

RISK ASSESSMENT

Surveying in or Near Water

Risk assessment: Surveying in or Near Water

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Hazards	Risks	Who might be harmed	Risk level	Control measure already in use	Effectiveness of those control measures
Falling into water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drowning - Hypothermia 	Staff Volunteers Public	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants to be warned of close proximity of water before survey begins - Assess the area for trip hazards before survey work takes place - Ensure everyone is aware of where edge of the bank or water is as this is not always easily seen if bank is highly vegetated - Never work alone near the water - Have ropes, poles, lifebelts readily at hand to avoid others having to enter the water if someone falls in - Have mobile phone to call emergency services 	Medium
Deep or fast flowing water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drowning 	Staff Volunteers Public	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If entering water, 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weil's disease - Other water borne diseases 	Staff Volunteers	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not enter or touch water if have exposed broken skin 	High

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		Public		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 - Do not touch rat droppings - Use gloves if collecting water vole droppings or rafts - Use gloves when sorting kick samples - Warn volunteers of risk and personal responsibility 	
Underwater hazards (if entering the water)	- 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 - Select safe area to perform kick sample; level, stable area of substrate - Beware of sharp currents - Carry grab lines / ropes 	Medium
Bankside hazards	-Trips, slips, falls	Staff Volunteers Public	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Locate bankside survey equipment on flat surface away from any footpaths -Keep access point to and from water clear 	High
Tools: Mallet (banging in small stakes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bruises and other personal injury - Damage to tool 	Staff Volunteers	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No gloves - Keep 2 tool lengths away from others 	High

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure the head is securely fitted to the shaft - Store in designated place - Clean and check before and after use 	
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
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
Adverse weather – extremes of hot, cold, wet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sun stroke/hypothermia - Slipping on wet floor 	Staff Volunteers Public	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People to come prepared with waterproofs, sunscreen, hats, umbrellas or warm clothes - wear appropriate (gripped) footwear in wet conditions 	High

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				-All staff & volunteers will look out for anyone showing signs of being affected by the weather. Seek first aid if signs severe.	
<u>Contact with plants</u> Nettles Brambles Hemlock <i>Giant hogweed</i> <i>Japanese knotweed</i>	- Poisoning - Blistering - Irritation - Scratches - Splinters - Nettle stings - Toxins in plant are harmful to humans - Eye injuries	Staff Volunteers Public	Moderate	- Identify presence and location of hazardous plants - Plan work to avoid contact with hazardous plants - Identification of plants provided for all participants - Information provided about the identified risks - Wear protective thick long sleeves and trousers when working close to nettles or brambles - Wear protective gloves - Wash exposed skin thoroughly in warm soapy water, rinse and dry after any skin contact and before eating, drinking or smoking - Dispose of plant debris carefully - Do not touch poisonous plants like hemlock or giant hogweed under any circumstances - To reduce the spread of Japanese knotweed participants should not handle it where possible.	High



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