

LIZARD NNR RISK ASSESSMENT – LIVESTOCK AND PUBLIC ACCESS

Notes (eg mandatory safety precautions)

Grazing animals on the Lizard NNR

The Lizard National Nature Reserve is a complex of heathland and coastal grassland sites. Grazing is an essential tool used to deliver a rougher, tussocky sward that favours the SSSI notified features of the reserve.

Several graziers, under agreement with Natural England, graze the site with a combination of cattle and/or hardy ponies. Certain breeds of cattle and ponies are better suited in their temperament and physical hardiness to rough ground and/or coastal areas. These attributes should be taken into consideration when choosing appropriate animals. Breeding cattle pose the greatest risk. Cows with calves less than 3 weeks old and dairy bulls are much more likely to become aggressive than other animals and should not graze areas with public access.

Levels of public access where cattle and/or ponies are Grazed on the Lizard NNR

The Lizard National Nature Reserve is almost wholly comprised of Open Access land under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Inland, there are relatively few Public Rights of Way or permissive routes and visitor numbers range from very low to moderate in these rougher, heathland areas. By contrast, the South West Coast Path attracts high numbers of local and tourist visitors, all year round. Of these highly-visited, coastal areas, Natural England manage:

- Mullion Cliff
- Predannack Cliff
- Kynance Cliffs
- Kennack Sands

We expect the greatest levels of risk to arise when the likelihood for livestock/people interactions is the highest. This will inevitably be along the South West Coastal footpath during spring and summer months and school holidays.

	<p>Contact details for relevant NNR staff: Lizard NNR office: 01326 240 808 Lead Advisor, Naomi Stratton: 07901 116 265 Reserve Manager, Steve Townsend: 07973 542 257 Reserve Warden, Duncan Lyne: 07973 542 225</p> <p>A site specific map is attached. This map details the terrain, types of public access, infrastructure and any site specific risks.</p> <p>Further guidance for livestock keepers with public access land can be found via the Health and Safety Executive http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais17ew.pdf</p>		
What are the hazards common to all?	Who might be harmed and how?	What precautions are you already taking?	What additional local precautions are required?
<p>Livestock charging and/or trampling a member of the public:</p> <p>Public entering areas they are not permitted including fields and handling pens.</p>	<p>Public</p> <p>Injuries ranging from bruises to shock to severe internal injuries and death.</p>	<p>Handling pens and fields without public access are fenced and gated to prevent the public from entering.</p> <p>Fences and gates are routinely inspected to ensure they are fit for purpose as part of the Reserve's land based inspection program.</p>	<p>Ensure the entrance gates and fences are routinely checked and kept in working order.</p>
<p>Livestock charging and/or trampling a member of the public:</p> <p>In a public access area - general</p>	<p>Public, staff and volunteers</p>	<p>Breeds utilised are regarded as calm, docile and that are adapted to rough ground and exposed sites. Individual animals are specifically 'vetted' by the grazier. Any animals showing signs of aggression, significant illness</p>	<p>Natural England will use the NNR Facebook page to help inform visitors of the presence of livestock.</p> <p>Carry our periodic checks to ensure temporary electric fencing is working.</p>

	<p>Injuries ranging from bruises to shock to severe internal injuries and death.</p>	<p>or injury will be immediately removed from the site by the grazier.</p> <p>No dairy bulls are allowed on site. Where beef bulls are present on site, they must be accompanied by cows or heifers, and be of a calm temperament.</p> <p>No calving cows or calves under 4 weeks old are present in areas with public access. Cows and their calves must be assessed by the grazier before they go out on site.</p> <p>Signs are used at main access points to alert visitors to the presence of livestock. Information includes type of livestock, timings of grazing periods and any additional guidance.</p> <p>Placement of water troughs and any supplementary feeding is kept away from PRowS, gates and other popular visitor areas. See map in annex for locations of all troughs and feeding areas.</p> <p>Natural England will annually review fences, gates and stiles to ensure they are fit for purpose. The grazier is responsible for regular checks and maintenance.</p> <p>Livestock handling facilities, either mobile or permanent, must be available and animals can be safely moved to them.</p>	<p>Relocate any feed or water troughs that have been identified as being too close to known used access routes.</p>
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		Any livestock related H&S incidents reported to Natural England will be identified as near hits with a subsequent H&S investigation.	
<p>Livestock charging and/or trampling a member of the public:</p> <p>In a public access area – livestock aggravated by the presence of dogs</p>	<p>Public and their dogs</p> <p>Injuries ranging from bruises to shock to severe internal injuries and death.</p>	<p>Signs are used at main access points to alert visitors to the presence of livestock, including information on grazing periods. Signs state that dogs should be kept under control to prevent aggravating the livestock.</p> <p>Any livestock related H&S incidents reported to Natural England will be identified as near hits with a subsequent H&S investigation.</p>	<p>Natural England will use the NNR Facebook page to help inform visitors of the presence of livestock and provide guidance on best practice for dog walkers.</p>
<p>Livestock charging and/or trampling a member of the public</p> <p>Unpredictability or change in behaviour</p>	<p>Public</p> <p>Injuries ranging from bruises to shock to severe internal injuries and death.</p>	<p>In addition to the precautions listed above:</p> <p>The grazier will ensure animals are routinely checked. The checks are detailed observations that will identify potential signs of injury. Animals with minor ailments will be monitored closely for signs of conditions worsening.</p> <p>Animals that are showing likely unpredictability in behaviour must be moved away from public access land immediately. In cases when this cannot be done, the grazier must notify local NNR staff.</p>	

<p>Weather changing movement patterns or causing livestock stress through ground conditions or reduced forage</p>	<p>Public, staff, and volunteers.</p> <p>Injuries ranging from bruises to shock to severe internal injuries and death.</p>	<p>Livestock should be moved out of compartments that may be at risk of flooding during very wet weather, or have restricted forage (e.g. lack of browse) during severe weather or prolonged/ hard winters.</p> <p>Where compartments may have restricted access to natural water in prolonged dry spells the animals should be moved or water should be provided.</p>	<p>Water bowsers may be needed temporarily on sites with restricted water during dry spells.</p>
<p>Damaged grazing infrastructure leading to livestock escaping</p>	<p>Public, staff, and volunteers.</p> <p>Injuries ranging from bruises to shock to severe internal injuries and death.</p>	<p>Fences, gates, stiles, etc. are checked by NE Reserve's land based inspection program to ensure they are fit for purpose each year. Any defects in existing fencing or weak sections of the boundary hedge banks that are identified are prioritised and rectified through reactive work.</p> <p>Graziers are responsible for checking and maintaining infrastructure whilst animals are on site.</p> <p>Natural England is responsible for erecting and maintaining temporary electrified stock fencing used near to public rights of way. These fences require warning signs located at suitable intervals along its length – generally 50 to 100m apart.</p>	<p>Ensure land based inspections are kept up to date and carried out before grazing commences each season.</p> <p>Carry our periodic checks to ensure temporary electric fencing is working.</p>

What are the hazards specific to your site/ staff/ equipment?	Who might be harmed and how?	What precautions are you already taking?	What additional local precautions are required?
<p>Livestock grazing coastal sites with narrow access and steep terrain</p>	<p>Visitors</p> <p>Muscular/ skeletal injury – falling, kicking, crushing, trampling leading to broken bones and other crush type injuries and potentially death.</p>	<p>Livestock of a calm temperament and within a herd with familiarity of the site, or of similar terrain, are used.</p> <p>No bulls, calving cows or calves under 4 weeks old are present on these sections.</p> <p>Compartments containing narrow coastal sections are not to be grazed during peak visitor months (April – September) and must be large enough to ensure animals can freely roam away from the public.</p>	<p>See site maps for details on which areas should not be restricted into smaller, temporary enclosures.</p>
<p>Electric fencing changing movement patterns and creating funnels / traps</p>	<p>Visitors</p> <p>Muscular/ skeletal injury - kicking, crushing, trampling leading to broken bones and other crush type injuries and potentially death.</p>	<p>Consider the layout of the site when erecting fences, including electric fences and invisible enclosures to avoid animals becoming ‘funnelled’ into dead-ends by visitors.</p> <p>When using invisible fencing, ensure that animals have been trained and that suitable individuals are selected before being brought onto site. On-site training is also needed by using temporary visible queues or by tracing existing visible features e.g. tree lines.</p>	<p>Each grazing unit is to be regularly reviewed, taking into consideration the site layout, habitat/terrain type, public user-type and the timing of grazing regimes.</p>

<p>Livestock grazing Common Land, encountering road users of the byways that intersect grazing compartments</p>	<p>Visitors, especially motorists and cyclists, coming into collision with animals.</p> <p>Muscular/ skeletal injury - kicking, crushing, trampling leading to broken bones and other crush type injuries and potentially death.</p>	<p>The cattle grids and standard livestock road signs show that road users are entering a Common where there may be free ranging livestock.</p> <p>Vegetation along roadsides is cut back to maintain a clear line of site for road users and eliminate cover for sheltering animals on a road edge.</p>	
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