

Risk Assessment for

Crossbones

General Information

Date of Assessment: 18/12/25

Location: Crossbones Garden

Review Date: 18/12/26

Assessment Conducted By: Marta Pascual Argente, Volunteer Coordinator

Activity / Hazard	Persons at Risk	Severity	Likelihood (Before Controls)	Control Measures in Place	Further Actions Required	Likelihood (After Controls)
Wet Weather – Risk of soaked clothing and slippery surfaces	All participants	Low	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants advised in advance to bring waterproof clothing. - Spare wet weather gear available for those without. - Briefing on-site to remind participants of slip hazards, especially on muddy terrain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signage to warn of slippery surfaces. 	Low
Cold or Hot Weather – Risk of temperature-related illness	All participants	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pre-event communication advising appropriate clothing: warm layers in cold weather, sun protection in heat. - Hydration encouraged: water bottles recommended in all weathers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure access to warm drinks in cold weather. - Provide shaded rest areas in hot weather. - Monitor participants for signs of heat exhaustion or hypothermia. 	Low
Contamination / Tetanus or Toxocara from soil / dog's excrements	Those without tetanus boosters	High	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pre-event reminder for participants to ensure tetanus vaccinations are up to date. - Gloves provided and mandatory when handling soil. - Participants advised to cover cuts and open wounds with plasters. - Handwashing facilities available and use encouraged before eating or drinking. 	N/A	Low
Contamination / Injury from Sharps	Gardeners	Medium	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only staff handle sharps; volunteers are prohibited from doing so. - Staff conduct a visual site check before activities begin. - Sharps removal equipment available and carried by staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On-site briefing to remind participants not to touch sharps and to report any found immediately. - Use tools instead of hands when handling leaf piles or rubbish. 	Low
Contamination or Injury from Toxic/Irritant Plants	All participants	Medium	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gloves provided and mandatory when handling plants. - Pre-event information advising appropriate clothing and glove use. - Warning issued about toxic/irritant plants. - Participants with known allergies advised to avoid handling identified plants. - Care advised near thorny plants and branches. - Handwashing facilities available in Red Cross Garden and nearby cafés; hand hygiene and use of anti-bacterial wipes encouraged before eating. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Verbal briefing before activity on plant-related risks. - Use of goggles when clearing shrubs, available from toolstore on site. - Signage about toxic plants. 	Low
Poisoning from water as hose runs across the carpark	All participants	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pre-event information advising water not safe to drink and for watering purpose only. Participants can bring their own drinks in flasks or go to Red Cross Garden for hot drinks or cold water. 	N/A	Low
Trip / Slip Hazards	All visitors	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pre-event site inspection to clear hazards. - All exits kept clear. - Tools never left on the ground; long tools propped securely against vertical surfaces with prongs facing inwards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On-site briefing to reinforce safe tool storage and site awareness. - Signage highlighting trip hazards if applicable. 	Low

Activity / Hazard	Persons at Risk	Severity	Likelihood (Before Controls)	Control Measures in Place	Further Actions Required	Likelihood (After Controls)
Manual Handling – Back Strain from Bending, Digging, Lifting, or Pushing Wheelbarrows	All participants	Medium	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff trained in HSE Manual Handling at Work guidance. - Pre-event information advising participants to take breaks & avoid overexertion. - Instruction to lift with bent knees and seek help for heavy loads. - Demonstration of safe lifting techniques at briefing - Wheelbarrows not to be overfilled, work in groups of three 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing supervision and reminders during activities. 	Low
Injury from Tools & Equipment	All participants	High	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants briefed on correct tool use. - Power tool use restricted to staff, except for lawnmowers. - Safe distances maintained when using tools - Only staff permitted in the tool shed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular inspection of tools for safety. - Staff using power tools to be trained and competent. 	Low
Occurrence of Injury	Injured person	High	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First aid kits available on site. - Staff trained in first aid. - Mobile phones available for emergencies. - First aiders identified to all participants. - Wardens to call BOST office for first aider to come or ambulance if serious injury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular checks of first aid supplies. - Ensure staff first aid training is up to date. 	Low
Unsuitable Footwear – Risk of Injury, Slipping, Tripping, Drowning	All participants	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pre-event information advising appropriate footwear (e.g., trainers, walking boots). - Steel-toe capped boots provided where needed. - Participants reminded to be cautious when using tools such as forks. - Barrier set next to smaller pond to prevent risk of stepping into it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signage provided to warn visitors of very uneven and slippery surfaces when raining 	Low
Working at Height	All participants	Medium	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Purchase tripod ladder as more secure. - Only trained staff permitted to use ladders. - Volunteers can use ladders if briefed before hand and working with a trained member of staff. - No BOST staff and volunteers allowed on roof. Only competent contractors. - No BOST staff or volunteers to undertake tree works. Only competent contractors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular checks to ensure ladders are in good condition. - Provide refresher training for staff using ladders. 	Low
Uncovering human remains	All participants	Low	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Soil survey and chemical analysis undertaken in 2015. - Orange netting and shingle installed as 'buffer' layer to separate gardening soil from human remains. - No deep digging undertaken. - Volunteers briefed during induction. - Mention area where bones, if found, are buried again. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure all relevant staff are familiar with lawnmower risk assessment and control measures. 	Low
Anti-Social Behaviour / Confrontation	All participants	High	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff and Wardens must carry mobile phones at all times. - Wardens instructed to only open the warden with a buddy and lock up and leave if only one of them is present. BOST staff to monitor rota. - Wardens instructed as part of Emergency Procedures to leave the site immediately by nearest exit if threatened without locking up, to go to the nearest busy place (BOST office during working hours or Borough High Street / Boot and Flogger Pub out of office hours) and call 999. - Red Cross gate to be unlocked but closed during opening hours to enable evacuation in emergency at the same time as being aware of who is in the garden at any one time. - BOST staff member to be on call via a mobile phone at all times when garden open to the public (in case of emergency) . - Volunteers to work on pairs if away from main group and within sight of staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide conflict de-escalation training to staff where appropriate. - Emergency Procedures to be given to all new wardens and displayed in Clink. - Ensure clear reporting procedures are followed. - All incidents to be logged in the BOST online incident record. 	Low

Activity / Hazard	Persons at Risk	Severity	Likelihood (Before Controls)	Control Measures in Place	Further Actions Required	Likelihood (After Controls)
Accidentally locking a member of the public in the garden	All participants	Medium	Low	- All new wardens to be instructed to thoroughly check all areas of the garden before locking up. - Signage on gate with emergency numbers.	N/A	Low
Weil's Disease (Leptospirosis) and Other Waterborne Illnesses	All participants	Medium	Low	- Participants advised to wash thoroughly after water contact. - Mandatory handwashing before eating, drinking, smoking, or leaving the site if contact with water occurs. - If flu-like symptoms appear after the event, participants should consult a doctor immediately. - Cuts and grazes must be covered with waterproof plasters. - Immediate treatment of cuts with antiseptic. - When working in ponds, waders and pond gloves must be worn.	- Regular reminders and training on hygiene and disease prevention.	Low
Varnish and Woodstain Exposure	All participants	Medium	Low	- Avoid skin and eye contact. - In case of eye contact, rinse immediately with plenty of water & seek medical advice. - Wear suitable gloves and eye protection (goggles). - If swallowed, seek immediate medical advice and do not induce vomiting. - Work in well-ventilated areas only. - Proper disposal of materials at hazardous waste collection points.	- Provide training on handling hazardous substances safely.	Low
Photography – Potential Invasion of Privacy	All participants	Medium	Low	- Participants informed in advance via information sheet that photographs will be taken. - Explicit consent obtained before taking photographs. - Participants advised on the intended use of images for publicity.	- Ensure consent forms are signed where required. - Provide opt-out option for individuals who do not wish to be photographed.	Low
Infectious diseases - risk of transmission	All participants	High	Low	- Group size is limited to 12 volunteers, 1 leader, and 1 assistant per gardening session. - Volunteers or staff must not attend if they feel unwell with an infectious illness such as flu, diarrhoea, or vomiting. - Volunteers or staff should remain at home until fully recovered; wait 48 hours after diarrhoea/vomiting and approximately 5 days after flu symptoms before returning. - Staff ensure hand hygiene is enforced: all participants wash hands or use sanitiser on arrival, after touching surfaces, and before leaving; sanitiser is available on-site at all times. - Each gardening volunteer is allocated individual tools; sharing is avoided where possible. Gardening volunteers may bring their own tools if in good condition. Tools and hands must not be cleaned in water tanks or butts. - If an area becomes crowded, staff will move volunteers to another location or end the session.	- Ensure regular communication with volunteers regarding any policy changes.	Low

Additional Notes:

This assessment complies with UK Health & Safety legislation, including:

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002

Risks will be reviewed dynamically throughout the activity, with additional control measures introduced as needed.

Incident reporting procedures are in place for any accidents or near-misses.

Volunteer Registration & Risk Acknowledgment

New and returning volunteers: Risk assessment will be reviewed with them upon joining.

Regular volunteers: Required to update personal details in **Salesforce**, read the risk assessment, and sign the **Volunteer Agreement** in Salesforce.

Corporate and micro-volunteers: Required to complete **Eventbrite registration** and read the **Information for Participants** sheet before attending.