

Health and Safety

This guidance sheet is based on that used by the Nidderdale AONB to provide survey volunteers with practical advice on safety precautions during survey work.

Volunteers should act in such a way as to not jeopardise their own safety, or the safety of others. While this guide can identify the major hazards, which are largely common sense, please be mindful of the unexpected.

Lone Work

We recommend that you carry out the survey in pairs or in teams. If you must undertake surveys by yourself please remember that lone work does not just involve work in remote locations; it can also take place where other persons are in close proximity but out of sight or contact. In the event of an accident, difficulties in obtaining emergency help may lead to more serious consequences, so all volunteers, especially those undertaking lone work, must follow the recommended procedures:

Emergency

You should take a fully charged mobile phone with you, although be aware that you may not always be able to get a signal. Use the emergency number 112 rather than 999 if you need to summon help. It is also advisable to take a whistle because six short blasts, repeated at minute intervals, indicates an emergency.

Contacts

Before going out on a survey, give a responsible person, such as your partner, a close relative, or neighbour (referred to below as the nominated person) a copy of these procedures and tell them:

- Your mobile number
- Your whereabouts (including OS grid reference)
- A contact for your survey location (another member of the team, the name and telephone number of the farmer)
- Your mode of travel to and from the location (including car registration and model)
- The nature of your work
- Your departure time and estimated time of return
- The action to be taken if you fail to return (see below), including emergency contact details (outlined in the risk assessment).
- Ensure that the project team have your vehicle details and mobile phone number.

If you fail to return or fail to contact the nominated person within an agreed period of your estimated return time, the nominated person should follow this procedure:

- First attempt to contact you using the contact points that they have been given (e.g. mobile number, farmer).
- After all contacts have been made, contact the police. To do so earlier may result in the police asking the nominated person to follow the procedure explained above.

It may be that your plans have changed, e.g. you have decided to visit someone on your way home. If so, please contact your nominated person to let them know of your change of plans. If you do return late, safe and well after such enquiries have been made, please call each of the people who have been contacted to tell them that all is well.