

# The Watercress Way

## General Health and Safety Policy – November 2020

### Risk Assessment and Corona Virus Guidance



1. The Trustees support and recognise the need for due regard to health and safety in all activities on The Watercress Way. Specific Corona Virus guidelines are in place.
2. A risk assessment will be carried out by a suitably qualified person in advance of all organised activities whether led by a Trustee or not.
3. DBS approval will be sought in advance for individual Trustees and others where activities with children or vulnerable adults require it.
4. All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.
5. The leaders of guided walks/ horse rides/cycle rides need to have undertaken a risk assessment in advance of the event and point out to participants issues such as the state of the route, and where any road crossings might seem dangerous.
6. Work associated with route maintenance, development, or management shall be approved in advance by the Trustees and by the relevant landowner. In particular, HCC Rangers will be asked for prior permission.
  - Only the use of handheld tools will be approved in route maintenance and management tasks undertaken by work groups. Where appropriate, training will be given by a suitably qualified/experienced person;
  - All tools must be in good condition;
  - Work requiring the use of power tools will be carried out only by trained individuals or by approved contractors. (The term contractors shall include approved voluntary bodies such as the SDNPA volunteers, the Trust for Conservation Volunteers, The Worthys Conservation Volunteers);
  - All volunteers are required to sign an attendance sheet that they are aware of any risks and declare any relevant health conditions; emergency contact numbers will be recorded. These registers will be held for 3 weeks in line with Covid-19 guidance.
  - If a badger set is in the area when scrub clearing leave a gap of 25m to prevent disturbance.
  - Appropriate clothing must be worn for route maintenance and management activities;
  - A first aid kit is available at all times;
  - Work carried out by contractors will be undertaken only by prior arrangement with Hampshire County Council on land in its ownership;
  - Particular regard to safe working practices will be exercised when working on Public Rights of Way
7. Specialist advice will be sought in relation to any proposed work on built structures on the lines such as bridges and culverts and with Hampshire County Council as appropriate.
8. The Trustees will use their best endeavours to combat unauthorised and inappropriate use of the routes which might constitute a danger to other users.
9. This Policy will be reviewed annually, taking advice from other organizations as the project develops.

#### Specific Risk Assessments:

The Watercress Way Activity Risk Assessment October 2020

The Watercress Way Special Considerations for Coronavirus Outbreak 2020

The Watercress Way Risk Assessment for Brushcutter use October 2020

The Watercress Way Register and Emergency Contacts October 2020

The Watercress Way Covid and general briefing for all walks or events by leaders October 2020

**The Watercress Way (charity no. 1167675)**

**Agreed by Trustees and Adam Macey, HCC Community Engagement Ranger 5 November 2020**