

Wednesday Conservation Volunteers COVID 19 Guidance

The Group has successfully completed several workdays under the new arrangements required to comply with Government COVID 19 Requirements and Guidance and which have been revised from time to time since the middle of March.

WCV are proposing to continue under the revised Government guideline allowing up to 30 people to gather together outside but still ensuring 2 metre social distancing is maintained at all times except under special circumstances when 1 metre distancing with extra precautions is permitted.

WCV can now field a full team of volunteers as we did pre-COVID.

Members who have not yet attended may now feel able to participate and if so they are reminded that all WCV volunteers are required to follow the guidance below.

The purpose of these precautions is to keep all of us healthy by minimising the chance that anyone unwittingly either transmits the virus to or receives the virus from another member.

If a member disagrees with any of the guidance and wouldn't be happy to follow it then it's probably best for all if they don't attend at present.

1. Self Assessment of fitness to attend

Members must not attend a task day if:-

1) they have any of the following health conditions:-

- a loss of sense of taste or smell
- a high temperature
- a new and persistent cough

2) they fall into either of the following categories:-

- Have had contact in the past 14 days with a person confirmed as having COVID 19
- Have been identified by their GP/NHS as vulnerable and need to self isolate.

If during the task, any member begins to feel ill or develops any of the aforementioned health conditions, he should

- a) inform another member that they intend to leave the site immediately,
- b) show another member any tools they were using and are left for disinfecting by a remaining member
- c) leave site safely,
- d) if possible report back to the task leader at a later time on the progress of the symptoms prompting their departure so others in the task Group can be notified if necessary.

It is acknowledged that most of the WCV members are either in or approaching the category of being especially vulnerable to the COVID 19 virus and the seriousness of contracting the virus. If you are in any doubt as to your safety or you keeping others in the Group safe please 'stay at home'.

2. Car sharing, unloading/ loading parking.

Government guidance now allows car sharing but subject to strict conditions. The decision whether or not to carry a passenger in a vehicle travelling to or from a WCV workday is a decision for the vehicle owner/driver alone and it is their responsibility to observe the Government rules.

When parking and preparing to leave your car please take note of others nearby and allow time and space to ensure 2 metre social distancing.

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3. Food & Drink

There will be no central provision of biscuits or drink.

Volunteers to bring their own food and drink including cold drinking water.

There must be no sharing or "special treats"

4. Task Leaders briefing

The normal TL briefing will include a reminder of the COVID specific control measures required to be observed by the volunteers generally and for any specific work activities that day including the following:-

- Disposable face masks will be available to anyone who does not wish to bring their own and may be worn at the individual's discretion unless the TL instructs that they are mandatory for specific tasks or at particular times. Detailed instructions on the correct way to wear them will be given if requested
- Face visors will also be available for close working specific activities and must be thoroughly sanitised after use. Individuals may bring their own personal visor if preferred for general use.
- Normal working gloves to be worn throughout unless job is fiddly or involves swinging tools.
- Sanitising dispensers will be provided and should be used frequently especially before eating/ drinking and working without gloves
- There should be no hand shaking, patting on the back etc, keep 2 metres distance from each other
- Tools to be disinfected before and after use and before trailer storage. Do not swap or share others tools unless disinfected first
- Public access and casual visitors to the working site are not allowed and should be excluded
- Two man tasks such as heavy lifting, post driving and post hole excavation will be avoided unless critical to the progress of the work and an agreed method of work with any additional safety measure such as full face visors is to be agreed between the Task Leader and the volunteers
- Everyone to be responsible for enforcing the rules; the Task Leader may on his own decision ask a non compliant volunteer to stop work..

5. First Aid

Although many of the Group have First Aid training it is a personal decision for each person whether to help in an emergency prior to the arrival of the emergency services .

To reduce the risk of contamination to anyone choosing to assist, a small supply of disposable face masks, visors and sanitiser will be kept with the First Aid kit and Defibrillator for their exclusive use.