Risk Assessment for Archaeological Excavation at Millhams

Company name: The Christchurch Antiquarians **Assessment carried out by: Mike Tizzard**

Date of next review: 1 May 2023 **Date assessment was carried out: 1 May 2022**

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to control the risks?	What further action do you need to take to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?	Done
Insect stings	All who are working on site or visiting may be stung by bees or wasps	Site briefing including notification of known bee hives and/ or wasp nests	Site activities away from location of hives or nests	Excavation director	Start of excavation season, and updated throughout season	
Tick bites	All working on or visiting site may pick up ticks which can be carriers if Lime's Disease	Site briefing of the hazard and information on tick removal if discovered	Site activities away from long grass where ticks may be prevalent	Excavation director	Start of excavation season, and updated throughout season	
Water-borne pathogens	Those undertaking activities on site may come in contact with river or ground water sources containing/ causing leptospirosis (Weil's Disease) or sewage contamination containing various pathogens	• Site briefing to identify sources • Provision of rubber gloves for site workers • Provision of antibacterial hand gels • Provision of first-aid materials to clean and cover minor cuts and grazes	Monitor condition of known foul water drains on site	Excavation director	Start of excavation season, and updated throughout season	

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Soil-borne pathogens e.g tetanus	Those working in contact with garden soil during excavation, soil sieving or finds cleaning may pick infections such as tetanus	• Site briefing to advise of the risks • Requiring volunteers carrying out tasks involving contact with soil to confirm that they have up-to-date tetanus protection	None identified			
Injuries caused by use of excavation tools	• Those using forks may injure themselves by penetrating footwear • Those using pickaxes/ mattocks may injure others in their vicinity by being unaware of their presence	• Site briefing on tool use for new volunteers working on site • Wearing safety footwear for excavation • Provide hard hats for those working in the vicinity of excavation activities	If necessary, maintaining a safety cordon in the neighbourhood of excavation activities	Excavation director		
Injuries caused by site clearance tools	Site clearance may involve use of bowsaws or sickles which can cause injury to the user if not handled correctly	• Site briefing on use of tools to new volunteers • Provision of rigger gloves for users of bowsaws	None identified	Excavation director		

Open excavations	• Those working on site may inadvertently fall into open pits • Those accessing the site without TCA's knowledge may fall into open excavations	• Site briefing to identify areas under excavation • Set up warning notices and taped exclusion zone when leaving site	None identified			
Items falling into excavations	Those working in the excavation may be injured by the falling object	• Provision of hard hats for those working in excavations • Site briefing on the importance of keeping heavy objects away from the edges of pits	Maintain vigilance during excavation activities	Excavation Director		
Stability of excavation	Those working in the excavation may be injured by collapse of the faces of the excavation *(continued below)*	• Monitor soil conditions to avoid deep excavations in sandy soil prone to collapse • Construct a stepped excavation where there is judged to be a risk of collapse • Ensure ready means of exiting the excavation is always available if	Assess soil conditions as excavation progresses	Excavation director		

		danger threatens • Ensure nobody works unattended in an excavation				
Natural hazards caused by falling branches from the trees growing on the edge of the site	Those working on the site, particularly during periods of high winds, may be injured by falling branches	Cease activities on site during periods of high wind	None identified			
Trip hazards caused by tools and other objects left around the site, particularly near pit edges	Those working on site or viewing activities on site	• Stack tools not being currently used – do not leave them lying on the ground • Site briefing to alert visitors/ volunteers on site that items may be left around pit edges for easy access by those working in the excavation	Maintain a tidy site	Excavation director		

Notes:

Please note that TCA is not able to provide a range of personally-sized items such as safety footwear and gloves and volunteers are expected to provide their own for use during the identified tasks. A small collection of hard hats and tabards is available on site for loan on a daily basis as required.

Based on a template published by the Health and Safety Executive 10/19

More information on managing risk: www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/risk/