



# Fall incident in overgrown area

No 467

September 2025



## Incident Description

While accessing a survey area over a field, a colleague fell into a ditch that was not noticeable due to dense vegetation. The ditch was relatively shallow and contained water. Minor bruising was sustained as well as a cut finger.

## Recommendations

To prevent similar incidents when carrying out inspections of ancillary items such as culverts or gullies, the use of walking poles is recommended: Colleagues should use walking poles to assist with stability and to probe the ground ahead for hidden hazards, such as ditches or uneven terrain.

Risk assessments should specifically account for potential hidden hazards in overgrown areas.

A 2-pack set of lightweight collapsible hiking sticks are available for order through Greenham.



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Safety



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