

## Risk Assessment for the Bats in Churches Study

**Section A** of this form includes a checklist of potential hazards and risk prevention/control methods that may be relevant to a range of different types of site surveyed for the Bats in Churches Study. Please note that the checklist is not intended to be completely exhaustive and is for guidance only, so please assess the site carefully and consider any risks not on the checklist. There are blank rows at the bottom of the table so that additional risks that are identified at a site can be added to the list.

**Section B** provides a format for completing a risk assessment for an individual site. Please complete this for each individual site as each site is unique and must be assessed individually. Please remember that as a volunteer you are under no obligation to take part in this survey. You should not put yourself, or others, in danger.

- **Rate the severity of each risk from 1 to 3**
  - 1 = minor injury/discomfort, e.g. scratches, swellings, pulled muscles, getting cold/wet
  - 2 = less than serious injury which does not require immediate hospital treatment, e.g. sprains or other which would reduce your mobility or prevent you from continuing the survey on the evening but which wouldn't have a more permanent impact on your health
  - 3 = serious injuries which require immediate hospital treatment, including but not exclusive to fractures (other than to fingers, thumbs and toes), head injuries, serious cuts and burns
- **Rate the probability of each risk from 1 to 3**  
1 = low probability, 2 = medium probability, 3 = high probability
- **Severity x probability = risk level**
- **Ideally the adjusted risk level should be no higher than 3. If it is higher at 4, 6 or 9 please contact Bats in Churches Team to discuss (churches@bats.org.uk, 020 7820 7166).**

Site name	Date of risk assessment	Person carrying out assessment



Historic England



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



- Row 1 is filled out completely as an example, showing a risk and prevention/control measure that would apply to all sites.

A. Checklist of potential hazards and prevention/control measures			B. Risk assessment for this site						
Hazard	Nature of risk	Suggested control measures	Severity	Probability	Risk level	Prevention/control measures taken	Adjusted severity	Adjusted probability	Adjusted risk level
Lone working	Various, e.g. lack of immediate help if suffering injury or getting lost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enlist a survey buddy (they don't need to be a bat expert, just there to increase your safety)</li> <li>Keep a charged mobile phone with you</li> <li>Make sure a church representative is aware that you'll be onsite.</li> </ul>	3	2	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One or more survey buddies enlisted and contacted day before to confirm availability and remind of meeting time and place</li> <li>Mobile phone charged</li> <li>Church representative is expecting you.</li> </ul>	1	1	1
Uneven ground/obstacles	Slips, trips and falls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear suitable footwear for the terrain</li> <li>Avoid climbing ladders or accessing the bell tower.</li> <li>Be aware and look out for steps in the church and uneven ground in the churchyard.</li> <li>Take a torch with you to illuminate dark areas of the church.</li> </ul>	3	2	6				
Low doorways	Hitting head	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be careful and mindful of the church environment.</li> </ul>	2	2	4				
Transport break down	Getting lost/stranded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notify someone of destination and expected time back and agree contingency procedure</li> <li>Bring a fully charged mobile phone</li> </ul>	1	1	2				

A. Checklist of potential hazards and prevention/control measures			B. Risk assessment for this site						
Hazard	Nature of risk	Suggested control measures	Severity	Probability	Risk level	Prevention/control measures taken	Adjusted severity	Adjusted probability	Adjusted risk level
Contact with bats	Getting bitten while handling bats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no need to handle bats on this type of survey.</li> <li>There is a slim chance that you might see a grounded or dead bat. In this eventuality please call the National Bat Helpline (0345 1300 228).</li> <li>If you absolutely have to pick up a bat, as instructed by the Helpline, you must wear gloves.</li> </ul>	3	1	3				
Risks from other people	Hostility or personal attack when travelling to your chosen site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry a personal alarm in urbanised areas</li> <li>Use an alternative safe route or abandon the survey if you feel threatened by presence of other people</li> <li>Keep valuables (including camera) inconspicuous.</li> <li>Notify someone of destination and expected time back and agree contingency procedure</li> </ul>	3	1	3				
Cold conditions	Becoming chilled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear suitable clothing, take layers, even if it isn't cold outside.</li> </ul>	3	1	3				
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>							
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>							

A. Checklist of potential hazards and prevention/control measures			B. Risk assessment for this site						
Hazard	Nature of risk	Suggested control measures	Severity	Probability	Risk level	Prevention/control measures taken	Adjusted severity	Adjusted probability	Adjusted risk level
		•							
		•							
		•							