

This risk assessment relates only to the *generic* features of a common activity; it does not cover those *specific* to a location or group. It therefore must not be used without completing the local review, making additions as necessary to take account of local circumstances. However, such a local review need not be timeconsuming. Use the box at the bottom to create the local review, or add extra pages as necessary. **SEE ACCOMPANYING SAFETY NOTES**

ACTIVITY ASSESSED 2. USE OF VOLUNTEERS AGED 16-17 YEARS	ASSESSOR STEPHEN BOLSOVER	ASSESSMENT DATE 11 th May 2016
HAZARD potential for harm	RISK LEVEL	PRECAUTIONS to remove hazard or reduce risk level. One precaution may tackle several hazards.
There are no additional hazards for this group of volunteers, rather, they may be less likely to follow the safety procedures explained to the group and may be prone to act foolishly or show off while using dangerous equipment.	M	Volunteers in this age group should never be left working out of view of the warden. Unless circumstances make this impossible, each volunteer in the 16-17 year age group should work in a group with two or more adults, that is, adults should always outnumber 16-17 year olds. In the event that the only volunteers in a working party are 16-17 year olds, the warden should supervise them very closely, essentially doing no work themselves but simply supervising the volunteers.
RISKS AND PRECAUTIONS SPECIFIC TO THE SITE OR DAY ASSESSOR ASSESSMENT DATE APPLICABLE DATES (This is likely either to be one specific day, or “until further notice”.)		

Risk level: L = Low, M = Medium, H = High

ACTIVITY ASSESSED	ASSESSOR	ASSESSMENT DATE
2. VOLUNTEERS AGED 16-17 YEARS	STEPHEN BOLSOVER	11 th May 2016
RESTRICTIONS Volunteers in this age group should never be left working out of view of the warden.		
PREVENTATIVE MEASURES		
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT		
TRAINING		
MONITORING As noted above, volunteers in this age group should never be left working out of view of the warden, who should be even more observant for possible deviations from safe operating procedures than when supervising a group of adults.		
INFORMATION From “Who is allowed to volunteer” from “VolunteerEngland”, dated October 2008 (Volunteering England Information Service Email: Information@volunteeringengland.org Freephone Information Line: 0800 028 3304) People under the age of 18 are legally classed as vulnerable and organisations should take this into account when involving them as volunteers*. But, people over the age of 16 are free to undertake paid work, so your child protection measures should be stronger for the pre-16 age group and could arguably be less rigid for post-16s. A risk assessment needs to be made, in order to decide whether placing a young person in a volunteer role would put them, or the people with whom they were working, at risk. However, by adhering to some basic principles most organisations can involve young people in their work: • Young people should not be left unattended • It is safer if young volunteers are supervised by two or more adults • Any potentially dangerous activity should have constant adult supervision. It is a very good idea to obtain parental/guardian consent for volunteers under 16. When giving a consent form to a volunteer, also consider providing a volunteer role description and publicity leaflets for your organisation. This would help to ensure that the volunteer’s parent/guardian understands what your organisation does, what the young person will be doing, when and where they will be working and consents to this. If the volunteer will be working away from the premises where they normally volunteer, then additional permission should be sought. Parental responsibility extends to the age of 18, unless the person marries or is adopted before that age. In view of the fact that young people can seek paid employment from the age of 16, it may not be appropriate to obtain parental/guardian consent for volunteering at this age. Instead, volunteer co-ordinators could strongly encourage volunteers in this age group to discuss their activities with their parents or guardians and highlight that they can be a good source of support. Further information The Children's Legal Centre (CLC) Advice Line: 0845 120 2948 CLC “frequently asked question” and answer on parental responsibility: http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/Legal+Advice/Child+law/ParentalResponsibility/Whendoesparentalresponsibilityterminate.htm Volunteering England Good Practice Bank Includes a section on “Youth volunteering” http://www.volunteering.org.uk/goodpractice *John Hollingdale wrote on 24 th November 2009 “It seems clear from this afternoon's seminar that unless one of us has regular contact (at least once a month) with a vulnerable adult or a child then we do not have to register with this new body, the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA).” Only Stanmore Common has working parties or other events at this frequency. In the unlikely event that a young person aged 16 or 17 attends three monthly working parties or other events in a row we should act to make sure this cannot be considered as falling within the remit of the ISA legislation by varying the warden who leads the working parties.		

Risk level: L = Low, M = Medium, H = High