

RISK ASSESSMENT	Working in or near water
LOCATION	Multiple sites across Basingstoke

Assessment of hazards associated with working in or near water. To be used in conjunction with site and task risk assessments.




HAZARD	POTENTIAL HARM	PERSON(S) AT RISK	PRECAUTIONS & CONTROL MEASURES	LIKELIHOOD OF OCCURRENCE	HAZARD SEVERITY	RISK FACTOR	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE
General emergency	Injury	Supervisor Participant Public	Supervisors to be aware of nearest Accident and Emergency hospital; A first aid kit must be on site at all times; A mobile phone should be available at all times (if no/poor signal, all supervisors should know the location of the nearest landline); A safety plan should be completed for all sessions; All incidents and near misses to be recorded in an accident book and reported to BDBC	1	4	4	Supervisor
Inclement weather	Hypothermia Hyperthermia Fainting Sunburn Sunstroke Discomfort	Supervisor Participant	Appropriate clothing to be worn for the weather (layers of warm, waterproof clothing in winter, or thin, light clothing, preferably with sleeves and a sunhat, in summer); Suncream available; Drink plenty of fluids and take regular breaks; Stop activity if heavy rain/strong wind and site/task becomes dangerous, or participants experience discomfort.	2	3	6	Supervisor Participant
Lone working	Drowning Injury	Supervisor Participant	No lone working in or near water under any circumstances.	1	4	4	Supervisor Participant

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Uneven terrain	Slips trips and falls	Supervisor Participant	Discuss the terrain during the safety talk; Participants to wear sensible, sturdy footwear; Ensure arisings and unused tools are left in a designated place, stored neatly; Mark, or cordon off, any major trip hazards that cannot be removed.	3	2	6	Supervisor Participant
Water	Drowning Hypothermia	Supervisor Participant	No lone-working when in/by water; Buddy system in place so that anyone in the water has a spotter on the bank; Spotter to be in possession of throw line in case of emergency; Only confident swimmers to enter the water; Thigh waders and/or wellies to be worn as appropriate for water level; Do not undertake work if water levels abnormally high or fast; Check depth of water along bed using a long pole/stick before entering; No volunteer tasks to be undertaken in water higher than thigh height.	1	4	4	Supervisor Participant
Riverbank	Slips trips and falls Drowning	Supervisor Participant	No lone-working when by water; Buddy system in place so that anyone working on the riverbank has a spotter also on the bank; Spotter to be in possession of throw line in case of emergency; Only confident swimmers to work on the riverbank; Suitable footwear to be worn (wellies/boots); Participants briefed to be cautious of uneven ground and vegetation that may be a trip hazard.	1	4	4	Supervisor Participant
Plants	Scratches Puncture wounds Skin irritation	Supervisor Participant	PPE to be worn with long sleeves/trousers to avoid injury if working amongst thorny vegetation; Survey site for giant hogweed before task to avoid exposure to toxic plants; If working in eye-level vegetation, wear goggles; If injury occurs, wash the infected area and do not expose to sunlight; Seek medical attention if required.	2	3	6	Supervisor Participant

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Leptospirosis	Weil's disease	Supervisor Participant	Avoid water contact, particularly around the face/mouth; Cover all cuts with waterproof dressing and wear gloves; If contact is made, wash area thoroughly with clean water before eating, drinking or smoking and prior to leaving the site; Use anti-bacterial gel after practical tasks; Seek medical attention if symptoms occur.	1	4	4	Supervisor Participant
Insects	Bites Stings	Supervisor Participant	Wear long sleeves, trousers and additional insect repellent if necessary; Known allergies to stings to be declared at all work parties and the location and use of epipens known; No one with severe allergy to stings to work in water; Seek medical attention if symptoms persist.	1	4	4	Supervisor Participant
Submerged objects	Loss of balance Musculo-skeletal injury	Supervisor Participant	Carry out a visual survey of the work area before hand to identify any potential hazards in the water; Warn participants about the possibility of finding something other than pond wildlife and to alert supervisors if this is the case; Use a long pole/stick to check for debris when walking through waterway.	1	3	3	Supervisor Participant
Contact with micro-organisms	Disease	Supervisor Participant	All participants to wash hands thoroughly and/or use anti-bacterial gel after working in or near water before eating or drinking; Seek medical attention if symptoms occur.	1	4	4	Supervisor Participant
Humans	Injury/death to wildlife	Wildlife	Make participants aware of the importance of the welfare of the animals living in the watercourse; Avoid trampling and disturbing the riverbed if possible.	No risk to the participant, but the risk of death to wildlife and/or biohazard risk is high, so control measures must be followed			Supervisor Participant
Non-native invasive species	Cross-contamination between water courses	Wildlife	All footwear and clothing which has been in contact with water to be sterilised after use; If working in areas known to contain non-native invasive plant species, research should be undertaken prior to work to follow best practice for decontamination.				Supervisor Participant

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR: Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, RG21 4AH	ASSESSMENT UNDERTAKEN BY:	LAST UPDATED ON:
	NAME: Charlie Cutt	DATE:
	SIGNED: CC	DATE:
	DATE: 28/04/20	DATE:

RISK MATRIX				Hazard Severity				
				1	2	3	4	5
				Low	Slight	Moderate	High	Severe
Doing this activity every day:				Minor injury not requiring First Aid	Moderate injury resulting in First Aid	Injury or disease resulting in >7 days off work	Death or major injury to one individual	Multiple death
Likelihood of occurrence	1	Unlikely	Injury may occur less than once in a lifetime	1	2	3	4	5
	2	Possible	Injury may occur less than once a year	2	4	6	8	10
	3	Occasional	Injury may occur two-three times per year	3	6	9	12	15
	4	Likely	Injury will occur more than three times per year	4	8	12	16	20
	5	Very likely	Injury is probably going to occur	5	10	15	20	25

	If control measures are followed as described, risk factor is low enough to continue
	Hazard carries a moderate level of risk. Attempt to eliminate or isolate hazard; if this can't be done, decide whether task is essential and who is competent to ensure it is carried out safely. Additional control measures may be necessary
	Hazard is very high risk. Unless it can be isolated/eliminated, do not carry out task. Find alternative solution.