**SWF/NWDW Risk Assessment Date:** June 2025



**Health & Safety**

**Activity:** Land Watch Sites – Generic **Review due:** June 2026

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| **Hazards Identified** | **Who might be harmed and how?** | **What are you already doing?** | **What further action is necessary?** | **Action by who?** | **Action by when?** | **Done? Date & signature** |
| COVID-19 | Everyone at the site | Volunteers Code of Conduct requires that they obey any COVID guidance in force and wear a mask if requested by SWF. | - | - | - | - |
| Driving to the Site | Volunteers in transit may be involved in an accident | Volunteers Code of Conduct requires that their car is well-maintained and breakdown assistance considered. Also to avoid driving when tired and to be familiar with local road issues. | Volunteers to be issued with site specific information on site locations and parking. | Land and Sea Watch Coordinator | Start of event |  |
| Slips, trips and falls | Volunteers may be injured if they trip on the way to the land watch location. | Volunteers Code of Conduct requires that they wear suitable footwear. | Volunteers to be issued with site specific information about access routes and risks in advance, both in the OW Hub and in direct communication. | Land and Sea Watch Coordinator | Start of event |  |
| Fall from cliff top | Volunteers may be injured if they from a clifftop on the way to the land watch location or onsite. | Volunteers Code of Conduct requires that they stay away from cliff edges and stay on the landware side of any fences, also encouraging others to do so. | Volunteers to be issued with site specific information about sheer drops at particular sites and reminded to keep away from them. | Land and Sea Watch Coordinator | Start of event |  |
| Weather:  Sunburn and sunstroke /  Hypothermia /  Wind | Volunteers may be impacted by the weather: eg. being cold, blown over, or sunburnt when conducting land-watches. | Volunteers Code of Conduct requires that they wear appropriate, layered clothing. | We would cancel a survey before it starts if extreme weather is forecast. Additionally, we require volunteers check the weather before starting to survey and contact the coordinator if they have concerns.  We limit land-watches to 2x2 hours per day.  We tell volunteers to stop the survey should they feel themselves to be at risk.  Volunteers are asked to call/text/whatsapp in at the start and end of each watch and contact again if any issues arise during it.  Sun related risks are low but we would issue guidance were this circumstance to arise. | Land and Sea Watch Coordinator | Start of event |  |
| Drowning | Volunteers may fall into water and drown | We require volunteers to wear appropriate footwear | The site specific information notes where there is a risk of falling into water, eg harbour walls, and tells volunteers to stay behind fences and avoid affected sites in high winds. | Land and Sea Watch Coordinator | Start of event |  |
| Dehydration | Volunteers may not have access to water for prolonged periods of time. | - | Volunteers are advised to bring at least 1.5l of liquids with them and drink at regular intervals. The site specific information states the location of nearby food shops. | Land and Sea Watch Coordinator | Start of event |  |
| Hunger and low blood sugar | Volunteers may be unable to buy food while on survey and may suffer hunger/low blood sugar if they bring insufficient supplies | - | Volunteers are advised to bring adequate amounts of nourishment. The site specific information states the location of nearby food shops. | Land and Sea Watch Coordinator | Start of event |  |
| Confrontation with the general public | Volunteers may become involved in violent altercations with the general public | - | We advise volunteers to always remain polite and helpful, disengage from controversial debates and refrain from entering confrontational arguments. The site specific information asks volunteers to call SWF as soon as possible in the event of an incident. | Land and Sea Watch Coordinator | Start of event |  |
| Animal attack | Volunteers may encounter potentially dangerous wildlife such as seagulls. | - | Volunteers are advised to not openly display food in the presence of gulls as this might encourage attempts to steal. Volunteers are advised to be aware of their surroundings and to take care where they sit. | Land and Sea Watch Coordinator | Start of event |  |