

Policy for Gazen Salts Nature Reserve

- Voluntary organisations and volunteers have a duty of care towards each other and towards any others who may be affected by their activities
- It is good practice for Gazen Salts Nature Reserve SNR to make a statement of general policy for Health and Safety for various volunteer and visitor activities, especially where there is obvious risk of harm, e.g. using machinery, cutting tools, ladders, or working with or encountering potentially toxic plants or substances
- Gazen Salts Nature Reserve (GSRN) takes the safety of volunteers and visitors very seriously
- Volunteers are responsible for their own safety, taking account of the content of this policy and the advice or guidance of the Task Leader
- Leaders of visiting groups must carry out their own detailed Risk Assessments (RAs) in advance of the organised visit. GSRN will not provide such RAs as each visiting group has its own needs, aims and requirements
- First Aid Kits are available in the Nissen Hut Tool store. GSRN may opt to keep a record of more significant injuries or harm in an 'Accident Book'
- Training for First Aid, the administering of medical treatments or equipment, or other relevant Health or Safety training, will be sourced and offered on a needs-must basis
- Task Leaders must: Listen to any health and safety concerns raised by volunteers or visitors. Take appropriate action to minimise the adverse health effects of any part of the Reserve or any work in progress, consistent with the conservation aims of the Reserve
- Volunteers should not engage in solo working
- Volunteers are encouraged to carry a mobile phone while on the Reserve
- Volunteers should seek instruction before embarking on any task or using any equipment with which they are unfamiliar
- Volunteers using power tools or power cutting equipment should always work in partnership with a second volunteer
- Tools and equipment are to be maintained in good working order. A volunteer finding any equipment falling below the standard of good working order should report this to the Task Leader, who should remove the equipment for further attention or repair
- The Nissen Hut tool store is to be monitored regularly by DDC to ensure it remains in a safe state (see separate Asbestos Survey Report 2023, Dover District Council)

The overall and final responsibility for Health and Safety rests with the Chair and Trustees of Gazen Salts Nature Reserve.

This policy will be reviewed October 2025

Approved at Trustees' Committee Meeting, 21st November 2024