

Advice for Contact with Flora and Fauna

Caution should be applied when coming into contact with flora and fauna. If you experience any of the symptoms mentioned below consult your GP immediately. Also let your line manager know ASAP, as they may need to make a report in the accident book and it may need to be reported under RIDDOR.

Type	Explanation	Exposure	Precautions	Symptoms
Lyme Disease	The bacteria is transmitted to humans by the bite of some ticks associated with sheep and deer.	On any bare skin	Include wearing long trousers tucked into socks, checking for ticks regularly and especially at end of day.	Sometimes includes a mild rash developing into a pink ring 2-3cm across accompanied by fever, malaise, swollen glands and possibly neurological or cardiac problems. The use of a tick pen is recommended. Please dispose of after use to avoid blood contamination. Symptoms may be delayed in appearing.
Weil's Disease	The leptospira organism is found in wetland environments and human infection is caused by exposure to the urine of host animals such as cattle and rats.	Through nose, mouth, eyes or cuts	Include washing exposed skin after contact with animals, avoiding rubbing face when working near water and covering wounds.	Jaundice, conjunctivitis and renal failure, severe headache, flu like symptoms and meningitis.
Toxicaria	This small parasite is common in dog faeces.	By ingestion	Include washing hands after contact with dogs, wearing gloves in high risk areas and full face mask and visor when using brushcutter.	Include fever, coughing and wheeziness.
Blue green algae	These are naturally occurring in inland waters and during certain conditions they can cause a green scum containing toxins released by the algae.	By ingestion	Include avoiding all contact with affected water bodies, washing hands after contact with water bodies.	Include skin rashes, eye irritation, vomiting and diarrhoea.
Bracken	Inhalation of spores plants (containing potential carcinogens) produced when plant is actively growing when cutting using powered equipment may be harmful.	By inhalation	Include cover exposed skin, wear nitrile gloves and when using a brushcutter use a face mask.	
Dead animals	The principle concern is the transmission of infections such as leptospirosis, ringworm.		Include avoid handling if at all possible, use gloves and wash hands immediately after contact, do not touch soft animal tissue, place directly in strong plastic bag if it needs laboratory examination.	
Insect bites and stings, including Wasps and mosquitos	Most bites and stings can be treated by washing the affected area with soap and water and placing a cold compress over the area to reduce swelling. Try not to scratch. See your GP if you have a lot of swelling and blistering, or if there is pus, which indicates an infection. Call 999 and ask for an ambulance if you experience any of these symptoms following a bite or sting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wheezing or difficulty breathing • nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea • a fast heart rate • dizziness or feeling faint • difficulty swallowing • confusion, anxiety or agitation 			
Aggressive dogs	If you are confronted by an aggressive dog do not run away; drop anything you are holding; do not shout or wave your arms; calmly give a command to sit or stay; avoid smiling and eye contact as this is seen as an act of aggression and clench your hands to protect fingers; ignore the dog if it jumps up at you as it may see this as a game; stay still and the dog may get bored; if you are knocked to the ground, remain motionless and protect your face. If bitten do not struggle as this will result in torn wounds. After an attack seek medical attention.			
Blackthorn	This plant frequently causes septic wounds when thorns break off in the skin. You should wear protective gloves, safety footwear and if appropriate eye protection. Ensure all thorns are removed and if necessary seek medical assistance.			
Adder	If bitten by an adder treat as follows: Keep casualty calm and still, Do not treat bite, Keep bite below heart level. Seek medical help immediately.			
Tetanus	This may result from infection of even minor cuts with Clostridium tetani, a common micro-organism in soil. Inoculation is recommended for all field workers.			