



Station adoption safety briefing

The aim of this safety briefing is to enable our station adopters and volunteers to enjoy the difference they make to our stations in a safe manner.

Getting you started

As a volunteer you will have an induction which will normally be carried out by your team leader and will as a minimum comprise information on:

- the specific location you are volunteering at
- general control measures which will keep you and others safe when completing works on stations
- control measures specific to the location for keeping you and others safe
- signing in process at our staffed locations. You will be required to sign in and out on each visit to comply with our emergency evacuation process
- personal protective equipment - you will be given a high visibility vest to be worn at all times and we ask you to ensure you wear suitable non-slip footwear and appropriate clothing/gloves for the particular season. Always bring appropriate hot or cold fluids to remain hydrated whilst volunteering
- all of our locations are different and you may be asked to work at more than one location. If it is unstaffed you may use the Help Point to contact Northern to advise of start and finishing times. Should there be no Help Point then contact your Regional Community and Sustainability manager
- please report any signs of trespass, vandalism or erratic customer behaviour. Your quick thinking may prevent a suicide or anti-social behaviour.





Key rules to follow

- never go on or anywhere near the railways lines
- always remain at least 1.25 metres or 4 feet away from the platform edge whilst carrying out tasks
- never be under the influence of drink or drugs while carrying out any volunteering on the railway
- if you are taking prescribed medication please declare this to your lead volunteer or your Northern contact who can advise you or seek advice for you
- only use the authorised access route, close any boundary gate and lock it when you leave
- please remember electricity is always live and you must not carry any item that may come within 2.75 metres or nine feet from the overhead lines. These lines carry 25000 volts
- do not carry out any digging unless you have been told underground cables are absent
- if you feel any of your actions may put yourself or others in danger then don't carry them out until it is safe to do so.



Accidents can happen

The main concern of Northern will not be to apportion blame but to ensure we have the details of how the accident happened and the extent of the injuries sustained. The local station manager has access to accident forms and will carry out an investigation if necessary to ensure we can put measures in place to prevent recurrence.

Your lead volunteer should have access to a basic first aid kit and be in possession of a mobile phone to call for assistance, this is especially relevant at unstaffed remote locations and this should be reflected in the simple risk assessment.

Our environment is your environment

Please ensure any water carried in cans and buckets is used sparingly and avoid hose pipes at all times, these create tripping hazards and do not regulate the amount of water used. They are also a burden upon the sustainability of that source of energy.

Avoid the burning of waste materials and the potential for excessive noise which may affect our neighbours. Please report any fly tipping or other environmental concerns including unauthorised car parking use to your Northern local manager. Your actions could be vital in avoiding escalating risk to our locations and car parking areas.

Looking after yourself and others

To protect yourself and the customers and colleagues of Northern we ask you to refrain from using solvents or chemicals on our stations unless this is with the prior written agreement of the station manager and is reflected in the local risk assessment.

Please be aware that slips, trips and falls are the number one cause of accidents on railway stations and we need you to think of others and ensure you have a tidy confined workspace free of tripping hazards at all times.

Your personal safety and security is important to Northern and would ask that all lone working is avoided by volunteers. You must be prepared to act under instruction from railway officials at all times and report any suspicious activities through the Crime Stoppers text facility or other means of communication as advised on local briefing.

Please remember not all trains are booked to stop at the location where you are volunteering. Express and freight trains can and should be expected at all times. You should be prepared by raising one arm, acknowledge the train horn and the local assessment may require a look out person.

Safety and sustainability summary

Working at height should be avoided at all times. If the local manager is in agreement concerning a specific task this must be risk assessed and signed as adequate by that manager.

Power tools are to be treated in the same way and in risk assessed circumstances. All other tools used by the volunteers should be hand held and manual in operation.

Manual handling is simple and straight forward, so assess the load and share the load, always remember it is better to make an extra journey than pull a muscle.

Bio-diversity is often overlooked at our stations but we do have locations with species of snake, adders are quite common in areas around the mid Cumbrian coast line. Nesting birds, crested newts and bats are also species we all need to be aware of the statutory legal protection and please report any sightings and take advice from Northern before commencing any work.



Risk assessment

The following table illustrates some common hazards that you may face when working on Northern stations. In the table you'll also see control measures which you should adhere to in order to protect yourself and others from the hazards. Columns A to E show what could happen (Hazard), who might be involved, how that hazard might occur, how likely that is to happen if you do nothing and how severe it could be for someone if it happened. Column F shows what you could do about it to prevent the hazard arising and column G shows how likely it is to happen with those actions taken.

The table is not exhaustive and there may be other hazards, specific to the location on which you are working, which you may need to consider. These should be done on Appendix A at the end of this document.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Hazards	Who may be harmed?	Causation	Likelihood	Severity	Control Measures	Ranking L/M/H
Slips Trips Falls Our most common form of accident!	Volunteers	Uneven ground. New platform area at location. Untidy work area.	Low	Low	Appropriate non-slip footwear to be worn. No work to take place when frost is forecast or evident. Site method of work to be briefed and handbook information/instruction available for volunteers.	Low
	Customers	Trip hazards caused by stray tools on platforms	Low	Low	Work area confined to planters Completed work checked for hazards to customers on completion of each task	Low
Falling from height. Working from ladders must be avoided on every occasion.	Volunteers	Falls from raised planted areas or from the platform edge to track	Low	Low	Volunteer handbook states no work or walking near the platform edge. Work on planting in raised areas/embankments must be carried out with care and within an individual's capability.	Low
Danger from trains and track (won't apply e.g. next to the car park or outside the fence)	Volunteers	By straying onto track or slipping from platform edge onto line side.	Low	High	Northern safety briefings Volunteers will only go into the work area or authorised access route designated for the scheme by Northern. Volunteers will work facing the platform edge whenever within 2.5metres of it. Wearing high visibility vests.	Residual risk Medium
	General public	Reduced platform width by error.	Low	Medium	Minimum platform width to be maintained at all times. Clear warning signs around work area by volunteers.	Medium
Injury from hand gardening tools (applies to most schemes)	Volunteers	Improper use, cutting or striking	Low	Low	Safety gloves worn when using tools. User and others will regularly check everyone is clear of the arc of movement.	Low
Danger from road traffic (could include cars entering or leaving stations)	Volunteers	People not seeing cars; drivers not seeing volunteers	Medium	High	Volunteers will wear 'high visibility' tabards when working on the scheme Lead Volunteer will remind people of traffic hazard before work starts	Low

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Hazards	Who may be harmed?	Causation	Likelihood	Severity	Control Measures	Ranking L/M/H
Hazardous rubbish (hypodermic needles, broken glass, human waste, other infectious waste)	Volunteers	Cuts and punctures to skin and infections to existing cuts.	Medium	High	Appropriate gloves and non-slip sturdy footwear Litter pickers used. Safety boots or walking boots worn. Check for hypodermics before entering undergrowth or moving rubbish. Hypodermics or human waste identified dealt with by Northern staff or Local Authority Environmental Health using 'sharps' containers or specialist equipment as appropriate. Supply of water and soap available for hand washing.	Residual Risk if control measures are followed Medium
Injury from strimmer, motor mower or power tools must be with written agreement with northern rail and assessed separately.	Volunteers and potential customer impact	Falls from raised planted areas or from the platform edge to track			Motor/power tools only used if agreed in advance by Northern and assessed as a specific task.	



Station:		Insert Station name, Station Manager name and phone number	
Name of group			
Team leader			
Contact details		Phone:	
Contact(s) compiling this risk assessment			
Staffed station Y/N	Example - Thatto Heath is staffed first train to last and a signing in facility and basic first aid kit are available on site.		
Area(s) of the station where you will working	Example - The newly acquired pots which have been procured from Merseytravel and secured into the concrete platform on the Liverpool bound side only. We will also carry out some weeding on the embankment at the rear of the platform.		
Description of Scheme including who will take part, how many people will be on site at any one time and how you will get access.	<p>Example - The group will consist of three individuals one to act as a lookout and will stand in front of the platform office to warn the two planters of any trains coming in the direction of travel from St Helens.</p> <p>The team will gain access from the main road down to the platform from the slope which is step free and within the lease of the northern location.</p> <p>We will bring the flowers and grow bags from our car which will require a permit from the booking office and transport to the platform on our four wheeled manually operated trolley.</p> <p>We will keep the trolley and contents in a safe area four metres away from the platform edge and in sight of the lookout at all times. The planters will take whatever is required for the task in small easy to carry batches to contain manual handling to a minimum.</p>		
Will young people (under the age of 18) or people with special needs be involved? If so, how will you provide support and supervision?	<p>Example - One of our volunteer group is wheelchair bound and this work allows Shelia to give something back to her community, it is where she grew up and used to catch the train to work from. Shelia will only be doing the planting of flowers in the tubs. The distance from the tubs to platform edge is 3.5 metres and the lookout is a secondary control measure. The initial control measure is the wheelchair will have the brake applied at all times.</p>		

You should now complete the opposite table for the works to take place at the station. You are only assessing the risks additional to those general hazards found in the table above. Should you require any assistance or guidance on the completion of the table then please contact your Community and Sustainability Manager.

Station:		Insert Station name, Station Manager name and phone number	
Name of group			
Team leader			
Contact details		Phone:	
Contact(s) compiling this risk assessment			
Staffed station Y/N			
Area(s) of the station where you will working			
Description of Scheme including who will take part, how many people will be on site at any one time and how you will get access.			
Will young people (under the age of 18) or people with special needs be involved? If so, how will you provide support and supervision?			

