

CVF Coronavirus COVID-19 Notice

In the light of recent changes to regulations, from 12 April 2021 until further notice we are cautiously resuming running small outdoor working parties.

These provide real benefits to both the natural environment and the physical and mental health of participants, but in view of the ongoing threat posed by the risk of viral transmission through close person to person contact please note the following:-

- CVF Working Parties will follow the government guidelines for organisers of volunteering activities¹, and for organisers of ‘grassroots sports and outdoor physical activity’²³ All CVF working parties are covered by a risk assessment and CVF’s public liability insurance.
- You should not participate in a working party if you, or anyone you have recently been in close contact with, has recently exhibited covid-like symptoms: These include a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, and a loss of, or change to your sense of smell or taste.
- Working parties will include the following measures to limit the risk from COVID-19:
 - limiting the numbers of participants to the necessary minimum to safely and effectively carry out the task; participants should work >2m apart unless a closer approach is essential (eg for safety reasons) in which case face coverings should be worn, socialising (eg during breaks) is allowed, but in separate and distinct groups of no more than 6.
 - to reduce the risk of transmission from contaminated surfaces, participants should bring and wear gloves and bring their own equipment where possible, including face coverings; hands should be washed or sanitised before, after and at regular intervals during the working party; any shared CVF equipment should be cleaned by participants before use, and will be quarantined for at least a day between working parties; Participants should bring their own refreshments and water bottles, which ideally should be clearly identifiable, and must not be shared with anyone other than your household.
 - all participants will be registered, and are asked to notify us at info@camvalleyforum.uk immediately if they develop symptoms after the working party, so we can notify the other participants.
- We urge anyone who is classified as “clinically vulnerable” or who has been “shielding” to consider very carefully whether your participation is worth the increased risk to your health.

In addition to our working parties;

- We will continue our monitoring and campaigning activities and so **welcome** being alerted to River Cam related issues and to any of your observations of INNS (Invasive, Non-Native Species) such as Floating Pennywort or Himalayan Balsam. e-mail: info@camvalleyforum.uk We will continue to maintain a log of observations of INNS on our website, and identify hotspots where individual action would be useful. <https://camvalleyforum.uk/>
- We shall of course continue our occasional **newsletter** *Cam Valley Matters*, edited by David Brooks. Please do send us your River news. e-mail: info@camvalleyforum.uk
- We encourage all our members and supporters to remain engaged with the natural environment to the extent that it is permitted.
- However, irrespective of the dangers of COVID-19, rivers and watercourses are dangerous, particularly if you are on your own. If you wish to carry out conservation work, we strongly advise you to carry out your own risk assessment before starting work. For the avoidance of doubt, note that you will **not** be covered by CVF insurance during these self-organised outings.

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¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/enabling-safe-and-effective-volunteering-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

² <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-grassroots-sports-guidance-for-the-public-and-sport-providers>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-grassroots-sports-guidance-for-safe-provision-including-team-sport-contact-combat-sport-and-organised-sport-events>