



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 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------------|--|---|
| 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 |

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| 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 - Where possible, use boards 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 |

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| 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: 24th November 2025 (Maria Gill, Green Corridors Officer).