

RISK ASSESSMENT
Beck and Pond Work

Risk assessment: Pond and River Work

Date: 11th November 2024

Reviewed by: Maria Gill

Approved by: Jonathan Dent

RISK ASSESSMENT Beck and Pond Work

Hazards	Risks	Who might be harmed	Risk level	Control measure already in use	Effectiveness of those control measures
Deep or fast flowing water	- Drowning	Staff Volunteers Public	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chest waders must be worn for water above mid-thigh and below waist height - Never work alone in water - Ensure that there is always someone on the banks to act in the event of an emergency - Have ropes, poles, lifebelts readily at hand to avoid others having to enter the water - Have mobile phone to call emergency services - Still water over waist deep or fast flowing water above knee height must not be worked in 	Medium
Infection	- Weil's disease	Staff Volunteers Public	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not enter water if have broken skin - Wash hands with antibacterial soap after contact with water - Wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking - Follow procedure for Weil's disease i.e. inform doctor of working in water if any illness occurs - Warn public of risk and personal responsibility 	High

RISK ASSESSMENT Beck and Pond Work

Underwater hazards	- Trips, slips, falls	Staff Volunteers Public	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Survey area for unseen / submerged hazards at start, probe with pole to find soft or deep spots or debris - Use corrugated iron 'duckboards' to prevent sinking into mud - Move carefully and slowly around and in water, do not rush - Wear sturdy footwear with sole and toe protection - Wear sturdy rubber gloves - Use safe access points to water, avoid steep banks - Beware of sharp currents - Carry grab lines / ropes 	Medium
Manual handling Lifting or moving heavy objects or objects that are difficult to grasp	- Back pain and damage in other muscles	Staff Volunteers	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Instruct on and monitor safe manual handling techniques, using legs and arms not back to lift pull or push - Use several people to move heavy or awkward items - Do not allow public to lift or move heavy objects 	High
Polluted water	- Exposure to harmful substances	Staff Volunteers	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Look for evidence of pollution (froth on surface, petrol etc) - If in doubt, do not enter water - If hazardous substances are found, stop work and report to Environment Agency - NO public to enter water in this instance 	Medium

RISK ASSESSMENT Beck and Pond Work

Dead animals	- Infection	Staff Volunteers	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only touch when absolutely necessary and with extreme caution - Wear rubber gauntlets - Wash hands and arms immediately afterwards with anti-bacterial soap - Disinfect protective clothing that may have come into contact with the corpse - Inform Environment Agency or equivalent before disposing of the corpse - No public access in this instance 	High
Chest waders	- Entrapment	Staff Volunteers	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All wearers of chest waders to have instruction in how to get out of them before using them - No public to use chest waders. Restrict to slow flowing, low water levels or no access 	High

Reviewed: 11th November 2024 (Maria Gill, Green Corridors Officer).