**LONE STALKING**

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| **Risk assessment - topic/area covered** |
| Location(s): |   |
| Department/staff: |  |
| Tasks/activities: | Deer stalking |
| Other information: |  |

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| **Risk assessment sign off** |
| Prepared by: |  | Signature: |  | Date: | 22/9/17 |
| Reviewed by: |  | Signature: |  | Date: |  |
| Date for review: | This risk assessment should be reviewed if additional risks not covered in this assessment are identified or if there is any reason to suggest that the control measures are deemed to be insufficient.  |

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| **Document issue record** |
| Amendment number | Issue date | Date amended | Person amending | Remarks |
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| **Distribution schedule** |
| Registered number | Issue number | Date | Name | Designation |
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| **Risk Matrix** |
| Risk rating guidance | Likelihood (L) | 5 - certain | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 | Likelihood (L) x Severity (S) =Risk Rating (RR). |
| 4 - likely | 4 | 8 | 12 | 16 | 20 |
| 3 - possible | 3 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 15 |
| 2 - unlikely | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 10 |
| 1 - remote | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|  | 1 trivial injury | 2 minor injury | 3 notable injury | 4 major injury | 5fatal |
| Severity (S) |
| Acceptability of risk guidance | **High-risk: 15 – 25** | High-risk activities should cease immediately. Further effective control measures to mitigate risks must be introduced. |
| **Medium-risk: 8 – 12** | Medium-risks should only be tolerated for the short-term and only whilst further control measures to mitigate the risks are being planned and introduced. |
| **Low-risk: 1-6** | Low-risks are largely acceptable. Where it is reasonable to do so, efforts should be made to reduce risks further. |
| Guidance. When completing a risk assessment, you should: | 1. Identify the persons at risk and the significant hazards.
2. Calculate an initial RR for the activity.
3. Identify risk control measures that reduce the risks to an acceptable level.
4. Calculate a revised RR - you should consider how much safer the task will be if the control measures are followed. Here, you should consider changing both the likelihood (L) and the severity (S) ratings.
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| **Note.** Ideally, you should look to reduce the risks so that the task can be classified as “low-risk”. |

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| **Personal protective equipment (PPE) assessment** |
| In many instances, you will be able to reduce risks further by asking staff/others to wear/use PPE. You should identify which items are required for the task here: |
| Type of PPE: | Description: FM104_a | Description: FM104_d | Description: FM104_b | Description: FM104_e | Description: FM104_c | Description: vis vest | Description: FM104_g | Description: FM104_h |
| **Head**(BS EN 397) | **Foot**(BS EN 345-1) | **Eye**(BS EN 165:2005) | **Hand**(BS EN 420:2003) | **Hearing**(EN 352-1) | **Hi-Visibility Vest**(BS EN 471) | **RPE** | **Fall Arrest**(BS EN 361) |
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| Additional requirements(list here): | PPE is not provided to volunteers. We recommend suitable clothing and hand protection which volunteers are required to provide for themselves. |
| **Note.** PPE must only be considered as, when other control measures, such as guarding, local exhaust extraction, preventing noise at source, eliminating the need to work at height etc. are not possible. PPE should always be considered as a last resort option. PPE should only be worn when there is reasonable justification for doing so.  |

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| **Risk assessment** |
| **Activity** | **Persons at risk** | **Significant hazards** | **Initial**  | **Risk control measures**  | **Residual** |
| **L** | **S** | **RR** | **L** | **S** | **RR** |
| Lone working – out of contact if injured | stalker | Serious accident combined with no immediate support | **2** | **4** | **H** | * Carry a fully charged mobile phone and lone stalker kit
* Operate a Buddy system: ensure that a responsible person knows where you are going and you expected time of return, and report to that person when you have returned.
* If you have not returned within reasonable time, the buddy should contact the appropriate authorities.
 | **1** | **5** | **L** |
| Lone working - Public confrontation | stalker Members of public. | Risk of physical or emotional attack from another person | **3** | **5** | **H** | * In the event of an encounter with a member of the public, refer to the section titled, Dealing with Other People on the Area.
* All interactions with members of the public to be reported to the BASC Head of Game & Deer Management.
* The gralloch and any by-products of shot deer to be removed in sensitive areas
* Carcass extraction routes to be carefully considered
* Carry a fully charged mobile phone and check you have a signal
* Do not challenge the behaviour of aggressive or confrontational people. Unload rifle and leave the scene
* Call the police if the behaviour constitutes criminal activity
* Avoid people that may well pose you a risk
 | **1** | **5** | **L** |
| Injury caused by wounded animal |  stalker,public |  | **2** | **5** | **M** | * Despatch of wounded animals to be carried out humanely and in accordance with the D.I Best Practice Guidance thereby avoiding unnecessary suffering of deer and/or injury to stalker.
* Firearms/air rifles should only be used by trained personnel and they should adhere to the safe code of practice in their use
* Firearms must be used away from areas of public access and not used when there are members of the public are in the vicinity
 | **1** | **4** | **L** |
| Injury or disease/ through carcass handling | stalker | Sprains & back injuries from lifting carcasses | **2** | **2** | **L** | * Ensure animal is dead prior to handling to reduce risk of injury from hooves or antlers
* All carcasses to be visually inspected as per the D.I. Best Practice guidance with particular attention paid to the lymph nodes.
* All stalkers to wear disposable gloves for handling and inspection of internal organs
* If TB is suspected the carcass and gralloch should be isolated and the district veterinary officer and BASC informed without delay
 | **2** | **3** | **L** |
| Injury through use of knives or other lardering equipment | stalker | Cuts, scratches, infection | **3** | **3** | **M** | * Appropriate PPE to be worn when working on carcasses
* Ensure fixed blade knives are used which are sharp and fit for purpose
* Ensure all knives and other sharps are sheathed before and after use
* Ensure correct gralloching techniques are adhered to
* First aid kit available
 | **1** | **3** | **L** |
| Manual handling & extraction of deer carcasses | stalker | Sprains & back injuries from lifting carcasses | **3** | **3** | **M** | * Ensure correct methods and techniques of manual handling are undertaken; use two man lift methods where necessary.
* Use purpose built drag tray to ease moving carcass over ground.
* With smaller species a roe sack can be used in place of the drag tray.
* Only appropriately trained personnel to use portable winches / Awareness / use of safe lifting techniques
* Use pulleys or other mobile lifting appliances
* Seek assistance where required
 | **2** | **3** | **L** |
| Leptospirosis(Weils Disease) | stalker | Infections | **2** | **4** | **M** | * Plastic disposable gloves to be worn at all times when dealing with carcasses
* No washing hands in open water out in the field
* All equipment to be cleaned and sterilised
* Ensure all relevant inoculations are up to date
* Carry clean water
* Wash hands after handling carcasses and especially before eating
* Cover all open wounds
* Carry a warning card listing these diseases in case of loss of consciousness
 | **1** | **4** | **L** |
| Lyme Disease | stalker | Long terms effects of the disease | **1** | **4** | **L** | * Be aware of potential risk of tick bites and tick-borne Lyme’s disease and its symptoms
* Any bites should be reported to Game and Deer dept..
 | **1** | **4** | **L** |
| Use of high seats  |  stalkerMembers of public | Falls from seats leading to injuryDamage to seats through vandalism | **2** | **3** | **L** | * High seats to be placed in inconspicuous positions
* High seats to be made of approved design and materials
* High seats to be fixed securely and checked before climbing
* ‘Do not climb’ signs on all high seats being left unattended.
 | **1** | **3** | **L** |
| Weather conditions | stalker | Hypothermia | **1** | **5** | **L** | * Check weather in advance of planned stalk and cancel stalking operations for any warning period issued by the Met Office
* Suitable clothing to be worn depending on the conditions
* Alternative clothing available
 | **1** | **5** | **L** |
| Slips, trips and falls | stalker | Slips, trips and falls perhaps leading to more serious injury | **3** | **3** | **M** | * Wear appropriate footwear for outdoor deer stalking activities
* Care taken when walking on hazardous ground or crossing obstacles
* Ensure larder flooring is kept as dry as possible
 | **2** | **3** | **L** |
| Off road driving | stalker | Driver may become stuck or crash vehicleCollision with public on tracks | **2** | **2** | **L** | * Drive on stone forest roads. Grass tracks have increased risk of being uneven and having unstable & hazardous running surface.
* Wet weather will increase risk of getting stuck
* Drive at low speed in forest
 | **1** | **2** | **L** |