



Risk Assessment

| Activity Assessed: River Wardens | | Assessment Date: 21/08/2019 | | Assessed by: Welland Rivers Trust | |
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| Activity Location: Welland catchment area | | Next Assessment Before: 21/08/2020 | | | |
| Task | Hazard or Hazardous Event Potential for harm | Who's At Risk | Risk Level L/M/H | Precautions: Existing / Planned Risk Control Measures | |
| Entering / Exiting Watercourse | Steep, slippery and unstable banks / steps - could result in trips, slips, falls causing personal injuries. | All volunteers undertaking Surveys | M | Wear appropriate footwear (e.g. Wellies) and clothing at all times (e.g. gloves, sturdy footwear), Do not enter water when level is above knee-high. Only enter river from shallow banks and where it is safe to do so. | |
| | Accessing the river from public highways or footpaths – could result in collision with a motor vehicle or bike. | All volunteers undertaking Surveys | M | Take care and choose appropriate access and crossing points. Walk at all times and look both ways when crossing road/path. Beware of traffic on roads. Wear hi-vis jacket at all times. Advertise the presence of a car/bike for others. | |
| | Turbid/cloudy water, fast flowing water, or unstable / uneven / soft river bed – could result in stumbling or uncertainty of footfall causing injury. | All volunteers undertaking Surveys | M | River Wardens will only enter shallow water (i.e. no higher than 20cm in depth). Wellington boots will be worn when entering water, and Wardens will check the depth of the water before entering. Beware of high water/flood conditions and do not survey in inclement weather. Check weather forecasts ahead of survey. | |
| Work in & around watercourses | Polluted water – could cause leptospirosis & other water borne diseases (see accompanying information sheets). | All volunteers undertaking Surveys | M | Provision of first-aid kit which should be carried at all times. Wear protective gloves at all times. Any cuts/abrasions to be cleansed and covered before handling water. Everyone should wash their hands with soap before eating/drinking or touching their face. Can use antibacterial gel provided. | |



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| | Rising water levels. | All volunteers undertaking Surveys | M | Continuous observation of weather & prevailing river conditions. Do not remain within river when water level is above knee height. |
| | Sudden changes in weather such as thunderstorms (lightning) etc. – could result in sunburn, heat-stroke, pneumonia. | All volunteers undertaking Surveys | M | Check local weather forecasts in advance of visit. Keep checking on weather during occupancy. Wear appropriate clothing and bring a spare set of clothing and a towel. Bring sun-screen and a water bottle. If conditions severely deteriorate – abandon activities and seek appropriate shelter. |
| | Slippery and uneven surfaces – could cause slips and falls that result in injuries or pneumonia. | All volunteers undertaking Surveys | M | Make a visual assessment of area before survey. Wear appropriate protective clothing and footwear, and bring a spare set of clothes and a towel. |
| | Head injuries from contact with low obstacles (bridges, branches etc.) | All volunteers undertaking Surveys | M | Ensure adequate visibility/awareness. Do not enter river in times of poor light conditions. Wear appropriate footwear and clothing (e.g. gloves and sturdy footwear) at all times. Carry first-aid kit at all times. |
| | Members of the public & dogs entering survey area – could result in collisions and injuries. | All volunteers undertaking Surveys | M | Use courtesy when accessing public footpaths and public areas to ensure other users are still able to access these areas easily. Be aware of dogs entering the work area. Wear hi-vis jacket at all times. |
| | Falling in water/immersion – could result in pneumonia. | All volunteers undertaking Surveys | M | Ensure access to charged up mobile phones in case of an emergency and relevant telephone numbers in memory. Ensure colleagues/family members know of your whereabouts. Never work alone and stay within visual contact of colleagues. Wear hi-vis jackets at all times and bring a spare set of clothes and a towel. |
| | Injury from flotsam | All volunteers undertaking Surveys | M | There will be a ‘no picking up’ rule during surveys. Gloves will be worn at all times. First-aid kit carried at all times. |
| | Injury from livestock | All volunteers undertaking Surveys | M | Do not enter fields with livestock, particularly cows and bulls. Surveyors will use their discretion when taking dogs with them. |



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| | | | | Surveyors to remain sensible around livestock, and close gates behind them. Discuss with landowners when livestock will be in fields etc if possible/necessary. |
| | Diseases from livestock | All volunteers undertaking Surveys | M | Few very rare known communicable diseases between animals and humans. Everyone should wash their hands before eating/drinking or touching their face, and also wash boots and trousers at end of day. Can use antibacterial gel provided. |
| | Injury from Giant Hogweed | All volunteers undertaking Surveys | M | Wardens will carry the invasive species identification sheets with them at all times, as this warns of dangers of Giant Hogweed and how to identify it. Ensure arms and legs covered in areas where GHW can be found and avoid working near broken plants where sap is exposed. |
| | Chemicals in water test kits | All volunteers undertaking Surveys | M | Wardens will be shown how to use test kits properly. Gloves will be worn when testing. If chemicals ingested seek medical advice immediately. |
| | Injuries from equipment | All volunteers undertaking Surveys | M | Wardens will be shown how to use all equipment properly. Gloves to be worn at all times. |
| | Injuries resulting from invertebrate surveying | All volunteers undertaking Surveys | M | In addition to risks and mitigation measures associated with entering/exiting the river and also working in the river, Wardens will only survey invertebrates within the river when there is a suitable location to do so. This requires a flat riverside area that allows safe river entry and exit, as well as an area to examine what has been collected. In addition, no one should enter the river when water level is above knee-height. Invertebrate surveying should not be undertaken when a safe area cannot be identified. Wardens are responsible for ensuring that the surveying location selected is safe. |
| | Injuries to children during surveys | | | All children under 18 should always be accompanied by an adult during the survey, and should remain within eye-sight. |

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