

## RISK ASSESSMENT Beck and Pond Work

**Risk assessment: Pond and River Work**

Date: 24th November 2025

Reviewed by: Maria Gill

Approved by: Jonathan Dent

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

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

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

Reviewed: 24<sup>h</sup> November 2025 (Maria Gill, Green Corridors Officer).