

Appendix V: Health and safety and ethical considerations for Gordano Valley research

Fieldwork health & safety procedures

Fieldwork safety was addressed prior to field data collection in accordance with the recommendations set out in Jones *et al.* (1999). Risk assessments required by the university and landowners were completed prior to the commencement of fieldwork and the appropriate people were notified on each occasion that fieldwork was carried out. A mobile phone and first aid kit were always carried, and due regard was given to forecast weather conditions.

Laboratory health & safety procedures

Risk assessments were carried out prior to commencement of each laboratory procedure and risk assessment forms completed as necessary. Control of Substances Hazardous to Health safety data sheets were checked prior to use of chemicals and associated risks assessed. Personal protective equipment was worn as required.

Fieldwork ethical procedures

Permission to enter private property was secured prior to the commencement of fieldwork. When work was carried out on wildlife reserves, consideration had to be given to wildlife, particularly during bird breeding seasons as this was the *raison d'être* for the reserves. Requests from landowners to stay away from the site during these periods were acceded to. The site was also used for cattle grazing, and was closed to public access during outbreaks of foot and mouth disease in autumn 2007. No field work was carried out during this period.