

This risk assessment relates only to the *generic* features of a common activity; it does not cover those *specific* to a location or group. It therefore must not be used without completing the local review, making additions as necessary to take account of local circumstances. However, such a local review need not be timeconsuming. Use the box at the bottom to create the local review, or add extra pages as necessary. **SEE ACCOMPANYING SAFETY NOTES**

ACTIVITY ASSESSED		ASSESSOR	ASSESSMENT DATE
19. CLEARANCE OF PONDS, RIVERS AND STREAMS		STEPHEN BOLSOVER	11 th May 2016
HAZARD		RISK LEVEL	PRECAUTIONS
potential for harm			to remove hazard or reduce risk level. One precaution may tackle several hazards.
Tetanus		M	This disease may not be very common but can have severe effects, in rarer cases death. If earth gets into cuts, open wounds or sores tetanus can be contracted. All participants should have had anti-tetanus injections. (A full course lasts 10 years. Ask if any of the team have not had injections and stress importance of getting these, particularly if the skin is broken/cut.). Clean all cuts etc., immediately with clean water or a wet wipe and cover adequately.
Leptospirosis		M	This disease may not be very common but can have severe effects, in rarer cases death. If water contaminated with rats or cows urine gets into cuts, open wounds or sores the Weills or Hardjo varieties of Leptospirosis can result. All workers in areas likely to be soiled by rat/cow urine, eg. urban stream banks/ farms should avoid water contact and wash thoroughly as soon as possible after visiting the site. They must not eat, drink or smoke until they have washed.
Sharp or swinging tools		M	Use with extreme care or not at all as handles are liable to become wet and slippery. Ensure you are standing firmly. Do not wear gloves and keep guards and covers on tools when not in use.
Boats		H	Only trained persons to be in charge of a boat and only competent swimmers to work from boats. Do not overload boat and work from opposite sides of boat to prevent it tipping over. Carry spare oars, bailer, rope etc. Prevent any larking around in the water or in boats.
Drowning		H	Always wear lifejackets when working on, in or above water deeper than waist high. For such deep water, work out rescue systems well in advance. Have ropes, poles, lifebelts readily to hand to avoid others having to enter water. Have someone in group with first aid training and knowledge of CPR. Assign someone to be out of the water, acting as monitor and able to effect agreed emergency procedures, in case those in water get into difficulties. Swiftly moving deep water - certainly over 1 m and less if other factors raise risks - should not be worked in.
Chest waders		H	These can be used only in small ponds where the operator remains less than two metres from the bank and only where a companion on the bank remains in close supervision ready to pull the operator out if they stumble.
Thigh waders		H	Never work alone. Never work in water that is

Trips, slips and falls	H	nearly at wader height. The operator should <i>either</i> remain less than two metres from the bank with a companion on the bank who remains in close supervision ready to pull the operator out if they stumble <i>or</i> , where two or more operators are in the water without close supervision from the bank, all operators should wear buoyancy aids and ropes, carry a whistle to attract attention, and have spares available. Instruct in removal of waders that become water filled. Don't fasten waders to belt. Mud or underwater stones can be extremely slippery and by gripping boots mud can cause slips, so take particular care, do not rush, move carefully. Use safe access points to water, avoid steep banks, tread carefully on gravel banks. Provide grab lines - ropes - and non-slip planks.
Manual handling	L	Wet materials are much heavier than their equivalent dry ones, particularly carpets, mattresses and bin bags of rubbish. Get help if necessary. Instruct on and monitor safe manual handling techniques, using legs and arms not back to lift, pull or push. Use several people and/or machinery like ropes/block and tackle to move heavy or awkward items.
Exposure to harmful substances	L	If in doubt and if possible have water tested before working in it. If hazardous substances are found, a proper COSHH procedure must be followed.
Unseen or submerged hazards	H	Carry out a survey of the work area. Probe river/pond bed with a pole and mark out soft spots, sudden drops etc. (Do not carry out this survey alone!) Wear suitable footwear, never bare feet, to protect against sharp objects. Use corrugated iron 'duckboards' to prevent sinking into mud. Be aware of other river users. Be aware of strong currents.
Weirs	H	Weirs have considerable and often unseen risks. Work on or near weirs with volunteers or without a specific risk assessment should not occur.

RISKS AND PRECAUTIONS SPECIFIC TO THE SITE OR DAY

ASSESSOR

ASSESSMENT DATE

APPLICABLE DATES

(This is likely either to be one specific day, or "until further notice".)

Risk level: L = Low, M = Medium, H = High

ACTIVITY ASSESSED	ASSESSOR	ASSESSMENT DATE
19. CLEARANCE OF PONDS, RIVERS AND STREAMS	STEPHEN BOLSOVER	11 th May 2016
RESTRICTIONS Do not work in unsuitable inclement conditions: cold, wet and windy weather, particularly on exposed sites is unpleasant and dangerous. Volunteers will be less careful and have less concentration thus increasing risk of accident under these conditions. The body is more at risk when cold. Very hot, sunny: be aware of sun burn, sunstroke (especially windy days) and heat exhaustion. Nearest point of contact for emergency services must be known and the approximate time for services to attend established: the implications of a long response time must be specifically considered. Do not work on weirs with volunteers or without a specific risk assessment. Don't wear gloves to hold sharp/swinging tools. Do not allow horseplay in boats or in the water. Do not work in swiftly moving deep water: over 1 m or less if other factors raise risks. No lone working.		
PREVENTATIVE MEASURES First aid kits must always be on site and in a location near to and known to everyone. Work in teams or within sight of one another. Work out a rescue plan before starting work (whistles etc). Have emergency equipment close at hand (eg. lifejackets, ropes etc). Wash hands thoroughly after the task and before eating. Move carefully at all times, never run. Do not overfill rubbish bags or over strain yourself moving large or heavy objects. Wear appropriate warm clothing but not too much as becomes a hindrance. If possible, someone should have lifeguard training. Survey work area for unseen/submerged hazards at start, probing with a pole to find soft or deep spots or debris. Don't drink or wash with pond/river water or touch face/mouth with such water. If in doubt of water hazardous substances, have it tested first: if not possible and significant concerns remain don't work there. Plan bankside monitoring and rescue systems in advance.		
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT Wellington boots or waders are essential, steel toe-capped if handling heavy items: never work barefoot. Suitable clothing against cold/rain needed, eg. waterproofs. Wear lifejackets when working on or in water deeper than waist high.		
TRAINING A comprehensive safety and techniques talk must be given to all participants before work commences, including safe manual handling methods. Training for those in charge of a boat is essential as is swimming competence for those working from a boat. Include in team someone trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and in deeper water with lifeguard training.		
MONITORING Ask who has had Tetanus jabs in last ten years and strongly urge these are acquired/kept up. Check weather and work conditions and welfare of each individual in team regularly.		
INFORMATION BTCV <i>Waterways</i> handbook, BTCV <i>Hand Tools: A guide for safe use and care</i> booklet. HSE <i>Getting to Grips with Manual Handling</i> booklet. Generic risk assessment <i>General Site Safety</i> . If any exposure to hazardous substances is likely, <i>Control of Substances Hazardous to Health</i> . Always offer this Plan and associated RA to participants.		

Risk level: L = Low, M = Medium, H = High