial hand gel. |  |  |  |
| Personal safety – aggressive member of public/stranger danger |  |  | Avoid confrontation with aggressive members of public – leave the area and abandon fieldwork if necessary.  All young people to be supervised by a parent, teacher, youth leader or other responsible adult.  Any staff working with young people will be DBS checked.  Be aware of suspicious or aggressive behaviour. |  |  |  |
| Natural hazards e.g. loose material in pavement, tree roots |  |  | Avoid using roads with visible hazards on them.  Carry a first aid kit. |  |  |  |

More information on managing risk: [www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/risk/](http://www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/risk/)

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