Surveying road hedges with a group of volunteers - Risk Assessment

nb ACT insurance covers Wildlife Wardens carrying out work specifically for wildlife where the owner of the site has given permission.
It covers Wildlife Wardens leading groups (including training and walks) who aren't Wildlife Wardens, **as long as they have taken** the Leading Volunteers Course. If you feel you have previous experience and use similar risk assessment methods, please talk to us beforehand.

Narrative and main points eg what you are doing, where and with whom.
Do you, or your organisation have insurance cover?

Task: Group survey of hedgerow plants on a quiet lane. Date and time: ……

Location: ……Grid ref/What3Words: ……..

Names of participants …….

Nearest landline at ……..Leader and participants to have working mobile phones

Access for emergency vehicles: via public highway from ……..

Insurance cover: ACT

Leader: …… Date ……

nb The Likelihood x Seriousness score should be 6 or under. If it is over 6 and no more than 12, then look for measures that will reduce the risk.
If it is over 12 then the task is too dangerous and needs to be completely re-thought.

Hazard (what might happen that hurts somebody?)	**Measures taken to prevent the problem**	**Likeli-hood 1-5**	**Serious-ness 1-5**	**L X S 6 or under acceptable.**
The task is in quiet single lane public highway: Risk of vehicles knocking down pedestrians – bruising, broken limbs, death.	Leader to include the following in the H&S talk: Identify off-road safety refugees and refreshment and gathering area. Work when traffic levels minimal and low speed. Stop task if higher than usual traffic levels, or if low visibility/ dawn or dusk. Work in pairs – one person responsible for alerting about passing traffic at all times All to wear high-vis tabards/vests	1	5	5

	All participants to have fully charged working mobiles and be aware of their location in case of emergency. Investigate possibility of carrying out task on field side.			
Vegetation: Thorny, sharp vegetation: causing puncture wounds, scratches, infection, eye injuries. Also poisonous plants causing irritation, skin rashes, poisoning	Participants to be warned to take care not to work close to thorny vegetation in particular blackthorn. Ask participants to bring garden gloves in case needed. Eye injuries require prompt attention - wash eye with water, ideally sterile water; medical attention to be sought if eye surface scratched or remains painful/red after 1hr. Participants reminded to clean hands before eating/ drinking. Participants to be made aware of plants that are irritants before task.	3	2	6
Insect bites and stings: swelling and irritation, **anaphylactic shock**	Participants to make leader aware before task if they have known allergic reaction and ifcarry adrenaline. Leader to call emergency services if anaphylaxis suspected or adrenaline administered.	2	3	6
Tick bites: irritation and swelling, **Lyme disease**	Avoid working in bracken/ long grass, if possible; wear long trousers and tuck into socks if enter long vegetation. All participants asked to check for ticks and remove if present after task, be aware of Lyme Disease symptoms and advised to go to GP immediately if have any related symptoms. https://lymediseaseuk.com/prevention/	1	4	4
Rough surfaces and ditches: **Falls, cuts, bruising**	Leader to check survey area before task and advise as needed. Not working on rough terrain	2	3	6
Dog faeces in roadside vegetation: **Contamination, infection**	Participants advised to make a visual check for faeces and avoid / remove with long stick.	1	3	3
Extreme weather: **Hypothermia / heatstroke**	Leader to postpone or stop task in extreme weather conditions. Leader to be responsive to individual needs at all times. Participants advised to wear appropriate clothing e,g. sunhats and bring own drinks and snacks.	1	4	4

Table 1c

Risk Score

LIKELIHOOD	CONSEQUENCE				
	1 Insignificant	2 Minor	3 Moderate	4 Major	5 Catastrophic
1 - Rare	1	2	3	4	5
2 - Unlikely	2	4	6	8	10
3 - Possible	3	6	9	12	15
4 - Likely	4	8	12	16	20
5 - Almost Certain	5	10	15	20	25